

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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D. O. No. BC. 11014(ii)/1/80-SC & BCD-II

Dated the 24th May, 1980

DEAR SHRI SAXENA,

PLEASE refer to my D. O. letter no. BC. 11014(i)/33/80—SC & BCD-II, dated the 25th April, 1980. As mentioned therein, the scheme of Special Central Assistance for the Scheduled Castes has now been approved by the Government of India. A token allocation of Rs. 5 crores was released in 1979-80 and for 1980-81 a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made. The Special Central Assistance is to be an additive to the State's Plan and Programmes for the Scheduled Castes : it will be for the totality of the State's effort for the development, especially economic development of the Scheduled Castes as contained in the Special Component Plan.

2. The State Government has already prepared a draft Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes for 1980-81. We trust that the provision of Special Central Assistance will help the State Government to improve the Special Component Plan of the State both qualitatively and quantitatively as desired by the Prime Minister in her D. O. letter no. 281-PMO/80, dated the 12th March, 1980. A meeting with State Governments was held on the 19th April, 1980 by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, which went into the strategy for the development, especially economic development, of the Scheduled Castes in general and the formulation, content and implementation of the Special Component Plan in particular.

3. As you know, the quantum of Special Central Assistance for the Scheduled Castes will be related to the Special Component Plan of the State. In particular the total size of the Special Component Plan and its optimality in quantitative term ; with reference to the size of the State Plan; the proportion of the State's Scheduled Caste families to be assisted in 1980/81 to cross the poverty-line through composite programmes containing all relevant inputs including organisational and managerial inputs in the light of the objective of 50 per cent of the families to be assisted in the Plan period; and the performance of the State in the implementation of the programmes as revealed by concurrent and continuous monitoring—all these factors would be particularly relevant to determine the help to be given to a State from the Special Central Assistance. The population of the Scheduled Castes would also be taken into account. A brief note on the criteria for the allocation of Special Central Assistance is enclosed. Clearly the Special Component Plan will be an important basis for determining the quantum of Special Component Plan will be an important basis for determining the quantum of Special Central Assistance for the State. The State Government should now put in meaningful programmes and corresponding outlays in the Special Component Plan. It is intended that, as in the case of the Tribal sub-Plans, the bulk of the outlays will come from the State while the Special Central Assistance for the Scheduled Castes will be a valuable and supplementary additive.

4. We would request that the draft Special Component Plan for 1980-81 may now be further improved. The Planning Commission have already intimated that they would hold discussions on the Special Component Plan in the next few weeks with each State. The Prime Minister in her letter to the Chief Ministers/ Governors on March 12, 1980 has specified that "the objective of the various development programmes in the Special Component Plan should be to enable Scheduled Caste families in the States to cross the poverty line within a short and specified period, if possible at least half of them in this Plan period itself. For this purpose, it is particularly important to take note of the developmental needs of the Scheduled Castes in each occupational category, identify the available opportunities suitable for them, formulate appropriate developmental programmes in the light of the above and build these programmes and corresponding outlays into the Special Component Plan. It is important that the programmes and outlays in the Special Component Plan do not represent small token provisions, but should be adequate to cater to a substantial proportion of the number of Scheduled Caste families in the relevant occupational categories".

5. We would, therefore, request you to see that the Special Component Plan takes into account the following aspects in particular:—

(a) It should specifically indicate how many Scheduled Caste families in the State are to be benefited by the various programmes through the provisions of income-generating assets during the year to enable them to cross the poverty line. This should be in keeping with the objective of covering 50 per cent of the Scheduled Caste families

during the Plan period as indicated by the Prime Minister and must indicate how many Scheduled Caste families are to be so assisted by the schemes in each sector, particularly animal husbandry including dairying, agriculture including comprehensive land development, cottage and village industries, sericulture, fisheries, etc. These family oriented schemes must be based on the needs of the Scheduled Castes and should also be location specific and activity—Specific. They should also be in harmony with the aspiration and aptitudes of the beneficiary families. The approach has to be one of identifying the problem, seeking all the solutions and providing necessary schemes (which may have to be from more than one sector) so that they can be specially meaningful for the specific situation of the Scheduled Castes in each occupational group and enable the beneficiaries to cross the poverty line. This would in practice, be the Planning for Man on which stress was laid by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission at the meeting of 19th April, 1980.

The technical aspects of each of the schemes in different sectors would not be subjected to another scrutiny by the Government of India. It is, therefore, important that each programme included in the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes is fully and adequately cleared in respect of the technical and programmatic contents by the concerned Departments/Agencies in the State. The returns from the Scheme, its viability, its relevance in the particular area etc. should also be fully gone into.

(b) For each of the sectoral programmes which are intended to reach the Scheduled Caste families, appropriate packages of inputs and services would be necessary. These will really specify "how" the schemes will actually reach the Scheduled Caste families and how their implementation will be effective in achieving the objective. Thus tie-ups with institutional finance, raw-material supply, common facility centres, skill development and marketing etc. are essential aspects of each scheme; these must be reflected in the Special Component Plan in the programmes of each sector. In the choice of technologies, stability of income and freedom from risks should be guiding factors. Where risks are unavoidable as in the case of animal husbandry programmes, insurance cover should be built into the project.

(c) We should also like to emphasise that in providing for the development of the Scheduled Castes, attention has to be focussed on major occupational groups of the Scheduled Castes as obtain in each State like agriculture labourers, marginal and small farmers, leather workers, fisherman (especially in the States and Union Territories of the Eastern region), weavers (especially in the States of the Western and North-Western regions), other artisans and urban unorganised labour.

(d) One important input, often ignored, is assurance of an adequate implementation machinery. The existing administrative machinery should be fully utilised and funds should not be diverted to expanding the establishment unless absolutely essential for ensuring the success of the programme. Subject to this, provisions for filling gaps in the administrative machinery and for orientation of the personnel, need to be included as part of the Special Component Plan of each sector.

(e) The arrangements for concurrent and continuous monitoring and evaluation have to be built into the Special Component Plan as an essential input of the composite programme in each sector. Corresponding outlays must also be specifically provided for in the Special Component Plan.

6. We shall separately be sending consolidated guidelines on the formulation of the Special Component Plan. In the meanwhile, most of the operational details are already known to the officers of the State Government not only through several communications sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Planning Commission from time to time but also from the very detailed and specific discussions which have already been held on the Special Component Plan in the past. The Special Component Plan can be improved on that basis.

7. You will appreciate that the whole objective of the Government of India in instituting the Special Central Assistance is to see that this supplementary additive and the much larger flows from the State Plan together will bring tangible benefits to the Scheduled Castes. The Government of India is also extremely anxious that the schemes in the Special Component Plan are implemented in such a manner that the full benefit promptly reaches the intended beneficiaries and this is concurrently and continuously monitored and evaluated. Keeping this in view, a substantial part of the Special Central Assistance will be distributed among States on the basis of effort-based criteria (details in the enclosures) and the rest on the basis of the population and backwardness criteria (as also detailed in the enclosure). I may clarify that for claiming assistance based on both effort-based criterion on the one hand and based on population and backwardness criterion on the other hand, it is necessary for the States to prepare Special Component Plans. The difference is that in the case of the latter criterion, the share that a

State would get on preparation of its Special Component Plan and its finalisation after discussion would be a fixed amount. On the other hand, while we are certain that all States will and can prepare optimal Special Component Plans, there may be some variation in terms of relative optimality, and the State's share in the Special Central Assistance based on the effort-based criteria would be variable.

8. Ordinarily, we would have waited for the receipt of Special Component Plans from the States, improved qualitatively, and quantitatively, and discussions there on before releasing the Special Central Assistance. However, as the Plan year has already commenced and in order to help the States to speedily go ahead with the top priority task of the economic development of the Scheduled Castes, we are making an advance release of the first instalment of the Special Central Assistance to be apportioned between the States on the basis of the population and backwardness criteria. Release of further instalments will be made after the receipt of improved Special Component Plans from the States. Special Component Plan of your State may kindly be sent to the Planning Commission and this Ministry urgently so that discussions on them can be commenced without loss of time. In the meanwhile, we trust that the State Government would have made some progress in the implementation of the schemes which can be explained during the forthcoming discussions on the Special Component Plans. The remaining Special Central Assistance will be taken up for apportionment after the discussions with the States on the Special Component Plans are completed, taking into consideration the effort of the State Government made in the State Special Component Plan.

Yours sincerely,
B. G. DESHMUKH.

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Government of Uttar Pradesh,
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