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Subject: - Guidelines for utilization of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).

The fundamental objectives and the basic operative principles of the approved Special Central Assistance scheme are (a) economic development of the SC target groups by way of employment or self employment either in primary or secondary or tertiary sectors, (b) Special emphasis on training and skill development with forward linkages for employment and occupational diversification.

2. It has been the endeavor of this Ministry to serve the larger cause of the target groups by guiding the State Governments in directing their efforts and initiatives from time to time. As a further initiative, the Ministry has decided to draw a new road map for the empowerment of the SC target groups in tune with the opportunities offered by the modern era of globalization and liberalization. In this exercise the most important component is quality and excellence, both in professional education and training which have a direct linkage with high-end employment.

3. The need of the hour is to promote sunrise sectors through the Special Central Assistance mechanism without leaving any scope or possibility for dilution of the qualitative excellence of the new programmes. While doing so the emphasis would rest on choosing the best out of the available market by diligent observance of norms of propriety and transparency. It is thus felt necessary to include capacity building programmes matching the new sunrise high-end sectors within the existing format of the scheme of Special Central Assistance. An illustrative list of such sectors is Commercial Pilot Course, Aviation and Hospitality Course, course in Fashion Technology, General Nursing Course and Hotel Management Course. These are all income generating activities and fit into the scheme of Special Central Assistance.