

**Title:** Need to ensure that adequate funds are spent for uplift of SCs/STs under special component scheme particularly in Punjab.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (PHILLAUR): Madam, Government of India has made provision of separate Budget for the welfare schemes meant for uplift of Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes. It is known as Special Component Scheme. There are strict guidelines by Government of India stressed by writing D.O. letters by three successive Prime Ministers to the Chief Ministers of all the States to allocate same percentage of funds in the Budget for the welfare schemes meant for Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, as per their population. As per 1991 Census, the total population in Punjab State is 28.31 per cent and upto this year the population has been increased by 31 per cent. But the funds allocated under this Plan by the Punjab Government is merely 7 per cent.

I urge upon the Government to look into the matter. Thank you.