

Frequently Asked Questions for the Scheme of SCA to SCSP

Q. What is SCSP?

R. Strategy of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) was introduced in the Sixth Plan for channelizing the funds to the SC categories of people to avail their due share of plan benefits and outlays. The strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) envisage channelising the flow of outlays and benefits from all the sectors of development in the Annual Plans of States/UTs and Central Ministries at least in proportion to their population both in physical and financial terms.

Q. What is the SCA to SCSP?

R. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a central scheme under which 100% grant is given to the States/UTs as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).

Q. Who are the target groups of the Scheme?

R. The Scheduled Castes persons living below the Poverty line.

Q. What type of activities can be taken up under the Scheme?

R. The main objective of the Scheme is to give a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line, by providing resources for filling the critical gaps. Since the schemes / programmes for SCs may be depending upon the local occupational pattern and the economic activities available, the States/UTs have been given full flexibility in utilizing SCA with the only condition that it should be utilized in conjunction with SCP and other resources available from other sources like various Corporations, financial institution etc.

Q. Whether infrastructure development works can be taken up under the Scheme?

R. Yes, 10% of the total SCA released to the State Government/UT Administration in a year can be utilized for infrastructural development programmes in villages having more than 50% SC population.

Q. How SCA is released to the states/UTs?

R. The SCA will be released to the state Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of following criteria:-

(a)	On the basis of SC population of the States/UTs.	40%
(b)	On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/UTs (inverse of State Per Capita Domestic Product)	10%
(c)	On the basis of the 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%
(d)	On the basis of the Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs	25%

Q. Since when the Scheme is under operation?

R. The Government of India in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a "**Central Sector Scheme of Special Central Assistance(SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan(SCSP)**" since 1980 for the development of Scheduled Castes who form the major chunk of the country's population living below the poverty line.

Q. How the Scheme can benefit the women entrepreneurs?

R. 15% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs can be utilized by them exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/Programmes for SC Women.

Q. Whether disabled persons also have special benefits under the Scheme?

R. Yes, 5% of the total SCA released to the States / UTs can be utilized by them exclusively for the economic development of disabled persons among SCs.

Q. Whether office expenses can also be done under the Scheme?

R. Yes, 3% of the total SCA released to the States /UTs can be utilized by them for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of economic development schemes implemented with the support of SCA funds.

Q. How skill development Schemes can be taken up under the Scheme?

R. The State Governments/UT Administrations can utilise at least 10% of the funds of SCA to SCSP for skill development programmes within existing framework of the Scheme. After completion of the training programmes for skill development of SC beneficiaries, placement of, at least, 70% of the trained candidates either in waged employment or in self employment are to be ensured. In order to give necessary impetus for economic development of women, out of the total SC beneficiaries covered under Skill Development programmes, participation of at least 30% women candidates is also to be ensured.

Q. What are the effective measures taken by the Ministry for effective implementation of the Scheme?

R. Amongst various measures for effective implementation of development schemes for SCs, the following points are given more stress: -

- i. Release of funds to the implementing agencies without loss of time after getting the SCA from the Government of India.
- ii. Separate Account of SCA released to the implementing agencies to be maintained.
- iii. Utilization of SCA funds by the implementing agencies are being watched regularly through periodical progress reports.
- iv. Utilization Certificates from the concerned implementing agencies.
- v. Annual Audit of SCA accounts of State and District/Block Level Implementing Agencies.
