

- 9 The States should give functional, financial and administrative autonomy to the Panchayati Raj Institutions set up after 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution, to enable these institutions to function as institutions of self Governance. The Panchayats at the appropriate levels should be endowed with ownership of minor forest produce. 5.58  
5.60  
*Tw depth.*
- 10 All States should allocate funds to the SCP in proportion to the States' SC population and closely monitor the programmes to ensure their full utilisation and only those programmes should be included in the SCP which are directly relevant for the development and welfare of the Scheduled Castes. 5.71  
5.73  
*Tw depth.*
- 11 All the State Govts. should open separate budget head for SCP allocation immediately to prevent diversion, mis-utilisation of funds earmarked for SCs and the department concerned with SC welfare and development should be made responsible as nodal agency for formulation and implementation of SCP. 5.72  
*Tw depth.*
- 12 The Central Govt. should regularly provide a suitable step-up to the total amount of SCA for Special Component Plan and the States should ensure timely release of funds to the implementing agencies so that the scarce funds do not remain idle. The Union Ministry of Welfare may examine in the depth the cases of some of the States defaulting in utilisation of SCA for the SCP to identify the bottlenecks in the utilisation of SCA. 5.77  
5.78  
*✓*
- 13 The Union Ministry of Finance should lay a separate report on Special Component Plan in the Parliament while presenting the Annual Budget. 5.80  
*✓*
- 14 The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment should take up a comprehensive survey to identify the problem of drinking water among SC/ST and take immediate steps to solve it. 5.96  
*✓*
- 15 NSFDC and SCDCs should be given the status of Banking Institutions. 5.104  
*✓* These institutions need to simplify the procedure for granting loans by removing income ceiling. Further these institutions need to be strengthen financially as well as improving professional calibre of the staff.

## CHAPTER VI. LAND

- 1 Agriculture Census is conducted every 5 years and the reports published on the basis of Agriculture Census are the main authentic data relating to land in the country. Last Agriculture Census was held in 1990-91. The results of this Census are not yet available. State Govts. have implemented various programmes after adoption of SCP approach in 6<sup>th</sup> Plan & TSP approach in 5<sup>th</sup> Plan. These programmes would have brought about changes in the socio-economic conditions, including land status of SCs & STs. It is 6.16  
*✓*