

Implementation of Special Component Plan

2296. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of action taken by Government to implement Special Component Plan;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the spirit of Special Component Plan is thoroughly flouted by most State Governments;
- (c) how Government would impose penalty against the defaulting States;
- (d) whether Government would table a white paper on the implementation of Special Component Plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;
- (e) what is the agenda in this regard for the current Eleventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Planning Commission circulated the consolidated guidelines on Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), earlier known as Special Component Plan (SCP), in October, 2005, to States/UTs. These guidelines, inter alia, include:

- Earmarking of funds under SCSP from the total State/UT Plan outlay, at least in proportion to SC population.
- Placing the earmarked funds under separate budget head/sub head.
- Making the Social Welfare Department/the Department concerned with the welfare of SCs as nodal department for implementation of SCSP.
- Placing the funds earmarked at the disposal of the nodal department.

(b) and (c) As per the available information, the percentage allocation under SCSP by States/UTs has increases from 11.20% in 2005-06, to 12.98% in 2006-07 and 15.82% in 2007-08, as against 16.2% share of SCs in total population of the country. Under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to SCSP, 25% of the funds are released to States/UTs on the basis of their performance in implementation of SCSP.

(d) and (e) Following important measures are envisaged during Eleventh Five Year Plan for effective and meaningful implementation of SCSP.

- Development appropriate development programmes, specifically relevant for the overall development of SCs.
- Designing a special mechanism for formulation and implementation of SCSP.
- Making actual budgetary provisions through allocation of funds under a special head designated for SCSP.
- Ensuring timely release of SCSP funds for the purpose (s) they are meant for.

Policy on reservation for STs

2297. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the violent agitation took place in some parts of the country for inclusion of one community in the ST list in which many persons were killed and public property was damaged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is our national policy on reservation for STs; and

(d) the reasons for basing the policy on dividing the communities even after six decades, rather than uniting them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was an agitation in some parts of the country for inclusion of Gujar/Gurjar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State of Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Our National Policy on reservation for STs is based on Article 342 of the Constitution of India and the modalities notified in 1999.

Education of tribal girls

2298. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a new scheme for education of tribal girls in low literacy level districts of the country in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the districts where this gender-specific scheme is proposed to be implemented, specifically in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revised the scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of women literacy in tribal areas and renamed as 'Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribes (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts' during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. It is a gender specific 100% Central Sector Scheme. Coverage of the scheme includes 54 identified Districts where the ST population is 25% or more, and ST female literacy rate below 35% as per 2001 census. This scheme also covers tribal blocks in districts other than 54 identified districts where ST population is 25% or more, and ST female literacy rate below 35% and areas below block level inhabited by notified Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). Naxal affected areas are given priority out of the aforesaid areas. This scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations/autonomous society/Institute of State/UT. Under the scheme financial assistance is given for ST Girls Hostels, Educational Complexes at primary and middle/secondary levels. Beside, free schooling, boarding/lodging, uniforms, books, food, cast stipend and incentive to girls students are also provided. In addition, the organization running the hostel educational complex is also required to impart Vocational/Skill Development Training among ST girls.

(c) The details of 54 identified low literacy districts where the scheme is eligible for implementation including Orissa and Jharkhand are given in the statement.