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SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Loknayak Bhawan (Floor V), New Delhi-110 003

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## FOREWORD

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes took the initiative and introduced for the first time, separate chapters on State/UT Governments as Volume-II in its third Report. During investigations and analysis pertaining to SCs & STs it was strongly felt that while the national or macro level picture about the development of SCs/STs gave a broad overview, the regional variations and state specific issues could only be covered by discussing them separately. The Constitution provides that the issues relating to States should be placed before the State Legislatures, which gives the state representatives an opportunity to discuss these matters in their respective Legislatures.

The Commission has been reviewing the working of the Constitutional Safeguards and implementation of various schemes of development for SCs/STs in State level review meetings and through visits of the Commission and its Members. Our 16 State Offices located in various parts of the country have also been functioning as "eyes and ears" of the Commission. Many persons belonging to SCs & STs and their associations approach the State Offices for redressal of their grievances.

In Volume-I of this Report, we have discussed at length the various issues pertaining to SCs and STs and the task ahead, as we step into the 21st Century. The State/UT Governments are playing a major role in improving the conditions of SCs and STs. Some of the issues that deserve special attention are as follows:

- (1) The State Governments have to ensure that funds allotted under SCP and TSP are atleast in proportion to the percentage of their population as per the Planning Commission guidelines and the schemes that are devised are truly helpful to the SC/ST families. It is to be further ensured that there should be no diversion of funds from the SCP and TSP kitty and the utilisation of the Special Central Assistance and grants from Government of India are made for full benefit of the SCs & STs.
- (2) Education at all levels viz., primary, secondary, higher and college and professional education is one subject that has to receive the attention of the policy planners and administrators at the State level. With wide gaps prevailing between levels of literacy amongst SCs/STs and rest of the population, it is of utmost importance that this sector be given the top most priority and the approach is result oriented.
- (3) Land Reforms, which were once given a very high priority by the State Governments are not being accorded the same importance. At the same time many developmental projects are leading to loss of ownership and land alienation amongst the Scheduled Castes