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title: Regarding allocation made in Budget 2016 for welfare of Dalits and Adivasis.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): I applaud the allocation of Rs. 500 crores under the Stand-up India scheme for SC/ST entrepreneurs. However, the overall allocation under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) is extremely poor in the budget 2016-17.

The allocation for SC under the Union Budget 2016 is only 7.6% when the due amount under SCSP budget should be 16.8% which should amount to Rs. 91,301 and 8.6% under TSP which should amount to RS. 47,300 crores. Thus denying a total of Rs. 75,764 crore is not justifiable.

The budget comes at a crucial point with UGC Withdrawing non-NET fellowships and death of a PH.D student at Hyderabad University. The underlying issue of both these instances has been denial of mandatory funds to research scholars.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar reasoned that higher education was an important instrument to seek power and dignity for all and hence advocated for public education being critical for the empowerment of Dalit and backward classes. The denial in money allocated for the purpose of higher education further makes their struggle for equality a tougher one. Additionally, it acts as violation of constitutionally mandated rights of the SC/ST community.

Of the total of Rs 897 crores allocated under UGC, 60% goes towards capital assets and another 30% towards grants-in-aid and only 8% directly benefitting SC and ST students.

If we analyse the sector wise allocation, over 86% of the Dalit budget is spent on Social Service, Welfare and Housing Sectors. They do not form the triggers for development except for Higher education. Without greater allocations for agriculture and allied rural development schemes, energy, industry and mineral, science and technology and communication, the overall growth of the SC and ST will be very lopsided.

The budget continues to marginalize Dalit-Adivasi women by allocating a measly 1% to Dalit women and 2% to Adivasi women without taking into account the needs and voices of women. I urge upon the Government to take remedial steps in this regard.