

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 80 per cent of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the country are living below poverty line;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposed to take any special measures for the upliftment of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country and particularly those of Madhya Pradesh; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) No Sir. As per the latest estimates of poverty among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reported by the Planning Commission, it is observed that among the Scheduled Caste 48.11% in rural areas and 49.48% in urban areas and among Scheduled Tribes 51.94% in rural areas and 41.14% in urban areas lived below the poverty line in 1993-94.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) Special measures are being taken. A statement is annexed.

Statement in reply to part (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 96 for answer on 1.3.2000 by Shri P.R. Khunte, M.P. regarding population below poverty line.

(c) and (d) : The following are the special measures taken for the upliftment of SCs and STs:-

1. SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN (SCP)

The concept of Special Component Plan (SCP) was introduced in 1979 to achieve overall development of SCs and to raise them above the poverty line. Special Component Plan is designed to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the plans of States/UTs and the Central Ministries, at least in proportion to the population of the SCs both in physical and financial terms. It is an umbrella programme under which all schemes implemented by State and Central Governments are dovetailed for addressing different needs of the Scheduled Castes. At present 24 States/UTs having sizeable SC population are formulating Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes. As per guidelines flow to SCP out of total state plan outlays should not be less than proportion to SC population in the respective states.

The strategy of special component plan at the central Govt. level involve participation of central government ministries/departments in formulating specific plans for the scheduled castes under Annual Plans of respective Ministries/Departments. 13 Ministries/Departments have formulated the special component plans The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment maintains close liaison with Central Ministries/Departments and impressed upon them the need to formulate and implement comprehensive Special Component Plan

2. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

2.1 Under a Central Scheme introduced in 1979-80, Special Central Assistance (SCA) is to be extended to supplement efforts of the State/UTs for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes. It is an additive to the Special Component Plan (SCP) of the States/UTs and is intended to augment the efforts of the States for the economic development of SCs. The underlying objective of the SCA which is a central grant to the States/UTs is that it should be used to give an added thrust to the development programmes for SCs with reference to their occupational needs for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited assets by taking up family oriented schemes for them. It is used to fill the critical gaps and provide the Central Government a leverage in directing flow of funds in areas critical to the development needs of the SCs.

2.2 SCA is released to the States/UTs implementing SCP giving weightage to SC population of the States/UTs (40%), relative backwardness of the States/UTs (10%), percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development

programmes in the Plans to enable them to cross the poverty line (25%) and Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs(25%).10 % of the total budget allocation for the scheme will be earmarked for the North Eastern States which implement SCP for SCs

3. ECONOMIC SCHEMES

Sl.No	Name of the Scheme/Programme	Objective	Allocation for the year 99-2000 (Rs.In cr R.E.)
3.1	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan for SCs	SCA is provided to States/UTs towards supplementing their efforts for economic development of SCs.	437.00
3.2	National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS)	To provide financial assistance for training and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternative occupations. States/UTs have been suggested to implement the scheme by adopting innovative concept of `Sanitary Marts` by forming cooperatives of 20-25 scavengers.	70.00
3.3	Assistance to Scheduled Caste Development Corporations (SCDCs)	To participate in share equity of SCDCs to the extent of 49% which act as guarantors and promoters for credit support and provide for margin and subsidy to target groups.	20.00
3.4	National Scheduled Castes & Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)	To finance income generating activities for SCs and STs living below double the poverty line. NSFDC extends financial assistance through State SC/ST Finance and Development Corporations.	30.00
3.5	National Safai Karmacharis and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)	To extend concessional financial assistance for income generating viable projects as an alternate employment for Safai Karmacharis.	20.00
3.6	Scheme of Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations working for Scheduled Castes	To improve the educational and Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes through voluntary efforts	30.00

4. EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES

4.1.	Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students	Financial assistance to SC/ST students for pursuing recognised post matriculation courses in recognised institutions.	135.00
4.2.	Pre Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in unclean occupations.	Financial assistance to children of scavengers, sweepers having traditional link with scavenging, flayers and tanners for pursuing education upto matriculation level.	7.56
4.3.	National Overseas Scholarship for SC, ST etc. students.	Financial assistance to meritorious selected students for pursuing studies abroad in specified fields in Engineering, Technology and Science at Masters, Ph.d. and Post Doctoral levels.	1.00

- 4.4. Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students To upgrade merit of SC/ST students 1.50
through remedial and special
coaching in class IX to XII.
- 4.5. Books for SC/ST students To provide books to eligible SC and 2.50
ST students pursuing Medical,
Engineering, Agriculture,
Polytechnics, Law Chartered
Accountancy, M.B.A. and Bio-Sciences.
- 4.6. Coaching and Allied Scheme for Free coaching facilities are 4.00
SC/ST students provided to SC and ST students
through Pre-Examination Training
Centres, for competing in various
competitive examinations for central
services, banking recruitment and
railway services etc.
- 4.7. Construction of Boys and Girls To provide central assistance to 20.50Boys
Hostels for SCs States/UTs for construction of 12.00(RE)Girls
hostels for SC boys and girls. 8.50(RE)
- 4.8. Special Educational Development To provide a package of educational 0.70
Programme for SC girls belonging inputs through residential schools
to very low literacy levels. for SC girls in areas of very low
SC female literacy

5. SOCIAL SCHEMES

- 5.1 Implementation of Protection of To provide central assistance 25.00
Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the towards strengthening of adminis-
Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes trative/enforcement and judicial
(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. machinery, publicity, relief and
rehabilitation affected persons.

6. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in March,1992 under Article 338 of the Constitution to provide a high level independent body to monitor the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also to review and report on issues concerning them. The Commission is required to be consulted on major policy matters that affect scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Article 338, clause 5 of the Indian Constitution confers upon the Commission wide powers to protect, safeguard and promote the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Under clause 8 of the said article, in certain cases the Commission has been conferred the powers of a civil court trying a suit and has the powers to summon and enforce the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath, receiving evidence on affidavits etc. According to clause 6 of Article 338, reports along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the Commission are to be laid before each house of the Parliament. The Commission has so far submitted four Reports besides a Special Report. Of these, three reports with Action Taken Memoranda have been laid before the Parliament and the others are expected to be laid in this session.

7. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on 12th August 1994 under the provision of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of Safai Karamcharis. The National Commission has, inter alia, been empowered to investigate specific grievances as well as of matter relating to implementation of programmes and schemes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis. The Commission has so far submitted two reports and they are expected to be laid before the Parliament along with the Action Taken Memoranda in this session.

8. Others

8.1 Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

The foundation established in March 1992 has been entrusted the responsibility to manage, administer and carry on important schemes and programmes identified during Centenary Celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These include Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library, Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities/Institutions for research on the thoughts and ideals of Baba Saheb, Dr. Ambedkar

National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections, Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change, Harmony, Equity, Justice and Human Dignity for the exploited and the under-privileged, Publication of the Collected Works of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar in Hindi and other Indian languages, Putting up Memorial for Dr. Ambedkar at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi, Various General Activities like organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, exhibitions and melas on Dr. Ambedkar, his life and mission.

8.2 CONVENTION OF SC/ST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HELD ON 5-7 DECEMBER 1999.

The Drafting Committee constituted during the conference made 20 specific recommendations concerning various aspects of development of SCs and STs. These recommendations require action to be taken by concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India as well as by States/UTs which have been addressed to take necessary action on these recommendations.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TRIBALS

9. Tribal Sub Plan:

The Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) approach, adopted from the beginning of the Fifth Five year Plan in 1974-75, has a two pronged strategy namely

- (i) promotion of development activities to raise the level of living standard of Scheduled Tribes and
- (ii) protection of their interest through legal and administrative support. The Tribal Sub Plan strategy applies to 18 States and 2 UTs where the Tribals are in a minority, but inhabit deprived areas where they constitute a sizable population. The TSP strategy is being implemented through 194 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), 259 Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and 82 Clusters. The TSP has been an important element in the Government's strategy for the development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

10. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan:

Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan is given to 20 Tribal Sub Plan States and UTs by the Government of India to supplement their efforts for tribal development. The Scheme of SCA to TSP was introduced in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Family oriented income generating schemes while giving adequate weightage to infrastructure incidental to such schemes are undertaken out of Special Central Assistance. The utilisation of funds under the scheme has been quite satisfactory. This is actually the only scheme under which ST families are assisted to cross the poverty line through gainful employment. Achievements in respect of utilisation of funds in some of the States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not upto the expectation.

During the first two years of the Ninth Plan the utilisation of SCA was Rs. 329.61 crores in 1997-98 as against the allocation of 330 crores and Rs. 380 crores as against the provision of Rs. 380 crore during 1998-99. the allocation for 1999-2000 is Rs. 400 crores.

SCHEMES FOR THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

11. EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES

Sl.No	Name of the Scheme/Programme	Objective	Allocation for the year 99-2000 (Rs. in R.E.)
11.1	Construction of Boys and Girls Hostels for STs of Hostels for both ST Boys and Girls.	To provide central assistance to States/UTs for construction of Hostels for both ST Boys and Girls.	24.00 Boys 12.00 Girls 12.00
11.2	Ashram Schools in Tribal S-Plan Areas	To provide educational facilities to the ST students through residential schools.	15.00
11.3	Educational complex in low literacy pockets for development of women in tribal areas.	The scheme covers 136 districts than 10% literacy among ST women as per 1991 census. The objectives of the scheme are to improve education among these communities.	6.75
11.4	Vocational Training Centres	The primary objective of the scheme is to develop the skills of the tribal youth to help them in getting employment/self-employment opportunities.	9.75
11.5	Grant-in-aid to vol. Organisations for the welfare of STs	The scheme covers a wide spectrum of activities including setting up of residential/non-residential schools, hostels, training on computer, shorthand & Typewriting training, setting up of libraries etc.	26.00

12. ECONOMIC SCHEMES

Sl. No Name of the Scheme/Programme Objective Allocation for
the year 99-2000
(Rs.in cr R.E.)

- 12.1 SPECIAL Central Assistance (SCA) SCA is provided to States/UT 400.00
to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for supplementing their efforts
for economic development of the
STs.
- 12.2 Assistance to Scheduled Tribe To participate in Share equity 15.00
Development Corporation and others. of STDCs. Forest Development
Corporation & Minor forest
produce Federations to take up
minor forest produce operations.
Grant in given on 100% basis so
that the States can utilise the
same for strengthening the share
capital base of TDCs, construction
of scientific ware houses,
establishing, processing, research
& evaluation activities of the
Corporation.
- 12.3 Price Support to Tribal Co-operative To ensure remunerative prices to 5.00
Marketing Development Federation tribal farmers for their produce
(TRIFED) due to unforeseen contingencies
& losses due to price fluctuations.
- 12.4 Investment in the share capital of The objective is to provide Marketing 0.25
Tribal Corporation Marketing assistance and remunerative prices
Development Federation (TRIFED) to ST communities for their minor
forest produce (MFP) and surplus
agricultural produce (SAP) and also
to wean them away from exploitative
tribal traders and middleman.
- 12.5 Grant under first proviso to Article Grants are provided to the State 100.00
275(1) of the constitution. Governments for raising the level
of administrative scheduled areas.
- 12.6 Schemes of village Grain Bank The objective is to prevent deaths 1.00
of children in remote and backward
tribal areas, which have been
identified by the Central Planning
Committee by providing safeguards
against fall in national standards.
One time grant for purchase of
grains @ 1 quintal per family of
tribals, storage facilities and
purchase of weights/scales. The
TRIFEDE is the channelising agency.
- 12.7 Development of Primitive Tribal 100% assistance is given to 10.00
Groups (PTGs) Integrated Tribal Development
projects, Tribal Research Institute
& Non-governmental organisations for
undertaking activities like generation
of awareness, confidence building,
training for the skill development
of Tribal Youths Organisations
existing scheme for the development
and welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups.

13. SOCIAL SCHEMES

Sl. No Name of the Scheme/Programme Objective Allocation for
the year 99-2000
(Rs.in cr R.E.)

- 13.1 Research and Training Grants are provided to 14 Tribal 4.00
Research Institutes (TRIs) set up by
the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh,
Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerela, Madhya
Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan,
Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar
Pradesh and Manipur, which conduct
Research and evaluation activities apart
from conducting training, seminar,
workshops etc. The scheme also provides

Research Fellowships annually to such students/scholars who intend to conduct research on various aspects of Tribal Development.

14. Statement showing Central Assistance released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Scheduled Castes.

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	97-98	98-99	99-2000
14.1	Special Central Assistance to SCP	1922.45	2237.08	2321.45
14.2	Assistance to State/UT SCDC	25.47	4.77	
14.3	National SC & ST Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)			
14.4	National Safai Karmacharies Development Corp.			228.60
14.5	National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents	2451.00	NIL	NIL
14.6	Post Matric Scholarship for SC/ST	NIL	NIL	193.85
14.7	Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupation	9.73	90.22	86.05
14.8	Construction of Hostels for SC girls and boys	849.49	574.53	537.17
14.9	Book Banks for SC/ST	31.39	NIL	Nil
14.10	Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC/ST	43.12	82.94	66.09
14.11	Aid to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare for Scheduled Castes	39.72	55.81	40.98
14.12	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	500.85	682.06	732.96
14.13	Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls belonging to Very low literacy levels	6.08	315.22	17.01
14.14	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST	21.45	55.74	39.15

15. Statement showing Central Assistance released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Scheduled Tribes.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	97-98	98-99	99-2000
15.1	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	9207.83	9476.17	6472.72
15.2	Grants under first proviso Article 275(1) of the Constitution	1262.50	2125.00	500.64
15.3	Assistance to Scheduled Tribe Development	200.00	255.00	

Corporation and Others.

15.4 Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for 50.20 39.57 55.46
development of women literacy in Tribal Areas

15.5 Vocational training Centres 109.50 16.85

15.6 Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for the 8.88 22.23 32.50
welfare of Scheduled Tribes/NGOs

15.7 Research and Training 49.96 49.39 2.61

15.8 Construction of Girls Hostels 100.00

15.9 Construction of Boys Hostels 100.00

15.10 Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas 100.21

15.11 Development of Primitive Tribal Groups 100.00