

7 September, 1998

Dear

Kindly refer to this Ministry's d.o. letter of even number dated 29.7.1993 regarding amplification of guidelines on Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, extending the scope of its utilisation also for infrastructural development programmes in the blocks having 50 per cent or more of SC population.

2. On the basis of requests from various State Governments for exemption of blocks having 50 percent or more of SC population for utilisation of SCA for infrastructural development programmes, the matter was re-examined and it is found that the benefit of infrastructure development out of SCA funds is possible only for SCs in a few blocks in the country spread over in four States. Since most of the villages in the country with high concentration of SC population are lacking basic infrastructure for providing drinking water facilities, health care facilities, link roads, educational facilities, etc. to SC population, it has been decided to relax the condition of blocks having 50 per cent or more of SC population for use of SCA for infrastructural development programmes. SCA may now be utilised for infrastructural development programmes in villages with 50% or more of SC population, where infrastructural facilities for overall development of SCs are lacking.

3. Since the main objective of SCA is the economic development of SC population in order to bring them above the poverty line, only 10% of the total SCA released to the State/UT in a year should be utilised for infrastructural development programmes in the villages having 50 per cent or more of SC population.

4. As you are aware, SCA is an additive to the SCP of State/UT and its utilisation should primarily be on income generating schemes/programmes of economic development of SCs in conjunction with SCP as well as resources available from other sources like various corporations, financial institutions etc. The basic principle of utilisation of SCA in conjunction with SCP for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing inputs on viable schemes may strictly be followed while utilising SCA for economic development schemes as well as infrastructural development programmes. SCA should not be used to substitute the obligations of State Governments/UT Administrations under their plan and non-plan allocations for SCs.

5. The details of villages where SCA funds are utilised for the purpose of infrastructural development and the physical achievement thereon may also be included in the quarterly and annual progress reports on utilisation of SCA to be furnished to this Ministry by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(A.K. Choudhary)

To

1. Chief Secretaries of 24 States (as per list attached)
2. Secretaries in charge of SC Welfare (as per list attached)