

- 4 Acquisition of land for public purposes specially setting up of industrial complexes and irrigation projects in tribal areas should be minimal, and taken recourse to as a last resort. If really essential, the land should be acquired only after a suitable package for rehabilitation which includes making him a partner in the project has been worked out. A focus on overall socio-economic development with provisions of basic needs is an other vital issue which needs to be considered in all policy decisions of the Government. 2.34
- 5 The Commission observed that representation should be ensured for SCs and STs in respect of areas for visible progress of these target groups. Emphasis should be given for promotion of enterprenuerships to bring occupational diversification and upward mobility among SCs/STs. They should be encouraged to take up self employment in all sectors of economic development through training, education and provision of financial and other facilities. SCs and STs should be promoted in areas like small contracts by evolving a special policy for first generation contractors emerging from traditional labour communities. Many activities are considered necessary for the development of SCs and STs, and there should be policy to contain built in safeguards to ensure a fair share of the benefit to these groups. This should be built in mechanism to provide substantial share and role to such representations from the SC/ST from the target groups for ensuring the effective working of all these safeguards. 2.37
- 6 The most important cause for non-development of SC/STs is non-allocation of resources for their development on a priority. There is an urgent need to set up a national level Development authority, dealing with all development matters pertaining to SC/STs, at par with the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister and a non-official Vice-Chairman and similar set up in States with Chief Minister as Chairman and a non-official as Vice-Chairman. Resources equivalent to the population percentage of SC/STs should be set apart and transferred to this authority to enable it to plan and implement developmental and welfare schemes for SC/STs. The same set up needs to be put in at State and District level also. Once the resources are in the hands of this body and it is vested with powers to monitor and control the implementation of these schemes, it will lead to focused attention on the development of SCs&STs. 2.38
- 7 This Authority should be responsible for formulating and approving national and State Plans, Annual Plans, Five Year Plans and perspective Plans—based on the developmental needs of the SCs and STs and their priorities from the point of view of the SCs and STs, keeping in view the vital dimensions of socio-economic liberation, educational equality and human condition of life. 2.39