

## CHAPTER 14

# EMPOWERMENT OF THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

### Introduction

The Socially Disadvantaged Groups include the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Minorities. According to the 1991 Census, SCs account for 138.23 million (16.5 percent); STs 67.76 million (8.1 percent); and Minorities 145.31 million (17.2 percent). As regards OBCs, it is difficult to quantify the size of their population in the absence of the Census data. However, according to the estimates by the Mandal Commission in 1993, the OBCs constitute 52 per cent of the country's total population. Some of them may belong to the categories of SCs and Minorities.

### Commitments of Ninth Plan

2. The Ninth Five Year Plan commits to empower the Socially Disadvantaged Groups as agents of socio-economic change and development, as set out in Box No.1 below:.

<p><b>Box No. 1</b></p> <p><b>COMMITMENTS OF THE NINTH PLAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To create an enabling environment that is conducive for SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities to exercise their rights freely, enjoy their privileges and be able to lead a life with confidence and dignity.</li><li>• To ensure removal of disparities; eliminate exploitation and suppression and provide protection to the disadvantaged groups.</li><li>• To ensure developmental benefits 'Reach the Unreached' through equitable distribution and with social justice.</li><li>• To ensure participation of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups in the process of planning not merely as beneficiaries but also as partakers in the formulation of need-based programmes/projects, and in their implementation, supervision and monitoring.</li><li>• To accelerate the on-going process of improving the socio-economic status of the disadvantaged groups through effective implementation of various policies and programmes and thus bring them on par with rest of the society.</li><li>• To ensure a certain percentage of funds / benefits from all the relevant programmes to flow to women belonging to these Groups who are the most affected.</li></ul>
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3. Towards fulfilling the commitments, the Ninth Plan adopted a three pronged strategy of - i) Social Empowerment; ii) Economic Empowerment; and iii) Social Justice to ensure removal of disparities, elimination of exploitation and suppression and to provide protection to these disadvantaged groups.

## i) Social Empowerment

### Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

4. Education being the most effective instrument for socio-economic empowerment, high priority continues to be accorded to improve the educational status of SCs and STs, specially that of the women and the girl child. No doubt, there has been a visible increase in the literacy rates of SCs and STs during the last three developmental decades, but the gap between literacy rate of SCs/ STs and that of the general population continues to persist, as shown by the data given below:

#### Literacy Rates of SCs and STs: The Gains and the Gaps between 1971 and 1991

Indicator	1971					1991				
	Rates			Gap		Rates			Gap	
	Total	SC	ST	SC	ST	Total	SC	ST	SC	ST
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
<b>Total Literacy</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>(-)14.8</b>	<b>(-)18.2</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>(-)14.8</b>	<b>(-)22.6</b>
Male	39.5	22.4	17.6	(-)17.1	(-)21.9	64.1	49.9	40.7	(-)14.2	(-)23.4
Female	18.7	6.4	4.9	(-)12.3	(-)13.8	39.3	23.8	18.2	(-)15.5	(-)21.1
<b>Gross Enrolment Ratios</b>										
Classes I - V										
	(1990-91)					(1997-98)				
Total	100.1	84.2	85.9	(-)15.9	(-)14.2	89.7	92.4	90.7	(-)2.7	(+)1.0
Boys	114.0	98.5	101.3	(-)15.5	(-)12.7	97.7	102.3	102.9	(+)4.6	(+)5.2
Girls	85.5	68.3	68.2	(-)17.2	(-)17.3	81.2	81.6	78.3	(+)0.4	(+)2.9
Classes VI-VIII										
	(1990-91)					(1997-98)				
Total	62.1	41.3	32.2	(-)20.8	(-)29.9	58.5	48.9	43.2	(-)9.6	(-)15.3
Boys	76.6	53.2	42.3	(-)23.4	(-)34.3	66.5	75.8	53.0	(+)9.3	(-)13.5
Girls	47.0	28.8	21.9	(-)18.2	(-)25.1	49.5	37.6	32.9	(-)11.9	(-)16.6
<b>Drop-out Rates ( Class I-VIII)</b>										
	(1990-91)					(1993-94)				
Total	60.9	67.8	78.6	(+)6.9	(+)17.7	60.5	66.6	74.7	(+)6.1	(+)14.2
Boys	59.1	64.3	75.7	(+)5.2	(+)16.6	58.3	63.6	75.4	(+)5.3	(+)17.1
Girls	65.1	73.2	82.2	(+)8.1	(+)17.1	63.5	71.0	80.9	(+)7.5	(+)17.4
<b>Source :</b> 1) Selected Educational Statistics, 1990-91 and 1998-99, Department of Education Government of India, New Delhi 2) Education in India 1992-93, Department of Education, Government of India, 1998										

5. As could be seen from the Table, the most discouraging sign was the increasing gap between the female literacy rate of SCs and STs and of the general categories during 1971 to 1991, defeating the very efforts at reducing the existing gaps/disparities. The female literacy rates of these communities as a whole still continues to be very low requiring focussed attention.

6. Supplementing efforts by the Department of Education, the nodal Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, since its establishment in 1999, has also implemented a few exclusive programmes for the educational betterment of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups through extending scholarships, hostels, coaching etc.

7. The nation-wide scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS) for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students was revised in 1997-98 to extend its scope besides increasing the amount of scholarship and the ceiling of income limits of parents. . During first three years of the Plan (1997-2000), an amount of Rs.315.07 crore has been released to States/Union Territories (UTs) for extending PMS to 56.26 lakh students. Similarly, under the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in un-clean occupations an amount of Rs.14.28 crore was spent during the first three years of the Ninth Plan (1997-2000) to benefit about 10.18 lakh students. It is time that the impact of these two schemes was assessed, especially from the point of cost-benefit analysis.

8. There are several other educational programmes for these groups. The programmes are - Construction of Hostels for SC/ST Boys and Girls, Ashram-schools for STs, Coaching and Allied Scheme, Book-Banks; Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students; Special Educational Development Programmes to SC/ST Girls belonging to Low Literacy Areas; Programmes to extend financial assistance to Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for setting up of Educational Complexes to promote education among SCs/STs and especially amongst girls belonging to Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs); National Scholarships to meritorious SC/ST students to pursue higher studies abroad etc. All these schemes, as stated earlier, supplement the major efforts being put into action exclusively to improve the educational status of SC and ST population and thus

<p><b>Box No.2</b></p> <p><b>SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT</b></p> <p>Education being the most effective instrument for socio-economic empowerment of the socially disadvantaged groups, high priority continues to be accorded to improve the educational status of these groups especially that of women and girl child through :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relaxation of norms for opening of primary schools within one kilometer of walking distance.</li> <li>• Extending reservation in educational institutions and granting concessions like free education, free supply of books, uniforms/ scholarships etc.</li> <li>• Vocationalising education both at the middle and high school level towards improving opportunities for both wage and self-employment.</li> <li>• Promoting higher and technical/professional education amongst these groups, through effective implementation of Post Matric Scheolarships (PMS) with an added thrust and wider coverage.</li> <li>• Promoting higher education amongst children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations and thus gradually wean them away from the practice of scavenging.</li> <li>• Providing more opportunity to these groups to appear in the competitive examination coaching centers.</li> <li>• Achieving complete eradication of untouchability by 2002 and thus providing a rightful place and status to these socially disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>• Developing special health packages and extending vital health services through improved delivery system to combat endemic diseases prevalent in Tribal areas.</li> <li>• Launching exclusive schemes for Primitive Tribal Groups for their survival, protection and all-round development.</li> </ul>
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empower them socially.

9. As the State Governments are unable to meet the huge committed liability, educational development schemes especially like Post-Matric Scholarships and Pre-Matric Scholarships get adversely affected, leaving SC/ST students to face hardships due to non-payment of scholarships under these schemes. A recent evaluation carried out by the Ministry on the scheme has found that the performance of certain States in providing matching grant, maintenance of services and management of hostels is not encouraging and the pace of construction of hostels has been very slow and the basic amenities provided in them are substandard. A review of Ashram Schools scheme would show that some of the schools are very badly maintained and deprived of even basic facilities. Also, no separate sections exist in the hostels for primary school children which is a pre-requisite.

10. Tribal hostels and residential schools in remote interiors are poorly managed, plagued by badly maintained buildings with leakages and by delays in payments to students and purchases. The greatest failing has been in education in tribal schools. The stated tribal policy of 'integration' and 'enabling tribal communities to develop according to their own genius' would appear to have been entirely forgotten and mainstream school curricula are imposed wholesale on tribal schools. The problem is not merely the medium of instruction -- again contrary to stated national policy of enabling children at the primary level to study in their mother-tongue -- there are almost no tribal schools in which teaching is in tribal languages.

11. Although educational facilities are made available to the weaker sections, the quality of those facilities remains dismal and the content of education is neither found relevant nor meaningful to their socio-economic set-up and needs. Therefore, the need is to evolve an effective system of education process in terms of using their local language (especially for STs) as the medium of instruction and of vocationalisation of education at the Middle/High School levels to equip these groups for wage/self-employment. Educational development amongst the disadvantaged sections, especially SCs and STs, shows up certain numerical improvement but the achievements are not commensurate either qualitatively or quantitatively to reach the level of competence on par with the general population.

### **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**

12. Development of the OBCs, which made a beginning during the 'Nineties, received better attention in the Ninth Plan with many new initiatives coming up in the field of education and economic development. For educational development amongst OBCs, schemes were introduced to provide scholarships for post-matric/ pre-matric courses as well as other higher education supported by hostel facilities. Besides, children belonging to the OBCs were also allowed to enjoy the existing hostel facilities meant for SC and ST boys and girls. For OBC students to participate effectively in the competitive examinations, Pre Examination Coaching Centres were set up in the Ninth Plan.

## Minorities

13. The Department of Education has been concentrating on priority areas to improve the educational status of Minorities, especially that of women/ girls belonging to these communities through a number of programmes. They include – Area Intensive Programmes to extend basic educational infrastructure facilities and services in 41 minority –concentrated districts; Modernisation of Madarasas/Maktabs through introduction of teaching of science, mathematics, social studies and languages, on a voluntary basis; Community Polytechnics in the 41 minority-concentrated Districts etc. The University Grants

Commission also implements a scheme of running Coaching Classes for weaker sections of the educationally backward Minorities and Coaching Classes for Civil Services Examinations. Further, promotion of education amongst women was attempted by providing additional facilities of schools, colleges and hostels, offering remedial coaching, upgrading the existing institutions and networking with vocational and technical education. The ongoing scheme of Maulana Azad Education Foundation was also strengthened.

14. The Indian economy has now reached a stage where there would be greater demand for skilled manpower rather than for clerical positions in white collar professions. The expansion in Government jobs will take place at a very slow rate as compared to its growth in the last 40 years. More jobs will be created in factories, small businesses and crafts where minorities and OBCs have an edge over other communities and, therefore, they could do well by concentrating on the newer opportunities, rather than trying to acquire university degrees which have little market value now. The Central Government should, therefore, shift the focus to vocational rather than academic college education for them.

## ii) Economic Empowerment

15. Economic backwardness amongst SCs and STs when compared to the general population is depressingly obvious as nearly half of the SC population (48.37%) and more than half of the ST population (51.14%) lived below poverty line ( in 1993-94); this percentage was 35.97 amongst the general population. Due to dependency on low-paid and degrading jobs, these disadvantaged groups

### Box No.3

#### DEVELOPMENT OF OBCs & MINORITIES

##### Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

- Launching of 3 new Educational Development Schemes of Post-Matric Scholarships, Pre-Matric Scholarships and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls.
- Launching of a Central Sector Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to voluntary organizations.
- Expansion of employment-cum-income generation activities through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.

##### Minorities

- Effective implementation of 15-Point Programme towards ensuring security of life, property and job assurance for the Minorities.
- Promoting educational development through modernisation of Madarasas and strengthening and expansion of Maulana Azad Education Foundation's activities, specially focussing on women .
- Promoting self employment activities with upgradation of entrepreneurial skills through National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (NMFDC) with a special focus on women.
- Towards economic advancement of the minorities, Authorised Share Capital of NMFDC has been raised from Rs.300 crore to Rs.500 crore.
- Multi-sectoral Developmental Projects to identify the traditional and other related economic activities for formulating viable schemes for generating self-employment, additional incremental income etc. being taken up in 41 Minority concentrated Districts.
- Extending special coaching and training to the educationally backward minorities and other weaker sections to prepare them for various competitive examinations.

especially the SCs are subjected to abject poverty. A large number of OBCs and Minorities also continue to live below the Poverty Line and are engaged in low-income traditional artisanship/occupations like handloom, weaving, pottery, fishing, blacksmithy etc., which barely support their sustenance. Therefore, on-going schemes of employment-cum-income generation run by various governmental and non-governmental organisations, have been expanded further to reach the unreached living in the most backward rural areas and in far-flung tribal areas and make them economically independent and self-reliant.

16. Six apex financial organisations working for the economic empowerment of these groups have been strengthened. They are: - i) National Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Finance and

<p>Box No.4</p> <p><b>ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special thrust has been given for employment and income generation programmes to make the Socially Disadvantaged Groups economically independent and self-reliant through -</li> <li>• Strengthening of all the 6 apex financial organisations (NSFDC, SCDC, NBCFDC, NMDFC, NSKFDC &amp; TRIFED) by enhancing their authorised share capital so they play a catalytic role in promoting employment-cum-income generation activities through backward and forward linkages of credit and market facilities;</li> <li>• Raising of the Authorised Share Capital from - Rs.300 crore to Rs.1000 crore for NSFDC to benefit about 2,18,497 SCs/STs ; Rs.200 crore to Rs.700 crore for NBCFDC for benefiting 76,482 OBCs ; and Rs.300 crore to Rs.500 crore for NMDFC to benefit 36,899 Minorities.</li> <li>• Assisting SCDCs to extend enhanced financial support to 12.32 lakh SC families.</li> <li>• Disbursing loans worth Rs.384.39 lakhs by NSKFDC to help rehabilitate 459 Safai Karmachari families.</li> <li>• Purchasing / paying of remunerative prices to Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the Tribals to avoid exploitation by the middlemen ; processing and marketing of the same by TRIFED.</li> </ul>	<p>Development Corporation (NSFDC); ii) Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs); iii) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC); iv) National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (NMFDC); v) National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC); and vi) Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED). The authorized capital of these corporations have been by enhanced during the Ninth Plan (details in Box No.4). These Corporations in</p>
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collaboration with the State Finance and Development Corporations are expected to work as the catalytic agents besides extending both 'forward' and 'backward' linkages of credit and marketing facilities to the micro-level agencies to improve the economic lot of these Socially Disadvantaged Groups.

17. A critical assessment of the working of all these Corporations over a period of five to ten years, would show that none of these Corporations justifies the name of being a *Corporation*; they are heavily dependent upon governmental assistance. Generally, the Corporations are expected to become self-reliant over a period of 2-3 years of their establishment. Instead, these organizations are becoming more and more dependent upon the Government and demanding a hike in the Authorised Share Capital from time to time, which is not a healthy sign. For example, the original Authorised Share Capital of Rs.150 crore for NSFDC has been revised three, four times to raise it to Rs.1,000 crore. Further, these corporations have maintained a recovery rate as poor as 30% to 50%. In sharp contrast, a similar organization like Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), which extends credit to poor and assetless women in the informal sector, could achieve a recovery rate as high as 95% to 98% and become self-sufficient by raising the original corpus of Rs.31 crore in 1993 to Rs.48.06 crore within a period of five years. This calls for an urgent study of the working of all these six Corporations with a major objective of introducing necessary reforms, both business and managerial, so as to make them effective financial instruments in empowering the disadvantaged. If such action is not taken, there is

every danger of these Corporations becoming a permanent burden on the Government. Action to this effect needs to be completed during this Plan period.

18. Besides programmes implemented through those apex organizations, the nodal Ministries also extend Special Central Assistance as an additive to State SCP (Special Component Plan for SCs) and TSP (Tribal Sub Plan) to promote family-based income generation activities to improve the economic conditions of SCs and STs. These programmes suffer from all those handicaps being faced by several poverty alleviation programmes like IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme) and SGSY (Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana), which are discussed elsewhere.

19. Also the line Ministries of Rural Areas and Employment and Urban Affairs and Employment also implement a few nation-wide poverty alleviation programmes viz - Swarna Jayanti Swa Rozgar Yojana and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana to generate both wage and self-employment and income generation opportunities for the benefit of the socially and economically disadvantaged Groups. The impact of various poverty alleviation programmes put into action during the last two developmental decades has brought down the incidence of poverty from 57.60 in 1983-84 to 48.37 in 1993-94 in respect of SCs; from 63.14 to 51.14 in respect of STs and from 44.48 to 35.97 in respect of general category for the same period.

20. The declining trend in the poverty rates amongst the SCs and STs has been quite encouraging as the percentage decline of SCs and STs stood at 9.23 and 12.00 respectively, while it was 8.51 for the general category. However, the incidence of poverty amongst SCs and STs still continues to be very high as almost half of their population live below poverty line.

### iii) **Social Justice**

21. As a first step in the process of instituting Social Justice, major structural changes were brought into the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare by setting up of two exclusive national machineries viz., the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for SCs, OBCs and Minorities in 1998 and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for STs in 1999. This was done not only to re-affirm the governmental commitment of ensuring social justice to the socially deprived but also to extend a focussed attention to these groups.

22. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (PCR Act) and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (POA Act) are two important legal instruments to prevent/curb persistent problems of social discrimination, prevalence of social evils like untouchability and increasing cases of exploitation and atrocities against these disadvantaged Groups. The SC & ST (POA) Act provides for Special Courts/Mobile Courts for on-the spot speedy trials and disposal of cases. So far, 19 States have appointed Special Cells/Squads/Officers to ensure effective implementation of these laws. Already, 434 Special Courts/Mobile Special Courts have been set up in 7 States, at the instance of the Central Government.

23. Not only do the disadvantaged groups live in social and economic backwardness but they are also subjected to the persistent social discrimination, crimes and atrocities and exploitation. Areas that are endemic and have a dubious distinction of such crime/atrocities lie in States of Rajasthan (22.5%), Uttar Pradesh (22.1%), Madhya Pradesh (18.2%), Gujarat (7.7%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.5%). Therefore, there is an urgent need for effective enforcement of special legislations of PCR Act and POA Act and provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) with more stringent measures. A definite plan of action ensuring both investigative, preventive and rehabilitative measures needs to be taken up in those areas/districts where the incidence of crimes/atrocities/violence is high against the weaker sections. Despite the setting up of Special Courts and Mobile Courts to expedite the pending backlog of cases,

there still is a long list pending litigation in the courts of law. States/UTs should review the existing arrangements to administer the protective legislations and strengthen/revamp them effectively to check the trend of crimes and atrocities and ensure speedy disposal of the pending cases. In this endeavour, NGOs should be involved as well.

24. Among other other mechanisms, the Government has set up four National Commissions to secure social justice : One for SCs and STs (1992), a second for OBCs (1993), third for Minorities (1992), and the fourth for Safai Karamcharis (1994) – all statutory bodies. To what extent they have been able to articulate and solve the problems of the disadvantaged group is difficult to say. An impartial review of their effectiveness is required.

25. Another area of concern has been the inhuman practice of carrying the night soil manually. The abnoxious practice of manual scavenging was to be totally eliminated by the end of the Eight Plan in 1997 and those displaced were to be rehabilitated in alternative/viable occupation. But due to tardy progress in identification of those people and their liberation and rehabilitation, the target could not be achieved. As per the surveys conducted recently in 22 States/Union Territories (UTs), a total 5.77 lakh scavengers have been identified; of whom only 1.27 lakh could be trained and 2.90 lakh could be rehabilitated with a total expenditure of Rs.527.16 crore during the last six years 1992-98. Reasons for the poor progress, as explained by States/UTs, include: reluctance on the part of banks and financial institutions to advance credit to beneficiaries; inadequate as well as unattractive stipends during the training period; lack of coordination between State Departments and local bodies on conversion of dry latrines and on the rehabilitation programme; and absence of follow-up on the rehabilitated persons. Lastly, some of the affected people are not keen to shift to new insecure occupations.

26. As a result of the policy of positive discrimination through reservations, SCs in services have gained strength from 13.7 percent in 1974 to 16.9 percent in 1994 which has gone even beyond their percentage of 16.5 in the total population (1991). In the case of STs, though their representation has also gone up from 2.8 percent in 1974 to 5.5 percent in 1994, it is still below their population percentage of 8.1. Representation of SCs/STs in Group A and B Services, i.e., at the decision making level, has been far below the expected level. This implies that SCs/STs lack opportunities for acquiring quality education on par with the general population. There is an urgent need to review the education programmes for SCs/STs to secure/ensure qualitative output with competence to suit the needs of higher jobs and services.

27. Yet another important area is the development of 75 Primitive Tribal Groups spread over 15 States/UTs, which demands both special and immediate attention of the Government. Besides living under the conditions which are unfit for human living, they are also said to face a major threat of extinction because of nutritional deficiencies and diseases and lack of basic health care. Although a programme for their survival, protection and development was launched in 1998 with a total Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.22 crore, not much progress appears to have been achieved. It is required to put through a carefully thought-out 'Plan of Action for Survival, Protection and Development' of Primitive Tribal Groups .

### **Implementation of SCP, TSP and SCA to SCP and TSP**

28. The three special strategies of Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs; Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for STs; and the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to SCP and TSP, have been receiving special attention right from their initiation in the Seventies; as the most effective mechanisms to ensure flow of funds/benefits for SCs and STs from the other general development sectors.



29. The SCA to States/UTs, is an additive to SCP and TSP to strengthen the efforts of States in filling up critical gaps under the family-based income generation projects. Such assistance to SCP was enhanced from Rs.1,125 crore in the Eighth Plan to Rs. 2,092.95 crore in the Ninth Plan, an 86 per cent increase. Of this, the likely utilisation would be about Rs.1,106.27 crore (52.9%) during 1997-2000, leaving a balance of Rs. 986.68 crore for the remaining period. Similarly, the SCA to TSP was also enhanced from Rs.1,479.84 crore in the Eighth Plan to Rs.1,910 crore (Provisional) in the Ninth Plan, showing an increase by 33.1 per cent. Details of such flow of funds from the Central and the State Sectors during 1997-98 are given below:

### Flow of Funds through SCP, TSP and SCA to SCP and TSP during 1997-98

Items	Annual Plan (1997-98) (Rs. in Crore)		Percentage Col.4 to Col.3
	----- Outlay	Flow to SCP/TSP*	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<b>Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs</b>			
- Flow from Central Plan (in respect of 13 Ministries/Departments)	15366.63	1639.32	10.7
- Flow from State Plan (in respect of 24 States/UTs)	62395.42	7026.92	11.3
<b>Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for STs</b>			
- Flow from Central Plan (in respect of 15 Ministries/Departments)	33119.11	2287.95	6.9
- Flow from State Plan (in respect of 20 States/UTs)	51490.96	3882.64	7.5
<b>Special Central Assistance (SCA) to SCP and TSP</b>			
- SCA to SCP (Outlay & Release)	326.00	308.27	94.6
- SCA to TSP (Outlay & Release)	330.00	329.61	99.9
* : Data is available only upto 1997-98.			
<i>Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi.</i>			

30. During the period of appraisal, certain issues about non-earmarking of funds and its consequences have come to surface. Firstly, some Ministries/Departments are regulatory in nature and as such cannot earmark SCP and TSP; secondly, activities of some Ministries/Departments not being divisible in nature, SCP and TSP cannot be earmarked; and thirdly, as a consequence, how far will it be justifiable not to approve the outlays of the Ministries/Departments and States/UTs which do not earmark funds for SCP and TSP.

31. Further, non-release of SCA funds in time by the State Finance Departments to the nodal department has been adversely affecting the smooth running of income generating programmes that are undertaken by the SC/ST families living below the line of poverty. Such delays not only frustrate the affected families but also cause predicament to the nodal department as they are not able to utilise the much needed funds which ultimately remain unspent. Often, such unspent SCA funds are diverted to other purposes leaving the earmarked/ intended purposes unattended. To look into these and other related issues of SCP, TSP, SCA to SCP and TSP, a Central Standing Tripartite Committee was set up in May 1999 (see Box No.5) consisting of the representatives of the Planning Commission, National Commission for SCs and STs, the two nodal Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the concerned Ministry/Department,. The Committee has already completed the task of reviewing the SCP and TSP formulations of the Central Ministries / Departments of Agriculture and Co-operation, Environment and Forest, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development, Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Water Resources, Public Enterprises, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Sugar and Edible Oils, Drinking Water Supply, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Food Processing and Power. Similar Committees are also coming up at the State level. So far, 6 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Gujarat have set up such committees.

**Box No.5**

**STANDING TRIPARTITE COMMITTEES - SPECIAL MECHANISMS TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SCP, TSP AND SCA TO SCP AND TSP**

A Central Standing Tripartite Committee was constituted to review / monitor the implementation of SCP, TSP and SCA to SCP & TSP. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

- To look into the reasons for not implementing the Guidelines concerning SCP and TSP and to suggest specific measures for their compliance;
- To identify specific schemes which would benefit SCs and STs under various development sectors, their prioritization along with earmarking of funds for them;
- To review the process of implementation, impact assessment and monitoring of SCP and TSP and utilization of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to SCP and TSP and the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under Article 275(1) and advise the Planning Commission on measures which would serve the interests of these communities more effectively;
- The Committee will recommend allocations/earmarking of funds under SCP and TSP as also specific/additional schemes consistent with the Guidelines, where necessary, for various Central Ministries and State Governments which would be taken into account while finalizing their Annual Plans each year;
- To suggest institutional and advocacy arrangements for participation of beneficiary groups in preparation and implementation of schemes under SCP and TSP and Central allocations referred to above, taking into account, among others, priorities of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments and other Legislative measures flowing there from.
- Similar Standing Tripartite Committees are also coming up at State level.

## **Critical Areas/Gaps**

### **Untouchability & Atrocities against SCs & STs**

32. The National Commission for SCs and STs in its Report for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, found that untouchability was still practised in many forms throughout the country. In towns and cities, however, there is far greater anonymity and occupational mobility, which enables blurring of caste identities. It has been documented that urban migration by SCs is often impelled not only by economic compulsions, but also by the desire to escape the social degradation of untouchability.

33. Closely related to the practice of untouchability are other atrocities against SCs and STs. According to Crime in India (1998), a total of 25,638 cases of crime were reported against SCs. Of these, 8,167 cases were reported under PCR Act, 1955 and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; 923 cases of rape; 516 cases of murder; and 3,809 cases of hurt. In case of STs, a total of 4,276 cases of crime were reported during the same period. Of these, 759 cases were reported under PCR Act and POA Act; 331 cases of rape, 66 of murder and 638 of hurt. Given that SCs and STs are both reluctant and unable (for lack of police cooperation) to report crimes against themselves, actual number of abuses is presumably much higher.

34. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 specifies the atrocities liable to penalties under the Act. Both the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the National Police Commission (1980) document several recurring pathologies, such as delays in reporting, refusal to register complaints, delayed arrival on scene, half-hearted investigation, failure to cite relevant provisions of law, brutality in dealing with accused persons of the weaker sections, soft treatment of accused persons from influential sections and making or failing to make arrest on personal considerations. The other common maladies documented in the study were poor quality of prosecution, protracted pendency and procedural delays before courts and high percentage of acquittals.

35. A majority of Scheduled Castes, being poor and assetless, are mainly engaged as agricultural labourers. As per the 1991 Census, 75 per cent of SC workers are engaged in the primary sector. Of these, more than half are agricultural labourers; just 25 per cent are cultivators. Their hold in agrarian economy is also declining; the number of cultivators amongst SCs has decreased from 38 per cent in 1961 to 25 per cent in 1991. Many of the SC workers continue to derive livelihood from occupations like scavenging, flaying, tanning etc. To break the caste-based occupational stereotyping, special efforts need to be made to encourage them to make the best use of the educational concessions and programmes being extended for their benefit by the Government. Also, there is a need to vocationalise the education right at the middle-school level to promote occupational mobility for these groups.

36. Further, the SC settlements in many areas are on the outskirts and in seclusion from the mainstream settlement manifesting social segregation. Their dwellings are devoid of basic minimum amenities like safe drinking water, health and sanitation, roads etc. Therefore, special packages of basic minimum services viz. safe drinking water; nutrition supplementation; primary health care; primary education and employment-cum-income-generation activities need to be designed/developed to cater to the SC Clusters/Bastis.

### **Unresolved Issues in Tribal Development**

37. From the viewpoint of policy, it is important to understand that tribal communities are vulnerable not only because they are poor, assetless and illiterate compared to the general population; often the

distinct vulnerability arises from their inability to negotiate and cope with the consequences of their forced integration with the mainstream economy, society, cultural and political system, from all of which they were historically protected by their relative isolation. Post-independence, the requirements of planned development brought with them dams, mines, industries and roads—all located on tribal lands. With these came the concomitant processes of displacement, literal and metaphorical. Tribal institutions and practices were forced into uneasy existence with or gave way to market or formal state institutions, tribals found themselves at a profound disadvantage in the face of an influx of better-equipped outsiders into tribal areas. The repercussions for the already fragile socio-economic livelihood base of the tribals were devastating—ranging from loss of livelihoods, land alienation on a vast scale, to hereditary bondage.

38. As tribals grapple with these tragic consequences, a small clutch of bureaucratic programmes has done little to assist the precipitous pauperisation, exploitation and disintegration of tribal communities. Tribals respond occasionally with anger and assertion, but often despair. The following persistent problems have by and large remained unattended to:

- Forests & Forest Villages
- Land Alienation & Indebtedness
- Shifting Cultivation
- Relation with forests, and Government monopoly over NTFPs (non timber forest products)
- Ineffective implementation of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996 (PESA, 1996) for Schedule V Areas
- Involuntary displacement and lack of proper rehabilitation
- Movements

39. On the official side, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs created recently or the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment before 1999 has not given sufficient attention to these issues saying these subjects have not been allotted to them. Even then, they are expected to play a more activist role in addressing these issues by taking up issues with the concerned Ministries wherever these subjects get low importance.

## **Forests & Forest Villages**

40. As discussed elsewhere, forest is the most important endowment of tribal communities for survival and livelihood. Yet, considerations of maximising State revenues from forests have dominated forest policy from colonial times. Community control over forests was no longer recognised legally, and the State became the ultimate owner and custodian of forests. Forest dwellers became ‘encroachers and trespassers’ as clean felling for timber extraction dominated forestry operations. The conversion of a complex forest into genetically simplified industrial plantations add to State revenues and benefit industries, but a wide range of species critical to the survival and well-being of tribal forest dwellers are depleted severely and sometimes even lost forever.

41. Government has created new rights of industrialists to forest produce at what is seen as highly subsidised prices. There are instances of industries being supplied bamboo for the manufacture of papers at 10 to 50 per cent of the auction rate, while purchase at auctions is the only source of bamboo for tribal artisans, such as the Koya of Orissa. State monopolies over collection of NTFPs have also followed this same pattern of maximising corporate interests and State revenue, at the expense of tribal subsistence. In contrast to deregulation in the corporate sector, irrational barriers abound to the processing of NTFPs, even for the manufacture of brooms, leaf plates and *agarbattis*.

42. Deforestation and destruction of the forest ecology has substantially damaged and eroded the very subsistence base of forest-based tribals, who otherwise form an integral part of the total forest ecosystem for centuries. Despite special safeguards included in the National Forest Policy of 1988, tribals continue to struggle for survival with no assets of their own with proprietary rights, restriction in the collection of minor forest produce, exploitation by middlemen, displacement due to launching of National Wild Life Sanctuaries, Game Parks etc. Measures need to be taken to confer heritable but inalienable rights on tribal land in forest villages; remove restriction on tribal rights of access; collection of minor forest produce; ensure basic minimum services to those living in the forest villages; and avoid displacement of tribals to the extent possible.

43. Closely related to tribal forest rights is the problem of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the tribals arising out of the process of liberalization and globalisation which results in the deprivation of their ownership rights over indigenous knowledge of various resources, especially of medicinal plants and their use. Therefore, there is an urgent need to ensure appropriate legal and institutional arrangements for recognizing and acknowledging the rights of tribals to such resources and indigenous knowledge.

### **Land Alienation & Indebtedness**

44. Tribal land alienation is the most important cause of the pauperisation of tribals, rendering an economic situation, extremely vulnerable even at the best of times, even more precarious. Alongside a shrinking access to forests for their livelihood, shifting cultivation has also been severely restricted for the tribals. The livelihood option for them today is settled agriculture.

45. In 1997-98, the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, at the Centre commissioned several State-specific studies on the problem of land alienation and reports have been received so far from Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

46. The reports confirm that massive alienation of tribal lands continues in tribal regions in all parts of the country. The magnitude of the problem can be assessed in the Andhra Pradesh Report, for instance, from the fact that today non-tribals own more than half the land in Scheduled Areas of the State. The figure is 52 per cent in Khammam district, 60 per cent in Adilabad district and 71 per cent in Warangal district. It may be noted that these are official figures based on land records, and would not include 'benami' holdings in the name of tribals but held by non-tribals.

47. In Madhya Pradesh, the Census reveals that the percentage of Scheduled Tribe cultivators to total Scheduled Tribe workers fell from 76.45 per cent in 1961 to 68.09 per cent in 1991. Correspondingly the percentage of Scheduled Tribe agricultural labourers to total Scheduled Tribe workers rose from 17.73 per cent to 25.52 per cent. Similar empirical evidence is available from other States as well.

48. The studies commissioned by the Central Government of India confirm that the fundamental reason for tribal land alienation is the fragile, constantly shrinking economic base of the tribals. Their traditional skills in the gathering of forest produce lost significance with the introduction of State ownership of forests, so that from food-gatherers they were reduced to wage-earners. Private property in land extinguished the erstwhile right of tribal communities to free access to land in consonance with their needs. Settled agriculture brought with it its inevitable linkages with credit, inputs and markets, rendering the tribals even more dependent and vulnerable.

49. As the tribals have an innate fear based on bitter past experience of banks, cooperative institutions and other Government sources of credit, they prefer the predictability of the moneylender despite his

usurious interest rates. In any case, most banks and cooperative institutions are unwilling to provide consumption loans, and moneylenders are the only sources of consumption credit.

50. While the dependence on the moneylender drives tribals into perpetual debt, mortgage and ultimate loss of land, there is also the common phenomenon of bondage where they pledge their person -- and even that of their families --- against a loan. The practice of bonded labour is known by different names in different regions. In Rajasthan, it is called *Sagri*; in Andhra, *Vetti*; in Orissa, *Gothi*; in Karnataka, *Jetha* and in Madhya Pradesh, *Naukri Nama*.

51. The studies also show that the Government policy itself has contributed to the phenomenon of tribal land alienation, directly or indirectly. In several States, tribal land is being legally auctioned by cooperative credit societies and banks to recover dues. Auctioned land is purchased by non-tribals as well as rich tribals. Authorities responsible for regulating sale of tribal lands to non-tribals have been seen to collude with non-tribals to defraud the tribal landowners.

52. In a study, the Tribal Research Institute, Madhya Pradesh, reports: `` while on the one hand section 165(6) of the M.P. Land Revenue Code prohibits transfer of land from aboriginals, the latter part of the same section permits it under certain conditions... All other clauses in the interest of the aboriginals seem to be overshadowed by this and transfer of the land from the tribal to the non-tribal is a regular feature.'`.

53. The study notes that a high 46.3% of cases where the Collector gave permission to tribal landowners to sell land related to repayment of Government loans. Says the report: 'Indebtedness is the main cause of land alienation. Actually what happens in the area is that tribals mortgage their land to non-tribals and take loans..... They would then take loan from Government and use it for repayment of the private debts. Having failed to pay the loan due to Government, they apply for permission to sell land which is granted. In fact the sale is to the mortgagee, while on paper it assumes the shape of innocent transfer for repayment of Government loans'. The study further notes that 'the quantum of illegal (*benami*) land alienation from tribals to non-tribals is like that part of the iceberg that remains under the surface of water. Seemingly though the quantum of legal transfers is not very much, the incidence of illegal transfers not easily detectable is very high'.

55. The studies commissioned by the Central Government with regard to other States also establish that transfers of land from tribal landowners to non-tribals continued despite the various enactments.

56. The persistent problem of indebtedness amongst the tribals is one of the manifestations of their poverty. Despite the existence of legal/protective measures to curb the business of money-lending in tribal areas and provisions for debt-relief, their enforcement has been weak and ineffective. Although the practice of bonded-labour stands abolished in the country through an Act of Parliament viz., the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976, a total number of 2.52 lakh bonded labourers (including STs) were identified in March 1993 in 12 States i.e., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana and Gujarat.

### Situation in Andhra Pradesh

The lush green jungles of the Eastern Ghats, spread over nine districts of Andhra Pradesh and comprising 11,595 sq. miles of the State, are no longer a secure haven for nearly 33 tribal communities, seven of them primitive groups, inhabiting these highlands. In the four decades since Independence, the tribals have steadily lost their hold on much of this area. While many have lost their sources of livelihood, others have sought refuge in deep forests.

According to the 1991 census, the region's tribal-non-tribal ratio had dropped to 2:1 from the 1950 proportion of 6:1. And this demographic change has been largely blamed on official policies. Thanks to amendments made to the land transfer regulations in the tribal belt by the Government, the non-tribals are holding almost 55 per cent of tribal lands either benami or through clandestine means.

The setting up of minor and medium irrigation projects in areas meant for tribals has been another way to dispossess the locals. Although such projects came under Tribal Sub-Plan, the emphasis was on cultivating crops alien to the Adivasis. For example, the Tribal Sub-Plan for Warangal district is aimed at bringing 1.56 lakh hectares under cultivation -- though tribals themselves hold only 24,000 hectares. Suggestions have been made that the Government has been sanctioning many reservoirs, minor irrigation schemes, lift irrigation and medium canals in the tribal belt to facilitate the cultivation of land occupied by people from the plains. While the non-tribal is holding the rich lands, the tribal has to depend on *podu* (hill slope) cultivation.

### Shifting Cultivation

57. Shifting cultivation is still being practised by the tribal population on higher slopes of hilly areas of the country. As estimated, more than 6 lakh tribal families in the States of North-East, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh practise shifting cultivation, which is not ecologically sound. Yet, the shifting cultivation is integrally linked to the tribal economy in the areas where it is practised and their social, economic and ritual activities are also centred around this practice. The problem of shifting cultivation is a very complex one involving economic, social and psychological aspects of the tribal communities. The Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Scheme for control and transformation of shifting cultivation in the North-Eastern States, but the pace of its implementation has been very slow. Efforts need to be made for expansion of the programme towards a better coverage.

### Displacement

58. It is estimated that some 50 million people have been displaced since 1950 on account of various development projects; of those people, more than 40 per cent are tribals. The projects include large irrigation dams, hydroelectric projects, open cast and underground coal mines, super thermal power plants and mineral-based industrial units.

59. In large mining projects, tribals lose their land not only to the project authorities but even to non-tribal outsiders who converge into these areas and corner both the land and the new economic opportunities in commerce and petty industry. Even wage employment to local tribals is rare. In Chotanagpur area, though the tribals constitute more than 50 per cent of the total population, there are not more than 5 per cent of them in the industrial working force. In some of the large firms like TISCO, Jamshedpur and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Dhanbad, the tribals employed are fewer than 5 per cent'.

60. A National Policy for Rehabilitation of the Displaced Persons, which has been under consideration of the Government for the last three years, may come up with suitable measures for rehabilitation of the displaced tribals. The Policy should not only ensure that no deterioration takes place in the living conditions of the tribals but it should provide for betterment of their lot.

## **Movements**

61. A long history of disruption of tribal communities, sustained and frequently brutal expropriation of tribal wealth and the resultant anger and despair has led to a situation in which many regions of tribal concentration are immersed in a cycle of violence. All States in the north-east have been ripped apart by violence. In many stretches of forested Central India, an array of outfits continue to channelise tribal anger into violent resistance to State power.

62. These and several other problems have tended to cause increasing unrest amongst the tribals/tribal areas in the recent past. Efforts should, therefore, be made to provide employment- cum- income generation opportunities for a period of 300 days a year to improve their economic status and to free them from the clutches of poverty and indebtedness. Also programmes to extend micro-credit for self-employment ventures and consumption credit, when no work opportunities are available, need to be brought into action on priority basis. Special packages of Poverty Alleviation Programmes clubbed with basic minimum services should reach these areas through effective inter-sectoral co-ordination at implementation levels.

## **State Sector**

63. The prevailing backwardness amongst the tribals and the tribal areas has been paving the way for certain internal disturbances in certain States as reflected in the tribal unrest and extremist movements in tribal areas. Therefore, special efforts to counteract these influences through various developmental activities need to be taken up in the affected areas on priority basis by the concerned State Governments to safeguard the interests of these disadvantaged Groups.

64. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution (1993) have paved the way for effective involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the formulation/implementation/monitoring of schemes through active participation by the people, especially the disadvantaged groups. Yet many States are yet to accomplish this task. Similarly, States should also initiate action to implement the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996 to ensure effective participation of tribals in various developmental programmes.

## **Voluntary/NGO Sector**

65. Voluntary organizations/non-governmental organizations have been playing a very important role in sharing the responsibility of the Government in 'Reaching the Services to the Un-Reached'. But the spread of these organizations is very uneven and concentrated largely in urban areas. Keeping this in view, all grant-in-aid schemes for NGOs by the two nodal Ministries have been recently reviewed and re-cast to enlarge the scope and coverage by those organisations. While competent NGOs are being encouraged to participate in the programmes of the Ministry in greater measure, strict action has also been contemplated against the NGOs of doubtful integrity.

66. However, Ministry's efforts to nurture and bring into its fold good voluntary organizations (VOs) with proven reputation have been constrained by several factors. The eligibility criteria debar a number of VOs with activities more akin to commercial ventures. Those are contractor-type organisations which take up schemes but have no clue about building up capability and confidence of the target population. Many such organisations are said to have been set up by social climbers and manipulators who are keen to obtain grants from the Government but have no long-term commitment to sustainable development or poverty alleviation.



67. A blind emphasis on targets and fund utilisation has sometimes played havoc with the quality of projects. This, it was suggested, has shifted the focus of the Ministry from the important task of supporting good and grassroots VOs to funding as many projects and VOs as possible. Even non-existent VOs seek funding by manipulating a favourable report from the States. Where the VOs were genuine, the Ministry could not effectively monitor the large number of sanctioned projects.

68. Good VOs are reluctant to accessing Ministry's support because they find the Government schemes strait-jacketed with no scope for innovative proposals (i.e. all those which do not fall within the framework of Ministry's / Government's schemes). Further, the Ministry is not seen to have played a proactive role in establishing partnership with committed VOs. Also, it subjects all proposals including those from good VOs to a uniform appraisal procedure inhibiting sensitive or well-established VOs or those engaged in social activism from approaching the Ministry.

69. Towards promoting/strengthening voluntary action for welfare, development and empowerment of the disadvantaged groups at the grassroots level, it is necessary that the system of extending financial assistance to the NGOs is decentralised by setting up State, District and Panchayat-level fora to identify NGOs/Projects, determine financial assistance, monitor implementation of programmes and assess the impact of such projects.

## **Resource Position**

70. To meet the ever increasing needs of these Disadvantaged Groups, there has been a progressive increase in the Central Plan allocations to the Backward Classes Sector -- from Rs.4,175.60 crore in the Eighth to Rs.5,399.18 crore in the Ninth. Similarly, in the State Sector, the outlay for the Backward Classes has been up from Rs.3,080.66 crore in the Eighth Plan to Rs.9690.75 crore in the Ninth Plan. Thus, there exists a total Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.15,089.93 crore for the Backward Classes Sector, as per the details given below :

**Outlays and Expenditure under Backward Classes Sector in the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)**

(Rs. in crore)

Sector/Programmes	IXth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) Outlays	1997-98 Actuals	1998-99 Actuals	1999 - 2000		Likely Expd. (1997- 2000)	% Col.7 to Col.2	Balance (2000- 2002)	% Col.9 to Col.2
				B.E.	R.E.				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
<b>I. Centre</b>	<b>5399.18*</b>	<b>713.05</b>	<b>905.66</b>	<b>1095.00</b>	<b>1071.52</b>	<b>2690.23</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>2708.95</b>	<b>50.2</b>
- SCs	4156.50	610.24	693.80	808.50	804.21	2108.25	<b>50.7</b>	2048.25	<b>49.3</b>
- STs	414.13	61.80	73.84	130.00	121.50	257.14	<b>62.1</b>	156.99	<b>37.9</b>
- OBCs	621.45	0.00	99.80	126.50	118.51	218.31	<b>35.1</b>	403.14	<b>64.9</b>
- Minorities	207.10	41.01	38.22	30.00	27.30	106.53	<b>51.4</b>	100.57	<b>48.6</b>
<b>II. States/UTs</b>	<b>9690.75</b>	<b>1683.27</b>	<b>2173.09#</b>	<b>2452.31</b>	<b>2452.31</b>	<b>6308.67</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>3382.08</b>	<b>34.9</b>
<b>TOTAL(I+II)</b>	<b>15089.93</b>	<b>2396.32</b>	<b>3078.75</b>	<b>3547.31</b>	<b>3523.83</b>	<b>8998.90</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>6091.03</b>	<b>40.4</b>
<p>* <b>Includes</b> Rs. 2092.95 crore for SCA to SCP and <b>Excludes</b> Rs.1910 crore (Provisional) as SCA to TSP; Rs.650 crore (Provisional) as Grant-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution; Rs.250 crore for Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya (KGSV); and iv) rs.60 crore for Animal Welfare (Write-up on Animal Welfare is Available under the Chapter `Environment &amp; Forests`.</p> <p># Revised Estimates (1998-99)</p>									

71. As indicated above, there has been a steady progress in terms of year-wise allocations and utilisation of funds during the first three years (1997-2000) of the Ninth Plan. Taking into consideration the total picture of the utilisation of funds under Central and State sectors, the pace of progress appears to be satisfactory for the Backward Classes Sector; it stood at 59.6 per cent against the ideal level of 60 per cent during first three years of the Plan. However, a qualitative assessment of the progress needs to be made in terms of improving the status of these socially disadvantaged groups.