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The condition of blocks having 50% or more of SC population for use of SCA for infrastructural development programmes has been relaxed and villages having 50% or more of SC population can now be considered for infrastructural development programmes with the support of SCA funds. Only 10% of the total SCA released to the state Government / UT Administration in a year should be utilised for infrastructural development programmes. Copy of the d.o. letter No. 19020/35/93-SCD-V, dated 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1998 issued in this connect<sup>ion</sup> is enclosed as Annexure II.

3. The continuation of the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs, during the IX Five Year Plan has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs with the following modifications and conditions:-

(i) The SCA will be released to the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of following criteria:-

(a) On the basis of SC Population of the States/UTs 40%

(b) On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/ UTs (inverse of State Per Capita Domestic Product) 10%

(c) on the basis of the percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development Programmes in the Plans to enable them to cross the Poverty line. 25%

(d) On the basis of the Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs. 25%

(ii) 2% of the total budget allocation for the scheme will be earmarked for North Eastern States which implement SCP for SCs.