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सत्यमेव जयते

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सचिव

भारत सरकार

सामाजिक न्याय और

अधिकारिता मंत्रालय

शास्त्री भवन

नई दिल्ली-110001

SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL

JUSTICE &amp; EMPOWERMENT

SHASTRI BHAWAN

NEW DELHI-110001



May 19, 2000.

Dear Lamesh,

As you are aware, the strategy of Special Component Plan (SCP) was adopted during the Sixth Five Year Plan for ensuring rapid economic development of the Scheduled Castes (SC) population. Further, Special Central Assistance (SCA) was provided as an additive to the States for accelerating the developmental process. These strategy/scheme are continuing for over last two decades. While there has been some development of the SC families on account of various measures taken by the Central and State Government(s), it has become a matter of concern that even after more than 50 years of achieving independence, sizeable portion of the SC population continues to live below the poverty line. In fact, in certain fields like education the gap between SCs/STs and others has widened. As per the 1991 census, the literacy rate for SCs/STs was 20.28% less than that for rest of the population which is higher than the said difference of 19.93% during 1971 census. The disparities between SCs/STs vis-a-vis rest of the population continue to be persisting in other sectors as well. It has become necessary to look at the strategy adopted for development of the Scheduled Castes afresh.

2. You may kindly recall that Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment had sought intervention of the Chief Minister of your State in this regard vide her letter dated 13.3.2000 (copy enclosed). With a view to give a renewed thrust to the strategy for rapid economic development of the SCs, I would request you to kindly look into the following:-

- The guidelines issued by the Planning Commission on preparation of the Special Component Plan envisage that its size with reference to the total State Plan outlay should at least be equal to the percentage of SC population to the total population of the State. While this minimum is