

I. Working Group Recommendations on development and welfare of Scheduled Castes during Eighth Plan

Planning Commission constituted the working Group for the formulation of policy guidelines, objectives and laying down the broad strategies for the development of welfare of the Scheduled Castes during Eighth Five Year Plan under the chairmanship of Shri. S.S.Varma, Secretary Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. The working Group has submitted its report to the Government of India in August 1989 which is made available to the State/Union Territories.

2. The Working Group on the basis of past experience during Sixth and Seventh plan periods set the following Objectives for the Eighth Plan.

- i. Conservation of whatever assets the Scheduled Castes have
- ii. Provision / transfer of adequate assets like land to them;
- iii. Updating and/or provision of new skills to improve their employability or productivity;
- iv. Ensuring minimum wages to agricultural labour preventing their exploitation by others in any way;
- v. Providing minimum literacy and functional skills through education to every Scheduled Castes group up to 35 years age as part of the programmes of Universalisation of Elementary Education and Eradication of illiteracy.
- vi. Enabling them to acquire special educational /technical qualifications and avail of existing as well as newly emerging employment opportunities;
- vii. Provision of entrepreneurial training to educate unemployed Scheduled Caste Youth;
- viii. Helping in their taking diversified activities including in the areas of manufacturing, trades and business through self-employment programmes;
- ix. Modernising existing traditional activities like tanning and leather work;
- x. Liberating them from demeaning work like scavenging of dry latrines;
- xi. Doing what all necessary to tackle and eradicate the social problem of untouchability; and
- xii. Provision of minimum needs and basic amenities in their habitations.

II. The working group evolved the following strategy for the development of Scheduled Castes during the Eighth Plan will also be followed for Ninth Plan.

- i. The strategy of Special Component Plans, Scheduled Castes Development Corporations, etc., already being followed, should be continued and further intensified during the Ninth Five Year Plan pursuing the indicated objectives ensuring adequate thrust on economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes;
- ii. The Special Component Plan of the State should provide for meeting the minimum needs/basic amenities of all the Scheduled Caste habitations with a view to improve their quality of life generally;
- iii. The Special Component Plan of the State should provide for judicious mix of beneficiary oriented programmes and human resources;
- iv. The scheme taken up should be viable and as far as necessary innovative and in a way to diversify Scheduled Caste into newer areas of economic activity;
- v. There should be provision for meeting the backward and forward infrastructural needs, projecting the approach as far as necessary;
- vi. The scheme taken up should be open-ended for the development of Scheduled Castes;
- vii. The delivery systems have to be effective;
- viii. The organization and association of the beneficiary groups should be given due preference;
- ix. One of the identified gaps has been the need for indicating a sense of commitment and urgency in policy making and implementing machinery to fulfill the objectives of development of Scheduled Castes and on desired lines and their integration with the mainstream; and
- x. The Voluntary Agencies may be suitably associated in the programmes. The Scheduled Caste organizations themselves should be given due preference.

III. The Working group also recommended that the Special Component Plan should give Thrust to the following areas;

- i. The Eighth Five Year Plan should provide for adequate thrust and funds for occupational diversification of Scheduled Caste people from the traditional occupation to the other occupations of better earnings, dignity and respect;
- ii. The occupational areas like tanning and leather work should be modernized and hygienic work environment should be created to take away the stigma attached to this profession;
- iii. Creation/transfer of assets and channel of productive and managerial skills in Scheduled Caste people from entrepreneurial development;
- iv. Strengthening the wage employment opportunities through programmes like Jawahar

Rojgar Yojana Employment Assumed Scheme for Scheduled Caste people;

- v. Creation of educational facilities for improvement of literacy level in Scheduled Caste people and their educational standard;
- vi. Provision of minimum needs of Scheduled Caste habitations, such as drinking water, electricity, medical facilities, educational facilities and link roads;
- vii. Earmarking of a minimum of 30% funds of employment generation programme for Scheduled Caste habitations;
- viii. Effective programme for merger of Scheduled Caste people with the main stream;
- ix. Award of small contracts and local level works to Scheduled Caste people such as social forestry and plantation works;
- x. Provision of self-employment opportunities by public sector undertakings to the Scheduled Caste people and giving them opportunities for manufacture of ancillaries with buy-back arrangements;
- xi. Provision of infrastructural facilities; and
- xii. The nationalized banks and other national level Government agencies should also have Special Component Plans, Banks should also have the responsibility to ensure that the development schemes taken up for Scheduled Caste people are relevant, the investments including loan component are adequate and the amounts are utilized on cost effective basis enable to the assisted families to cross the poverty line.

IV. Prime Minister's letter to State/Union Territories on formulation of Special Component Plan during Eighth Plan

Prime Minister in his letter dated 12.01.90 addressed to the Chief Minister of Union Territory of Pondicherry has emphasized that there is a 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 his letter are reproduced 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 Centres and link roads in Scheduled Caste colonies.
 - A vagaries drive in implementing Land Ceiling Acts like immediate physical occupation of surplus lands and actual distribution of such lands to Scheduled Castes.
 - A substantively stepped up educational programme with appropriate schemes to reduce the gap in the literacy level between Scheduled Castes 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 Scheduled Castes not only to improve the productivity of

their unirrigated 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 Scheduled Castes 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.
 - Ensuring a remunerative price for surplus Agricultural produce of Scheduled Caste people.
 - Programme for occupational diversification of those sections of Scheduled Castes who are engaged in 'Unclean' occupations like scavenging, flaying and tanning of skin and imparting alternative skills to them for their rehabilitations.
 - Ban on dry latrine and expeditious rehabilitations of displaced scavengers with improved tools, aids and equipments for cleaning wet latrines and sewage system.
- (ii) Programmes/Schemes in the above areas should be specifically drawn suiting the local needs for Scheduled Castes. They should not to 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 utilized 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 Scheduled Castes, 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 Scheduled Castes 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 atleast 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 Scheduled Caste areas and to motivate them properly.
- (vi) The Scheduled Caste 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 organizations engaged in Scheduled Caste development should be associated in the formulation and implementation of programmes especially in the field of education, employment, nutrition, removal of untouchability etc.

TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Welfare, Government of India in his letter D.O.No.17014/36/89/SCD-4, dated 4.9.89 underlined the urgent need for training and skill development programme for Scheduled Caste to keep place with the increasing demand for qualified and trained Scheduled Caste candidates for various fields both under public and private sectors. Salient points highlighted in his 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, TV's, Mixers etc. will be developed for Scheduled Caste youths with the help of technical institutions.
- (ii) Unemployed Scheduled Caste 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 program 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 equipments minimum working capital etc.
- (iv) Training Scheduled Caste candidates could be assisted to form viable co-operatives. The training 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 Central Assistance to these training Programmes.

**DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2000-2001
OUTLAY AND EXPENDITURE**

(Rs. in lakh)

Item	Ninth Plan 1997- 2002	1997-98 (Actuals)	1998-99 (Actuals)	1999- 2000 (Actuals)	2000-2001 (Approved Outlay)	2001-2002 (Proposed Outlay)
I. STATE PLAN						
1. Outlay	130000.00	21800.00	26100.00	31200.00	32132.35	35500.00
2. Expenditure	-	21416.31	25932.31	30012.00	32112.35	-
3. Percentage	-	98.24	100.00	-	-	
II. SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN						
1. Outlay	21146.69	3546.67	3268.01	4352.68	4199.70	3764.62
2. Expenditure	-	2820.97	3268.01	4124.18	4098.03	4646.30
3. Percentage	-	81.04	99.64	-	-	-
III. SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN AS COMPARED TO STATE PLAN						
1. Percentage of Special Component Plan to State Plan Outlay	16.25	16.26	12.52	13.95	13.46	10.60
2. Percentage of Special Component Plan to State Plan Expenditure	-	13.45	12.47	13.74	12.76	-