

INSTRUCTIONS ON SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN

Till beginning of Sixth Five Year Plan, programmes were taken up under backward classes sectors in the selected fields such as Education, Housing and Drinking Water Supply, Sanitation, Roads, etc. The main plan of the work undertaken for the advancement of SCs relates to the provision of educational facilities. The Programme of action includes award of pre-matric, post-matric scholarships, supply of books, slates and other stationery articles and free supply of uniforms etc. A chain of hostels were opened to provide free boarding and lodging for harijan students. Tools and instruments required for Carpenters, Cobblers, Washerman, Hair-dressers, agricultural labourers were supplied free of cost to these engaged in their traditional avocation. The problem of housing among harijans was tackled a two pronged Programme of action i.e. through allotment of free house sites and financial assistance for construction of huts. Under the scheme launched in 1974, civic amenities such as approach roads, internal roads, pathways to burial grounds, culverts, bath rooms, lavatories etc. were provided in harijan localities. Arrangements was made to provide hygienic drinking water to harijan localities. The scheme for construction of multi-purpose community halls in harijan settlements was taken up so as to provide them better place for conducting meetings, adult education classes and social functions like marriages etc.

The Special Component Plan concept was first introduced during the Sixth Plan to channelise the flow of benefits and outlays in physical and financial terms from the general sectors in the Plans of the States/Union Territories for development of SCs. These plans are envisaged to help the poor SC families through composite income generating/welfare schemes. The system has evolved a useful mechanism to draw funds and physical benefits in various sectors for improving the socio economic and living conditions of the Scheduled Castes.

Special Component Plan is prepared as an integral part of Five Year Plan/Annual Plan showing sectorwise schemewise outlays earmarked for Scheduled Castes and corresponding physical targets. According to the guidelines received from Government of India, flow of funds to SCs in States and Union Territories should be equivalent to percentage of Scheduled Castes population to total population of the States and Union Territories. As per 1991 census, the population of SCs in this territory is 1,31,278 which is 16.25% of the total population of 8,07,785. Hence 16.25% of total Plan allocation should be earmarked for SCs in this Union Territory.

It may not be practicable to absorb the entire flow of funds earmarked for SCs (16.25% of Plan Allocation) under Backward Classes sector implemented by the Welfare of Scheduled Caste department. Hence it becomes necessary to identify programmes for scheduled castes in the sectors implemented by other departments and expenditure on implementing such programmes may be shown under Special Component Plan. While formulating programmes, every department should ensure that there is no duplication in programmes to avoid unhealthy competition between departments in selection of beneficiaries.

In some sectors like Fisheries, Handlooms, Port, Stationery & Printing , Public Works, Tourism etc. It may not be possible to earmark funds for Scheduled Castes and such sectors are called as indivisible sectors. Similarly it may not be possible to earmark funds for Scheduled Castes in certain schemes like strengthening of Directorate, Improvement to

General Hospital, Improvement of Maternity Hospital, Sewerage Water supply in urban areas, capital development project, etc and such schemes are called indivisible schemes. But in order to show minimum flow of 16.25% in total Plan allocation, it becomes necessary to earmark as much as 40% to 50% of the outlay for Scheduled Castes in the divisible schemes/sectors and departments have to keep these feasibility's in view while implementing the schemes included in the Special Component Plan.

It is also laid down in the instructions for the formulation on Special Component Plan that quasi-Government organisations such as PIPDIC, Housing Board, Local Bodies, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Spinning Mills, Sugar Mills, Tourism Development Corporation PASIC, PAPSCO, Women Development Corporation, Adi-Dravidar Development Corporation and other public undertakings, all categories of cooperatives, etc.. also should earmark outlays and physical targets for Scheduled Castes in schemes/programmes implemented by them. It should be ensured by Administrative department which is releasing grants/ subsidy/ share capital etc. to such agencies that they also adopt all guidelines issued for formulating the Special Component Plan in respect of schemes/programmes implemented by them. It is the responsibility of the administrative department to collect and keep the required information so that the same could be retrieved and furnished to the Planning Secretariat / Welfare Secretariat as and when they are called for to send replies to Government of India, Parliamentary Committee, Commission for SCs/STs Parliament Questions etc. For example, the number and names of Scheduled Castes families enrolled as members, number of houses constructed for Scheduled Castes under each scheme, number and amount of loan advanced by cooperatives, etc., are the details which should be collected and maintained up-to-date from the Quasi-Government organisation by the administrative department.

The Special Component Plan aims at promoting the economic development of Scheduled Castes and enabling the poor families among scheduled castes to cross the poverty line. We have targeted that about 12,500 poor scheduled caste families will be assisted to cross the poverty line during 1992-97 and the yearwise targets also have been provisionally fixed. This shows that under each scheme the thrust should be on covering poor scheduled caste families who are below the poverty line. The approach should be to cover as many poor scheduled caste families as possible within the limited outlay available for the scheme/sector in the year. Flow of large quantum of funds to a few well-to-do Scheduled Castes should be avoided as it would lead to lack of funds for implementing the relevant schemes to promote the development of poor scheduled caste families. Each department should give special attention to this aspect of formulating the sectoral Special Component Plan.

It may not be possible to generate adequate income to scheduled caste families and enable them to cross the poverty line by covering a family by only one scheme. It is inevitable that two or more schemes by two or more departments have to cover the same family during the same year to ensure that the beneficiary family could generate additional income from all these schemes to lift it above the poverty line. Concerted efforts by the departments are necessary to carry out this task. At the same time double and triple counting has to be avoided while furnishing the reports on number of families covered. Hence departments have to maintain a list of Scheduled Caste families covered under each scheme in each village and this may be sent in future as a supporting annexure to the reports. A register can be maintained to record these particulars in the Planning Section of the department showing the particulars of (1) name of commune; (2) name of village, (3) name of habitation (4) name of head of family (5) occupation of head of family; (6) number of family members ; (7) annual income of the family at the time of coverage under the scheme and (8) anticipated additional income by covering the family under the scheme. DRDA norms may be adopted for drawing the poverty line.

Among the Scheduled Castes, there are some vulnerable and highly disadvantaged groups such as sweepers, scavengers, leather workers, nomadic people, people who work in burial grounds and those who are engaged in other unclean occupations. Priority should be given to cover such families in the economic development scheme implemented by the departments. Facilities such as housing, financial assistances, etc. should flow to all these disadvantaged groups in a larger measure and a crash plan should be prepared to cover all such families by appropriate economic development and social development schemes during the Eighth Plan period itself. For these disadvantaged groups a higher percentage of financial assistance may also be provided.

In regard to location of schools, health, centers, libraries, cooperatives, construction of water supply works, drainage, road etc., preference should be given for locating them in SC habitations. In such cases the entire outlay meant for such works can be shown as outlay earmarked for Scheduled Castes. There may be some village habitations in which the Scheduled Castes may exceed 50% of the total population of the village. In respect of such villages the entire outlay provided for works mentioned above may be shown as outlay earmarked for SCs. While indicating outlays of this category utmost care and check need to be exercised by the department in regard to collection of data on SC population and non-SC population of the village and then only the earmarking of outlay of Scheduled Castes is indicated so that such earmarking could stand the test of verification in the field at a later date by any evaluating / inspecting agency. Detailed knowledge of the conditions obtaining in the field is a pre-requisite for doing this exercise of earmarking outlay for Scheduled Castes. The names of Scheduled Caste habitations where such public facilities are set up or proposed to be set up should be furnished under such scheme in the scheme details.

In order to ensure full utilisation of funds provided under Special Component Plan, Heads of Departments should prepare Action schedule and steps should be taken to realise the targets in full before the end of the financial year. Department should also take advance action in locating public institutions in SC habitations/ nearby SC habitations so that non-availability of suitable sites should not be the justifications to divert funds earmarked for SCs. Director of Welfare of SCs may be approached for locating public institutions in SC habitations.

In regard to admissions in the educational institutions and creation of posts in the departments, earmarking of outlays for Scheduled Castes is not allowed in as much as such things were in force even before the Special Component Plan was introduced. However in regard to training programmes, etc organised by different department, if such training programmes are organised for the first time or in the last few years, earmarking is allowed.

Based on past experience, the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India have underlined the need for certain course corrections and qualitative and quantitative improvements with an ultimate aim to enable the Scheduled Castes to cross the poverty line once for all. Various points / various suggestions highlighted in their letter are given below :

(i) The developmental needs of the SCs / STs people should be identified according to the order of priorities. Among the immediate developmental needs, top priority should go to :

- Provision of minimum needs including drinking water, Electricity, Schools, Health Centers and link roads in SC colonies.
- A Vigorous drive in implementing Land Ceiling Acts like immediate physical

- occupation of surplus lands and actual distribution of such lands to SCs
- A substantively stepped up educational programme with appropriate schemes to reduce the gap in the literacy level between SCs and the rest of population with Special reference to girls education.
- A massive and quick programme for appropriate small, minor and medium irrigation projects for the benefits of SCs not only to improve the productivity of their un-irrigated lands and their living standards but also the total national food production is pushed up.
- Preventing land alienation and restoration of alienated lands belonging to SCs and proper recording of all the land owner and traditionally used otherwise by them.
- Appropriate Income generation schemes Dairying, Animal Husbandry , Horticulture, Sericulture, Weaving, Handicrafts etc.
- Ensuing a remunerative price for surplus Agricultural produce of SC people.
- Programme for Occupational diversification of those sections of SCs who are engaged in Unclean Occupations like scavenging, flaying and tanning of skin and imparting alternative skills to them for their rehabilitation's.
- Ban on dry latrine and expeditious rehabilitation's of displaced scavengers with improved tools, aids and equipment's for cleaning wet latrines and sewage system.

(ii) Programmes/ Schemes in the above areas should be specifically drawn suiting the local needs for SCs. They should not be mere extension of programme meant for the general population.

(iii) The total outlays under Special Component Plan should be arrived at first and then distributed among different sectors according to the needs. They should not be allocated as a mere arithmetic proportion of the outlay in each sectors.

(iv) The Special Central Assistance by Government of India should be properly utilised to supplement the efforts of the States and for specific programmes where there are gaps in the State Plan.

(v) Personal policies concerning those in charge of the programmes for SCs. should be such as to motivate them strongly, get them committed and work with real sincerity. A senior officer of proved efficiency and commitment for the cause of SCs should be placed in over all charge of the Special Component Plan with adequate authority and proper support for the successful implementation of Special Component Plan. His tenure should be at least for a minimum period of 4 years to enable him to carry out innovations and made an impact on Scheduled Caste development. It is equally important to select right type of field officers and staff to work on SC areas and to motivate them properly.

(vi) The SC beneficiaries should be associated in all stages of the developmental efforts undertaken for them.

(vii) Services of the sincere and dedicated public workers and voluntary organisations engaged in SC development should be associated in the formulation and implementation of programmes especially in the field of education, employment, nutrition, removal of untouchability etc.

Ministry of Welfare, Government of India underlined the urgent need for training and skill development programme for SCs to keep place with the increasing demand for qualified and trained SC candidates for various fields both under public and private sectors. Salient points highlighted in their letter are listed below :

(i) Entrepreneurial development training programme in the fields like leather work, food processing, horticulture, handlooms, powerlooms, assembly of low technology electronic / electrical goods like radios, T.V.S, Mixers etc. will be developed for SC youths with the help of technical institutions. Government organisations like Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Small Industries Development Corporation, etc. It is stated in this

connection that Scheduled Caste Development Corporation as well as leading companies are not only to impart training to SC youths but also in marketing their products under their brand names

(ii) Unemployed SC youths could also be imparted training in certain important areas like typewriting, shorthand TV/Radio repairs, motor driving etc. For those in rural and semi urban areas, particularly for women training could be given in tailoring, embroidery, doll making, making of wall hanging, leather / rexin bags, carpet making, making of sarees, shawls, woolen clothes etc., depending upon the demand for the products in local areas. Educated unemployed Scheduled Caste girls may be given training in nursing, mid-wifery and teaching also.

(iii) Training programme could be taken up by taking additional candidates in the regular courses or separate training programmes may be organised. The duration of the training programmes should be reasonable with provision for ensuing appropriate standards through tests-exams at the end of course. Vocational training course may also be conducted. In such cases, they should be supplied essential equipment's, minimum working capital etc.

(iv) Trained SC candidates could be assisted to form viable cooperatives. The trained candidates in trades like electronics and computers and willing to settle down in self employment should be assisted by Scheduled Castes Development Corporation, People trained in nursing and teaching should be guided and helped in securing regular jobs. Not only all the districts of the State / UT should be duly covered but also wastage of any kind in organising training should be avoided. It is also mentioned that State / UT Administration should ensure adequate flow of funds from Special Component Plan and Special Assistance to these training Programmes.

SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE

Ministry of Welfare, Government of India release Special Central Assistance (SCA) every year as an additive to Special Component Plan to States / Union Territories from the budget of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. According to the guidelines, Special Central Assistance should be utilised in conjunction with Special Component Plan for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing inputs on viable schemes for Economic Development of Scheduled Castes families. The income generating scheme for Scheduled Castes include direct relevant training to back up services and institutional build-up and arrangements for implementation, supervision and evaluation. The scope of the existing Special Central Assistance has been widened to include infrastructural development programmes in blocks having 50% or more of Scheduled Caste population subject to the condition that the Special Central Assistance allocation should be made use of in such a way to encourage larger efforts on development of SCs on the part of the States/Union Territories.

The Pondicherry Adiravidar Development Corporation has been set up by the Pondicherry Government under the Companies Act, 1956 to serve as a model institution for financing development schemes for SCs and to liaise with various financial and other agencies for the purpose of identifying various financial and other agencies for the purpose of identifying various trades/ business /professions and other economic activities of

importance to SCs so as to fill the critical gaps in the existing programmes and to generate employment and increase their economical level and to upgrade skills by providing training facilities directly in the institutions or in collaboration with the Agencies in the field.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Corporation has formulated various self-employment schemes to benefit the SCs who are living below the poverty line.

The list of self employment schemes implemented by Adidraavidar Development Corporation is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Dairy
2.	Poultry
3.	Goat rearing
4.	Duck rearing
5.	Tyre cart with bullocks
6.	Power Sprayer
7.	General Engineering Works
8.	Foot wear manufacturing unit
9.	Wood & can furniture manufacturing
10.	Grocery shop
11.	Petty shop
12.	Fire wood shop
13.	Mobile vending
14.	Carpentry
15.	Laundry
16.	Motorised cyle rickshaw
17.	Autorickshaw
18.	Sound service
19.	Tailoring
20.	Other Engineering / activities

Besides, the Corporation also sponsor SC candidates to upgrade their skills through training.

The list of training schemes to which SC candidates are sponsored by Adidraavidar Development Corporation is given below :

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Computer operation
2.	Typewriting / Shorthand
3.	Tailoring
4.	LMV driving
5.	Auto rickshaw driving
6.	Electrical goods repairing
7.	Auto mechanism
8.	Television Mechanism
9.	Turning
10.	Welding
11.	Paper mash toy making
12.	Stone / wood carving

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
13.	Gem cutting & polishing
14.	Cane / nylon wire knitting
15.	Korai mat weaving
16.	Leather goods manufacturing
17.	Khadi spinning
18.	Khadi soap manufacturing

Family oriented cum income generating schemes for development of Scheduled castes which can be funded under Special Central Assistance as communicated by Government of India vide their letter D.O. No.19020/35/93-SCD.VI dated 29.7.1993.

1. AGRICULTURE

- (a) Training - cum - demonstration to Scheduled Caste farmers.
- (b) Distribution of seeds/fertilizers, mini-kits and pesticides to Scheduled Caste farmers in addition to the usual programmes of Agriculture Department.
- (c) Commercial crops programme in Scheduled Caste cultivator's land
- (d) High yielding variety programme in Scheduled Caste cultivator's land in addition to the usual programme of Agriculture Department.
- (e) Assistance to persons/landless agricultural laborers belonging to Scheduled Castes for reclamation / development of their lands.

2. HORTICULTURE

- (a) Taking up fruit and vegetable plantation in Scheduled Caste beneficiary land.
- (b) Training of Scheduled Castes in growing, marketing of fruits and vegetable produce.
- (c) Small nurseries seed farms incidental to the above programmes.

3. LAND REFORMS

- (a) Assistance to Scheduled Caste families who have been distributed surplus land for developing and cultivating the land.
- (b) Preparation of land records having 50 percent or more Scheduled population.

4. MINOR IRRIGATION

- (a) Check-dams, diversion channels, water harvesting structures, dug wells, tube wells, cooperative life points for Scheduled Caste groups / community in areas having 50% or more Scheduled Caste beneficiaries.
- (b) Subsidy / assistance to individual beneficiaries for dug wells, tube wells, irrigation pump sets and farm ponds.

5. SOIL CONSERVATION

- (a) Plantation of flood and fruit species as part of soil conservation measures.

6. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- (a) Supply of milk cattle, poultry, goat, sheep, pigs and duck units to scheduled caste families.
 - (b) Assistance to dairy and poultry cooperatives societies in the areas with substantial Scheduled Caste population
7. FORESTRY
- (a) Development of social and agro-forestry benefiting Scheduled Caste families.
8. FISHERIES
- (a) Assistance to Scheduled Caste families for pisciculture.
 - (b) Training of Scheduled Castes in fish production, collection etc.,
 - (c) Development of Scheduled Caste fishermen cooperatives
 - (d) Subsidy/assistance to Scheduled Caste fishermen to purchase fishing boats, nets , etc.,
9. VILLAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES
- (a) Skill development training to traditional Scheduled Caste artisans in modern methods of production.
 - (b) Assistance to Scheduled Caste artisans / craftsmen for setting up of business and small and cottage industries
 - (c) Entrepreneurship development training to scheduled castes.
 - (d) Bee keeping
 - (e) Sericulture
 - (f) Introduction of new craft programmes among Scheduled Caste families.
10. COOPERATIVES
- (a) Formation of new cooperatives and strengthening existing cooperatives with substantial Scheduled Caste members for promoting ventures in traditional occupations like leather works, weaving and brick making etc.
 - (b) Strengthening of consumer cooperatives, labour cooperatives and other cooperatives having a substantial number of Scheduled Caste members
 - (c) Working capital assistance to Scheduled Caste cooperatives engaged in production of consumable items etc.
 - (d) Training to Scheduled Caste members of cooperatives in Management and administration of cooperatives
 - (e) Processing/ marketing cooperatives.
11. EDUCATION
- (a) Establishment and running of residential schools in areas having low level literacy.
 - (b) Repairs and proper upkeep of existing schools/hostels meant for Scheduled Castes.
12. SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN

- (a) Assistance to Scheduled Caste Women and their cooperatives for their production and marketing of consumer goods.
- (b) Training of Scheduled Caste women in schemes designed to improve family earning.

13. ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- (a) Programmes of improvement of ecology and environment having a bearing on family oriented economic programmes.

14. MINIMUM NEEDS PROGRAMME

- (a) Establishment of dispensaries / hospitals / centers for Homeopathic, Naturopathic and Yogic cures in areas having 50 % or more Scheduled Caste population
- (b) Establishment of mobile medical dispensaries so that all areas of SC concentration can be targeted for the provision of health services.
- (c) Provision of electric supply and light to the Scheduled Caste habitats.
- (d) Provision of drinking water to Scheduled Caste habitats where there are no drinking water facilities.
- (e) Development of village link roads and small C.D. works in areas/blocks having 50 % or more Scheduled Caste population.