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Title: Need to ensure full utilization of funds allocated under Scheduled Caste Sub plan in Punjab.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY (JALANDHAR): As appeared in various newspapers, I would like to bring it to your kind notice that Punjab having the largest population of Dalits in the country has been diverting funds meant for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for other purposes. The State Government has failed to spend 33% of the total Scheduled Caste Sub Plan outlay, according to a latest report submitted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The report submitted in the Rajya Sabha recently has put Punjab almost at the bottom for poor implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub plan (SCSP).

The report shows that though Punjab has a Dalit population of 31.9% and only 28.55% of the total plan outlay was reserved under SCSP in 2012-13. Of a total plan outlay of Rs. 14000 crore, the SCSP outlay was Rs. 4,039 crore. As per the Planning Commission guideline the SCSP should have been Rs. 4466 crore. I request the Union Government to take corrective steps in this regard.