

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2016**

FUNDS FOR SCP

†3236. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any steps to formulate action plan for chalking out Special Component Plan (SCP) for Union Ministries and State Governments to ensure the allocation of funds in proportion to the population of SCs and check diversion of funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)**

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The erstwhile Planning Commission had issued revised guidelines during 2014 and the same were reiterated by NITI Aayog in April, 2015 to States/UTs/Union Ministries and Departments for effective implementation of SCSP. These remain in force. A summary of the salient feature of the revised guidelines is annexed. The States/Union Territories are advised from time to time to adhere to the guidelines of the erstwhile Planning Commission for formulation, implementation and monitoring of the SCSP and for optimal utilization of funds.

(c): Does not arise.

**SUMMARY OF THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REVISED GUIDELINES
ISSUED BY NITI AAYOG REFERRED TO AT (a) & (b).**

Nodal departments would ensure that the funds are earmarked in the following manner:-

- SCSP fund should be made available only for supporting the Sub Plans appraised and approved by the Nodal Agency of the State Government.
- The funding under various schemes / programmes including flagship programmes should be provided to the scheduled caste individuals or SC households, both in physical and financial terms as well. Thus, the expenditure under SCSP should be meant only towards filling the development deficits as an additional financial support over and above the normal provisions which should be available to SCs like others in various schemes.
- Notional allocations are mere paper figures that do not have flows/schemes directly benefitting SCs. Therefore, practice among the States showing notional allocations should be avoided.
- The synergy of inter-sectoral programmes and convergence with other schemes should be ensured for better utilisation of resources.
- The nodal department should ensure timely release of funds to the concerned development departments who in turn should ensure immediate release of funds to their field level implementing agencies. Any lapse on the part of field level implementing agencies in timely utilization of funds and proper implementation of the schemes may be viewed seriously.
- The funds under SCSP should be earmarked under a single budget demand-head under the control of the Nodal Department and the State should devise a mechanism for direct/speedy transfer of funds.

The Nodal Agency, while indicating allocation of the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan Fund to the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan Schemes shall observe the following norms namely:

- Schemes which are exclusively benefitting Scheduled Caste individuals or Scheduled Caste households, 100% of Scheme cost shall be allocated and accounted for under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan fund;
- For Schemes benefitting Scheduled Caste habitations, 100% of Scheme cost shall be allocated and accounted for under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan fund.
- In case of other habitations the cost shall be allocated and accounted for under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan in proportion of the population of the Scheduled Castes;
- For general Schemes, included in the Sub-Plans, benefitting Scheduled Castes individuals or Scheduled Caste households, alongwith others, the Scheme cost shall be allocated and accounted for under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan, in proportion to the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries actually covered;
- In respect of non-divisible infrastructure works a portion of the Scheme cost, as may be determined by the State government, will be deemed to have been attributed for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan. This fraction cannot, however, exceed one-third of the percentage of SC population in the state.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SCSP-

- A Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to be constituted with a view to fulfilling the objective of ensuring quality of expenditure, particularly, in the context of large public funds being spent under the programmes relating to the SCSP. These Committees would keep a watch on the implementation of the Programmes as per the prescribed procedures and Guidelines.
- The objective is to put in place a mechanism to monitor the execution of the Schemes
- involving the people's elected representatives, other members of civil society and non-governmental organizations, in the most effective manner and within the given time frame so that public funds are put to optimal use. These Committees are also to effectively liaise and coordinate with the different departments of the State Governments.
- The Committee will monitor the selected Schemes of the SCSP empowerment implemented in the State/District/Block and closely watch the flow of funds at various channels including the funds allocated, funds released by both Centre and the State, utilization and unspent balances under each Scheme.
- The District/Block level committees will review the progress of implementation of schemes and utilization of funds on monthly basis and the State level committees will review the progress on quarterly basis.
- The State/District and Block level committees should be constituted on the pattern of committees constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development by involving elected members (MPs, MLAs and Panchayat members, and other prominent leaders in the districts) for monitoring of these programmes. Meetings of the Vigilance & Monitoring Committee at each level are to be held after giving sufficient notice to the Hon'ble MPs/MLAs and all other Members.
- Evaluation to assess the impact of schemes implemented under SCSP, on the socio-economic conditions of SCs may be got conducted by the nodal department on regular basis. Dissemination of information to SCs all over the State/UT about the schemes/programmes available for their development may be the responsibility of the nodal department.
