

Government of India. The main objective of the scheme is to give a thrust to the economic development programmes for the Scheduled Castes with reference to their occupational pattern and secondly, to increase the productivity of and income from their limited resources. A series of instructions have been issued regarding the purposes for which Special Central Assistance could be utilised for the development of the Scheduled Castes.

2. On examination of information received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, it has been found that a large chunk of the Special Central Assistance has been spent without effective linkage with the viability of the scheme. Some States had also kept the funds unspent for long intervals.

3. Despite considerable efforts made to extend the benefits of educational and other developmental programmes to ensure the upper mobility of Scheduled Castes, it is found that there is much to be desired. The major problem being faced in the area of Scheduled Castes development continued to be economic, educational and social. The need for special attention for groups like landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, artisans, civic sanitation workers, flayers, tanners and leather workers and other unorganised labour continues to be crucial.

4. Considering all these, in amplification of earlier guidelines, it has been decided that the scope of the existing Special Central Assistance should include infrastructural development programmes in blocks having 50% or more of Scheduled Castes population subject to the condition that the SCA allocation should be made use of in such a way as to encourage larger efforts on development of Scheduled Castes on the part of States/Union Territories.