Why are we poor, hungry, sick, uneducated, unemployed?

Who is responsible for our continued poverty and struggles?

Why 70 out of 100 of our children do not reach up to 10th Standard?

Why are our educated youth still unemployed?

Why do business opportunities still elude us?

Why is there no water, electricity, roads and toilets in our bastis?

Of course it is the government who is responsible for our poverty, bad health, our children being born malnourished, our mothers not being healthy enough to feed our children, our children not able to read and write, our young people not able to find a job, for the violence and abuse against us; for our people who still work as sweepers, cleaners and manual scavengers?

What and for whom is SCP and TSP?

Being a citizen of this country the government has the ultimate responsibility to protect us, promote our growth and development, ensure our participation in governance and be treated equal. The central government in Delhi and our state governments do this through planning various development programmes once in 5 years through five year plans and and every year through annual budgets. In February-March every year, the central and state governments review how they spent money during those years and calculate what its income will be for the coming year and make plans on how to spend that money.

In 1978, the government of Smt. Indira Gandhi recognised that despite many schemes Dalits and Adivasis are not benefitting from the development in the country as much as the other communities; special measures were necessary for the Dalit and tribal development because of untouchability and
discrimination. Hence a plan called ‘Special Component Plan’ (SCP) for Scheduled Castes, later called ‘Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)’ was developed. A plan development of adivasi called Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) was already in place. The plan purpose was to direct plan resources under all Ministries/departments towards meeting our needs in proportion to our population.

What has the government promised under SCSP?

1. The government promised that out of every 100 rupees spent by the government Rs.16/- will be spent for Dalits and Rs.8/- will be spent for Adivasis every year. Since 1978-79, for the past 33 years, it has not kept this promise even once.
2. The government promised that this money will be used on schemes which directly benefit SC/ST individuals/households or SC/ST bastis/tolas/localities.
3. The government promised that they will keep the ‘hisab-kitab’ of this money in a separate account and report the expenditure every year to the parliament. This account was opened after 30 years in 2008
4. The crores of money which was supposed to be spent directly for the development of SC/STs is wasted and misused by the government.

Why this condition of SCSP/TSP?

As usual, we, the Dalits and Adivasis did not know about these plans for a very long time – so when the government gave cows, scholarships, books and medicines we thanked the government for their kindness towards us. We did not keep the ‘hisab-kitab’ and the government did not think it was important to consult us about what development we wanted. What we wanted with this money and how it should be spent? The MLAs, the MPs and the sarkari officers made plans for us and kept accounts for us. In 2008-09 some Dalits and Adivasis began to look into the accounts of the government as to where and how this money was spent.

To our surprise we found out that even after 30 years the government had not yet opened our ‘katha’ in its books. It became clearer that without us asking for the ‘hisab-kitab’ the government will not give us our share and if the government does not give us our share we cannot develop our communities.

A denial of huge grant

On the 16th of February 2012 the Central Government announced the budget for 2012-13. According to SCSP mandate we should be allocated Rs.64, 640 crores for our development this year. The government allocated only Rs.37.113 crores. It has once again denied us Rs.27, 527 crores. This has been going on when this scheme was formulated. To take the 11th FYP from 2007-08 to 2011-12, the central government should have invested Rs.1, 92,307.8 crores under SCSP for our development. It allocated only Rs.96, 071.1 crores. We have been denied/cheated of Rs.96, 236.7 crores. Out of total allocated amount (96,071 Crores) more than half of the amount (46,000 crores) is spent on building bridges, flyovers, stadium, roads, jails, airports, organising game events and Metro Rail Networks which has no direct benefit and connection towards Dalits and Adivasis. If we are to calculate how much money we have been denied/cheated by both the central government and the state governments, the piled up notes will reach the sky! The lack of proper allocation and utilisation of the SCSP budget is an important reason for our poverty, illiteracy, ill health and unemployment.
We learnt that it is important for us to track this money and demand proper allocation and implementation. Our experience from the Commonwealth Games in 2010 is a good lesson. The government of Delhi state diverted, Rs.744.4/- crores from the SCSP allocation and spent for organising the commonwealth games. When we pressed the matter the Hon. Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram agreed that the government made a mistake and agreed to return the money. It is another matter that after two years, we still have not received this money. This is not a small amount to the Dalits in Delhi who do not have roads, houses, water, drainage, whose children have no good schools, who spend much of their earning on health care and where a family has to spend Rs.25/- to use the Sulabh Shouchalaya.

**We strongly demand the implementation of this Policy! Stop this Cheating immediately!**

**Our demands are:**

I. A Central Legislation should be designed for Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan. This Central legislation should provide for:
   a) Clearly setting apart a proportion of the total Plan outlays of Centre and States that is equivalent to the population proportion of SCs/STs at national and state level, for their development.
   b) A well-designed, dedicated institutional set-up at the Central & State level, which shall allocate SCP/TSP funds to the Ministries/Departments, duly taking into consideration the developmental needs of SCs/STs. This will enable the Ministries/Departments to clearly show the schemes formulated for the development of SC/STs under a separate budget head.
   c) Encouraging participation of community, CSOs and experts in planning as well as implementation and evaluations of schemes.
   d) The performance/outcome budget should be published every year, providing details about the beneficiaries and be made available to public access.

II. We demand, that the shortfall including the notional amounts of Rs. Cr. 33,756.74 of SCP and Rs. Cr. 13,275.95 of TSP in the current Union budget 2012-13, be returned and reallocated to schemes with a clear objective of bridging socio-economic gap between SCs/STs and Non-SCs/STs with particular focus on health, education, housing, assignment/acquisition of land, employment, income generation, entrepreneurship and access to basic amenities.

Money is an important component for growth and development. SCSP and TSP can go a long way for the development of Dalits and the development of the nation as a whole.

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