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शास्त्री भवन

नई दिल्ली-110001

SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL

JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

SHASTRI BHAWAN

NEW DELHI-110001

August 3, 2000



Dear Ramesh,

Subject: Implementation of Special Component Plan and various Programmes/Schemes for Welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Minorities and Weaker Sections.

As you are aware, the preparation of Special Component Plan (SCP) as a strategy for development of Scheduled Castes was introduced in 1979 with a view to achieve overall development of SCs and to raise their status above the poverty line. The Special Component Plan is designed to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the plans of States at least in proportion to the population of the SCs both in physical and financial terms. Special Central Assistance (SCA) was introduced as a Central scheme in 1979-80 to supplement efforts of the States/UTs for ensuring rapid socio economic development of the SCs, as an additive to the Special Component Plan (SCP) of the States/UTs. The underlying objectives of SCA, which is a central grant to the States/UTs, is that it should be used to give an added thrust to the development programmes for SCs with reference to their occupational needs for increasing the productivity and income from their limited assets by taking up income generating schemes for them. Guidelines of Special Central Assistance (SCA) were last revised in 1998 for making the scheme more effective.

2. Besides the SCA, the Ministry of SJ&E, as the nodal Ministry for welfare and development of SCs, implements a number of special schemes, under which assistance is given to the State Governments for upgrading the standard of education, development of skills and enterprise and for income generation to improve the socio-economic status of SCs.