

D.O. No. 11014/21/87-SCD-I

DATED 6th October 1998.

Subject: Special Central Assistance(SCA) to Special Component Plan(SCP) for Scheduled Castes(SCs) - Modifications in the Criteria for release of SCA to States/UTs, utilisation etc.

As you are aware, Special Central Assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations as an additive to their Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes. Its main objective is to give a thrust to the development programmes for Scheduled Castes with reference to their occupational pattern and the need for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited resources. It will help in bringing about occupational diversification in the labour surplus economy. SCA is expected to give thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line, by providing resources for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing vital inputs so that the schemes can be more meaningful. Since the schemes/programmes for SCs may be depending upon the local occupational pattern and the economic activities available, the States/UTs have been given full flexibility in utilising SCA with the only condition that it should be utilised in conjunction with SCP and other resources available from other sources like various Corporations, financial institutions etc.

2. An illustrative list of areas under various sectors of development where SCA could be utilised has already been circulated vide this Ministry's d.o. letter No.19020/35/93-SCD-VI dated 29th July, 1993 (copy enclosed as Annexure I).