

Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis 2023-24



National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights-Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

1. Introduction

The union Budget 2023-24 is the fifth straight union budget of the present government and it comes at a time when global recessions and slower growth are on the horizon. The Economic Survey of India has recorded a growth of 6.6% and has set a direction for post-covid recovery. Recovery has not yet become broad-based and sustainable as only creamier sections are consuming, according to the India Ratings and Research. The current budget has a thrust on infrastructure spending and is focussing on the macro-economic wellbeing of the nation while the focus on the micro-economic planning for the sections of SCs and STs is grossly neglected as seen by the quality of schemes.

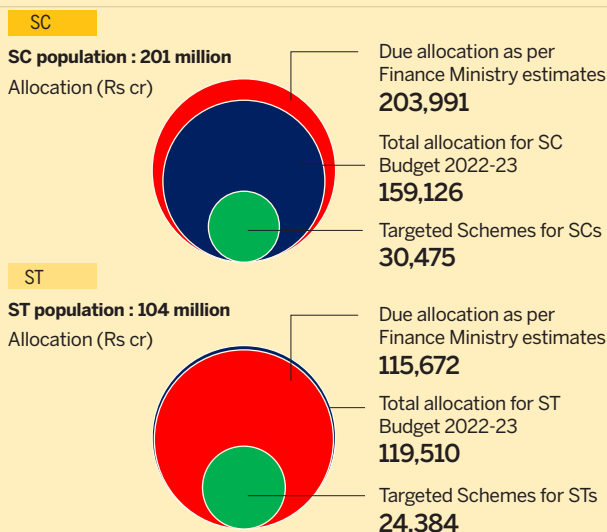
It is in this scenario that this Year's Union Budget needs to be examined as to how SC and ST budgets will focus on alleviating their condition and bridging the gap between them and the General population of this country.

There are a lot of expectations from this budget because many sectors that were severely affected by the COVID 19 outbreak have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. The aspirational middle class's expansion has been significantly hampered by rising living costs, falling incomes, and widespread industry layoffs, all of which have the potential to significantly impede the expansion of the Indian economy in FY24. High inflation places a burden on the poor with an increase in the food and energy prices, which makes up a larger share of their consumption, while their nominal income does not keep up.

This is a much-anticipated budget given the backdrop that global economies are sliding towards recession and the oil prices are ever-increasing. It is also crucial to keep in mind that this is the last full budget before the next election, so populism is expected to be even stronger.

Figure 1: Budget For Scheduled Castes & For Scheduled Tribes -2023-24 (in Rs. Cr.)

| | SC | ST |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| (a) Total Expenditure Budget Estimate 2023-24 (Note 1) | 4,990,843 | 4,990,843 |
| (b) Total Eligible Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Note 2) | 1,419,910 | 1,418,244 |
| (c) Due Allocation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Schemes as per the New Guidelines of NITI Aayog (Note 1) | 203,991 | 115,672 |
| (d) Allocation for SC Schemes (as per Statement 10A) and ST Schemes (as per Statement 10B) | 159,126 | 119,510 |
| (e) % of Allocation (e) = (d)% of (b) | 11.2% | 8.4% |
| (f) Targeted Schemes | 30,475 | 24,384 |
| (g) % of Targeted Allocation (g)=(f)% of (b) | 2.1% | 1.7% |
| (i) Total Gap in allocation (Due Allocation - Targeted Schemes) (i)=(c) - (f) | 173,516 | 91,288 |



Source: Gov of India -Budget Expenditure Profile 2023-24 Ministry of Finance.

*Note-1: Total Expenditure through budget and resources of public enterprises, as per statement-1, Expenditure Profile, FY 2023-24

* Note-2: Current system of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, GoI. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

Note-2: In the new guidelines SCSP and TSP are renamed as DAPSC (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes) & DAPST (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes)

Note 1: New System of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, GoI. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.



Highlights of Budget Analysis 2023-24

1. The total allocation for the year has increased by Rs 16,784.22 Cr for the SCs and Rs 30,244.87 Cr increased for STs.
2. The total allocation for Post Matric Scholarship has increased to Rs. 6359 Cr for the Scheduled Castes and Rs. 1970 Cr for Scheduled Tribes.
3. It is unfortunate to see that the allocation for the education of children of women engaged in manual scavenging has been completely removed.
4. A total of Rs. 16,754 Cr is allocated for Water and Sanitation and a larger portion going towards the Jal Jeevan mission but does not have any direct impact for the SC or ST community.
5. It is rather unfortunate to see that Rs. 14,862 Cr is allocated in the SC Budget. This is a large amount which is allocated for a community that is mostly landless.
6. While the 2021 NCRB data shows an increase in crimes to 50,013 crimes against Dalits and Adivasis, the allocation for implementation is reduced to Rs. 500 Cr from Rs.600 Cr last year and only Rs.150 Cr for addressing violence against Dalit Women.
7. Under the women and child Development ministry for the umbrella schemes of Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Shakti, out of the total allocation of Rs. 20,554 Cr of Rs 5038 Cr is allocated under the welfare for Scheduled Caste women and Rs. 2166 Cr is allocated under the welfare of the Scheduled Tribe women. However, when one examines the schemes in the outcome budget, there are no physical targets.

It is essential for the government to acknowledge the difficulties that these communities face and provide them with assistance through the appropriate allocation of schemes that may be effectively accessible to the SC and ST communities.

The allocation for the Scheduled Castes this fiscal year is Rs. 1,59,16.22 Cr. and Rs. 1,19,509.87 Cr for the Scheduled Tribes, which is a marginal increase of 0.4 % for SCs and 1.1% for STs from the previous FY. Targeted schemes which directly impact the welfare of the SCs are Rs 30,475 Cr (2.1%) of the total SC allocation and STs are Rs 24,384 Cr (1.7%) of the total ST allocation. The remaining plans in the Dalit and Adivasi budget are de facto general plans disguised as SC or ST plans. A large portion of the schemes 73.30% amounting to Rs.Cr. 1,16,632 for SC and 70.16% of ST schemes amounting to Rs. 83,851 Cr. cannot be considered community-beneficial SC/ST schemes as per the guidelines given by the NITI Aayog.

Out of the total allocation to the SC and ST schemes, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is allocated Rs. 10,160.94 Cr (6.39%) and the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs is allocated Rs.12,386 Cr.(10.36%). These are high quality schemes which directly benefit the SCs and STs. However, the schemes allocated to the departments/ ministries of Road Transportation Rs.23,375Cr (8.39%), Rural Development Rs,49,792Cr. (17.87%), Fertilizer Rs.22,562Cr (8.10%) Agriculture and Farmers welfare Rs.28,706 Cr. (10.30%), are either obsolete schemes or just notional general schemes which do not have physical targets for the welfare of SCs and STs. This practice needs to be immediately discontinued as they should not be considered schemes under SC ST budgets as directed by the government guidelines.

Against this background, the Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis (DABA) examines and evaluates the budget in detail from the perspective of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). By looking at these three aspects—allocation, proportion of targeted schemes that directly benefit SCs and STs, and budget credibility—which measures the gap between the budget that was approved and the budget that is spent. This analysis aims to unpack the numbers and their effectiveness.



2. Youth and Unemployment

According to figures issued by the independent economic think tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt Ltd (CMIE), unemployment in India was 8.3% (10.09% in Urban area and 7.44% in Rural area) in December 2022¹. A review of data from the CMIE dashboard revealed that the total unemployment rate is at its worst in 16 months. Over the years youth employment has been growing and unemployment is at an all time high². India's unemployment rate is now higher than it was during the pandemic, when millions of people lost their jobs. According to CMIE unemployment reached 8.85% in the first three weeks of December 2022. This is even higher than the 6-8% which was observed during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, when many Indians lost their jobs. The fact that the rate of job creation has slowed down as well is even more concerning. The Economic Survey for 2021-2022 indicates that agricultural activity has remained resilient despite a decrease in overall growth. Because it was a last resort for many of those who lost jobs in the city, the sector was less affected. However, there may be limitations to agriculture's ability to support the

economy at this time. In the face of lack of employment opportunities, the farm industry has already taken on more workers than it can handle, leading to distress employment³. According to the findings of the World Bank study, the marginalized sections of the Indian population, such as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, are 20 years behind the average. This is because these marginalized groups in India have been excluded from society because Indian society has historically been divided according to caste, tribe, and gender⁴.

When compared to other castes, the scheduled castes primarily rely on casual and wage labour. Fewer than 40% of those receive regular salaries or wages⁵.

The plight of migrant workers during the covid period is not hidden. One such group was the Inter-State Migrant Workers, who lived at the crossroads of marginalization. Most of them come from Scheduled Caste/Tribe and Backward Communities, having low economic status⁶. A study has revealed the changes of the migrant workers behaviour and hopes post pandemic, one is that migrant workers' decision about where to work is influenced by

1 Banerjee, Preetha (2023) "Unemployment in India rose to 8.3% in December, crossed 10% in Urban Areas: CMIE" <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/economy/unemployment-in-india-rose-to-8-3-in-december-crossed-10-in-urban-areas-cmie-86885#:~:text=Unemployment%20in%20India%20was%208.3,an%20independent%20economic%20think%20tank>

2 Sharma, A.S. (2022) "Youth employment and Unemployment in India: Issues and Challenges" <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41027-022-00387-5>

3 Verma, M. (2022) "Unemployment in India has risen to its highest since Pandemic" <https://qz.com/unemployment-in-india-at-its-highest-since-the-pandemic-1849918073>

4 World Bank 2011, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/26337/114158-BRI-Poverty-and-Social-Exclusion-India-Overview-Brief-PUBLIC.pdf?sequence=1&is-Allowed=y>

5 Bhatnagar & Dwivedi (2013), "Youth amongst the Disadvantaged Classes" <https://www.ijr.org/research-paper-0213.php?rp=P14708>

6 Dilip, D.G., Visakh V. and Prasanth M.K, 2022 <https://journals.library.brandeis.edu/index.php/caste/article/view/447>

their scars from being abandoned by the state in their time of need. The second is that workers are getting so desperate that they are accepting wages that they used to refuse. The loss of opportunities is the third reason⁷. Migrant workers are destined to experience abuse and helplessness in urban settings that fail to offer them not just the economic resilience but also a life of dignity due to ongoing economic insecurity and a lack of social safety net⁸.

According to the CMIE⁹, the top five states with the highest unemployment rates in December 2022 are Haryana (37.4%), Rajasthan (28.5%), Delhi (20.8%), Bihar (19.1%) and Jharkhand (18%). The top five states with the lowest unemployment rates are Odisha (0.9%), Gujarat (2.3%), Karnataka (2.5%), Meghalaya (2.7%) and Maharashtra (3.1%). According to the NSS-PLF survey for 2018-19 the unemployment rate amongst the SC is (6.4) compared to the national average of 5.8 (5.9 for high castes, 5.8 for OBCs and 4.3 for STs). The percentage of informal workers was highest among SCs at roughly 84 percent, compared to STs and OBCs at 70 percent and dominant castes at 54 percent. The majority of salaried SC employees had jobs that were not stable. In the non-farm sector, nearly 85% of wage workers in India in 2018–19 was either employed without a contract or had contracts with terms less than one year. The highest proportion of these workers were SCs (89 percent), followed by STs (87 percent), high castes (86 percent), and OBCs (86 percent).¹⁰ More troublingly, the unemployment rate for educated young people between the ages of 15 and 29 in 2018–19 was 17.3%¹¹. As on Jan 2022 there are more than 1.35 crore active job seekers (1.04 crore in November 2020) but there are 1.76 lakh active employers who are registered as opposed to 57,748 active employers registered in November 2020)¹².

Some of the schemes with regard to the unemployment launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment are Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM), National Pension scheme for traders (NPS), Shopkeeper and Self-Employed Persons, Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY), Pradhan Mantri Rojgar

Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY), National Career Service The NCS, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. E shram, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana (PM-SYM), Aam Admi Beema Yojana are the Measures undertaken for Unorganised workers by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. All these schemes are general schemes. The Ministry of Labour and Employment also provides assistance for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, this has been given in order to assist the state government in the task of rehabilitation of the bonded labour. The amount of money provided has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to one lakh for each adult male beneficiary, and Rs 2 lakh for beneficiaries in special categories like children and orphans or individuals who have been saved from organized and forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labor, as well as women and Rs. 3 lakh in cases of bonded or forced labor involving extreme deprivation or marginalization, such as transgender individuals, women, or children rescued from apparent sex slavery, such as in places like brothels, massage parlors, and placement agencies, or human trafficking, differently-abled individuals, or any other case the District Magistrate deems appropriate¹³. Unfortunately, this year too, out of the total allocation of Rs. 2064.19 Cr under the Ministry of Labour and Employment for SCs, Rs. 1522 Cr has been allocated for the Employees' Pension scheme 1995, which is a general scheme having no benefits for the community. Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana gets Rs. 384.24 Cr which again is not a scheme targeted for Dalits. Likewise, out of the total allocation for ST Rs. 1069.42 Cr under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Rs. 788 Cr have been allocated for Employees Pension scheme 1995 and Rs. 201.70 Cr for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana respectively. It is a violation of SCP/TSP guidelines. In total, Rs. 2895.94 Cr from Dalit and Adivasi budgets under the Ministry of Labour and Employment were diverted towards general schemes. Specifically, Rs. 1906.24 Cr has been diverted from the SC budget and Rs. 989.7 Cr has been diverted from the ST budget under the Ministry of Labour and employment.

7 <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/nov/23/india-migrant-workers-work-unemployment-jobs-covid-pandemic>

8 <https://www.outlookindia.com/national/rising-insecurity-of-migrant-workers-in-a-post-covid-world-news-225784>

9 Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy is a separate private limited corporation that performs the dual roles of economic think tank and commercial information provider.

10 Thorat A. & Thorat S. (2022). <https://www.outlookindia.com/magazine/story/india-news-employment-and-the-dalit-equation/305415>

11 <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/economy-politics/story/india-unemployment-rate-drops-to-58-in-fy19-jobless-among-scsts-minorities-rise-260181-2020-06-04>

12 Annual report, Ministry of Labour and Employment https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/Annual_Report_202021_English.pdf
https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/annual_report-21-22.pdf

13 https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/annual_report-21-22.pdf

Figure 2a: Scheduled Castes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2023-24

| | 2023-24 (BE) |
|---|--------------|
| Total CS+CSS (Rs. Cr.) | 1,419,910 |
| Due Allocations (Rs. Cr.) (*) | 203,991 |
| % Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline | 14.4% |
| Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.) | 159,126 |
| % Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS | 11.2% |
| Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.) | 30,475 |
| % Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS | 2.1% |

Figure 2b: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2023-24

| | 2023-24 (BE) |
|---|--------------|
| Total CS+CSS (Rs. Cr.) | 1,418,244 |
| Due Allocations (Rs. Cr.) (*) | 115,672 |
| % Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline | 8.2% |
| Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.) | 119,510 |
| % Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS | 8.4% |
| Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.) | 24,384 |
| % Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS | 1.7% |

**2023-24: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog on Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC (Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 14.37% in stead of 16.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile Narendra Jadav Committee"

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2023-24

Figure 2c: Scheduled Castes Budget : Due, Allocated, Targeted-5 years Trends

| Financial Year | Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.) | Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*) | % Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline | Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.) | % Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS | Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.) | % Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 (BE) | 951,334 | 141,309 | 14.9% | 81,341 | 8.6% | 34,833 | 3.7% |
| 2020-21 (BE) | 898,430 | 139,172 | 14.9% | 83,257 | 9.3% | 16,174 | 1.8% |
| 2021-22 (BE) | 1,081,427 | 161,260 | 15.5% | 126,259 | 11.7% | 48,397 | 4.5% |
| 2022-23 (BE) | 1,230,836 | 182,976 | 14.9% | 142,342 | 11.6% | 53,795 | 4.4% |
| 2023-24 (BE) | 1,419,910 | 203,991 | 14.9% | 159,126 | 11.2% | 30,475 | 2.1% |
| Total | 5,581,937 | 828,708 | 15.0% | 592,325 | 10.6% | 183,674 | 3.3% |

**2022-23: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guideline issued by Finance Ministry No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016.Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Dept of Economic Affairs, Budget division, Dated 26 December 2017. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC (Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 15.49% in stead of 16.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile SCP & TSP Policy"

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2019-20 to FY2023-24

Figure 2d: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted - 5 years Trend

| Financial Year | Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.) | Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*) | % Due Share as per NITI Aayog guideline (1) | Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.) | % Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS | Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.) | % Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20 (BE) | 947,228 | 76,592 | 8.2% | 52,885 | 5.5% | 21,628 | 2.3% |
| 2020-21 (BE) | 895,043 | 77,034 | 8.1% | 53,653 | 5.9% | 19,428 | 2.2% |
| 2021-22 (BE) | 1,077,460 | 88,077 | 8.2% | 79,942 | 7.4% | 27,830 | 2.6% |
| 2022-23 (BE) | 1,226,282 | 98,664 | 8.2% | 89,265 | 7.3% | 43,586 | 3.6% |
| 2023-24 (BE) | 1,418,244 | 115,672 | 8.2% | 119,510 | 8.4% | 24,384 | 1.7% |
| Total | 5,564,256 | 456,039 | 8.2% | 395,255 | 7.1% | 136,856 | 2.5% |

**2022-23: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guideline issued by Finance Ministry No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016.Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Dept of Economic Affairs, Budget division, Dated 26 December 2017. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC (Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 15.49% in stead of 16.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile SCP & TSP Policy"

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2018-19 to FY2022-23

3. Analysis of Utilization-Budget Credibility

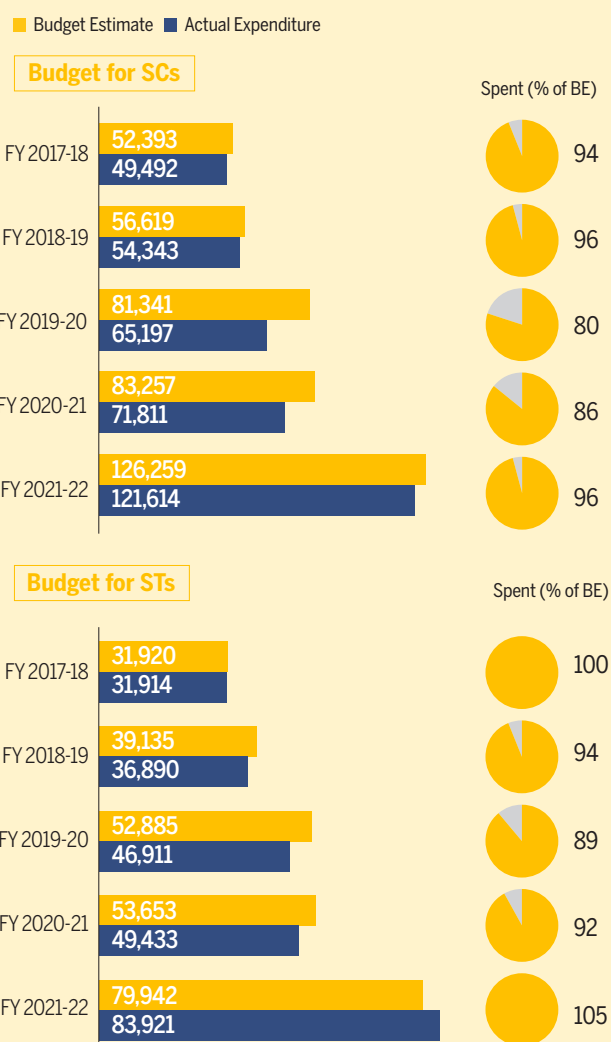
Budget credibility is the ability of the government to accurately and consistently meet their expenditure targets. At its core, budget credibility is about upholding government commitments and seeks to understand why the expenditure gets deviated from its commitments. When budgets are not implemented as planned, spending priorities can exceed projections, and critical services may be compromised for instance budget for marginalized communities. Once closely examined, the Government is consistently deviating from their approved budgets and fund utilization. Governments should be accountable for their decisions to deviate from their original budgets; if the deviation is more than 10% then it is an issue of Budget Credibility. The utilized figures are published by the Ministry of Finance, Govt of India and reflected in the actual expenditure (AE) in each budget document in every financial year, which is generally provided by the Supreme Audit body of the country. These figures are considered to be a real and authentic figure as far as the proper fund utilization is concerned. It has been a serious concern in the country, where huge money has been found unutilized, for instance, under SC Budget the fund utilization in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 the fund utilization is 80% (6.85% of total CS+CSS) and 86% (7.99% of CS+CSS) respectively.

4. Livelihood

As of 2022 when the world is looking at India as a major player in the global arena, it is still very difficult for Dalits and Adivasis, two underprivileged communities in India, to make a living. Data from the National Sample Survey Office show that Dalits and Adivasis have poverty rates that are substantially higher than the national average. Approximately 83.3% of individuals experiencing multidimensional poverty in India hail from marginalized tribal and caste groups, with Scheduled Tribes (ST) exhibiting the highest poverty rate at 50.6%, followed by Scheduled Castes (SC) at 33.3%. This data indicates a disproportionately high poverty rate amongst ST communities, with a poverty level three times greater than that of privileged communities, and a poverty rate among SC communities that is nearly twice that of their advantaged counterparts. This highlights the requirement for tailored measures and schemes for their livelihood and to reduce poverty.

For Dalits and Adivasis, access to healthcare and

Figure 3: Utilisation of funds for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Schemes in Union Budget FY18 to FY22 (Rs.Cr)



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile of 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24 Ministry of Finance

education is another pressing topic. According to data from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, only about 60% of Dalits and 55% of Adivasis adults are literate, respectively, much lower than the national average. This demonstrates the necessity for initiatives that concentrate on enhancing these communities' access to education. Additionally, Dalits and Adivasis have high rates of sickness and mortality due to poor living circumstances, a lack of access to healthcare, and other factors.

Additionally, Dalits and Adivasis have very few work opportunities. These groups frequently experience discrimination in the workforce and are disproportionately represented in low-wage and unorganised industries. The

percentage of Dalits working in non-agricultural wage jobs is just approximately 20%, and their unemployment rate is nearly twice that of the national average, according to the International Labour Organization. The situation is significantly worse for Adivasis, who have an unemployment rate that is over three times higher than the national average and just around 10% of them work for an income outside of agriculture.

In the Union Budget 2023-24, Rs.22,766.98 Cr from the SC Budget and Rs. 13260.21 Cr from the ST budget have been allocated to livelihood and skill development programmes. The most allocation of Rs. 3532.29 Cr for Dalits and Rs 2472.6 Cr for Adivasis was made under National Rural Livelihood Mission which is a general scheme. The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM AJAY) scheme was allocated with Rs 2050 Cr for SC which is a targeted scheme. However, allocation for the Crop insurance Scheme is Rs 2666.94 Cr for SC and Rs 1381.26 Cr for ST which does not have any direct benefit on them. In total Rs 9470.39 Cr is allocated to targeted schemes and Rs 26,556.8 Cr to non targeted schemes which is a huge amount. It is essential to have specialized policies for eradicating poverty, increasing access to healthcare, improving education, and increasing employment opportunities with less bias in order to address these issues.

5. Sanitation and Frontline Workers

In India, a person's employment and dignity are significantly influenced by caste. A "person engaged in or employed for manually cleaning and transporting human excreta" is referred to as a "manual scavenger." To put an end to manual scavenging, India has enacted legislation, conducted surveys, and implemented rehabilitation procedures. The fact that 233 people died "due to accidents while performing hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks" during this time period is a tragic reminder of the dangers of this practice and the urgent need to put an end to it.

It is relieving to know that 199 of the 233 people who died in these incidents have received compensation under Supreme Court guidelines established in 2014. The atrocious practice of manual scavenging still continues to force Dalits to get into sewers, unprotected, for mere pennies. In addition to outlawing the practice, two laws—the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act of 2013 (PEMSRA) and the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of

Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act of 1993—also punish those who hire people to clean human excrement.

The Lok Sabha was informed by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale that up to 48 workers, including four in Delhi and 13 in Haryana—the highest number in the nation—died while cleaning septic tanks in 2022. The Arvind Kejriwal administration purchased 200 machines three years ago to replace the manual cleaners who cleaned sewage, yet in the past five years alone, 46 scavengers have lost their lives in the national capital. The Center stated in the Lok Sabha that between 2017 and 2021, "hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks" was responsible for up to 330 fatalities, with the highest in Uttar Pradesh (47), and lowest in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh (1).

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) suggested extending the term "manual scavenging" to include more risky cleaning tasks. Additionally, it suggested linking them to initiatives like MGNREGA, boosting monetary support from Rs 40,000 to Rs 1 lakh, and adding information about murders and other atrocities committed against them to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) database.

In this fiscal year, no money is allocated for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers under The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers compared to Rs70 Cr in FY 2022–2023. However, this year a new scheme has been introduced by the MSJE called NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitised Ecosystem) which aims to provide alternate livelihood to sanitation workers through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines. The scheme has received an allocation of Rs. 97.41 Cr.

The "pre-matric scholarship of those children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations and prone to health hazards" scheme was merged under the general pre-matric scholarship for SC students and "others" and received an allocation of Rs 500 Cr. The "others" as mentioned in the guidelines may include children of manual scavengers but not compulsorily. In practice, the National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation received a negligible allocation of Rs. 10 Cr in FY 2023-24, for capital expenses compared to Rs. 25 Cr in FY 2022-23, Rs. 50 Cr in FY 2021–22 and Rs. 40 Cr in FY 2020-21, which is lowered by Rs. 15 Cr in the current year's budget.

6. Public Health

Socio- economic Inequality has grossly affected the marginalised communities especially after the COVID 19 Pandemic. The entire public health care was shaken by the pandemic and it demands for the proactive approach to health and welling. Inequality report published by Oxfam clearly shows that Dalits and Adivasis were the worst victims of COVID and continue to face inter-generational poverty.

The report also pointed to the glaring gaps in digitizing healthcare, particularly the vaccination programme during the pandemic and its multifaceted repercussions on marginalised communities. Evidence suggests that people belonging to marginalized communities, including the Dalits and Adivasis were the last ones to receive the vaccinations, especially because of the reasons that: they did not have smartphones with internet to register for vaccine slots; they did not have the digital know-how and language skills to use the vaccine app; and they were unaware of the information about available vaccine slots since most of it is circulated online. The process excluded a large section of these people from getting easy access to vaccination.

As per the OXFAM report, Dalits and Adivasis are marginalized in health care sectors, as the privatization of the health care and low-quality service at public hospitals are pushing the communities more towards debt and poverty. Dalit women live 15 years less than the dominant caste. Also, anaemia is common and prevalent among the ST and SCs due to lack of nutrition and proper diet, about 65% ST women suffer from anaemia compared to 46.6% of other social groups. 26% of Dalit women did not receive PreNatal-Care while 15% dominant caste women were provided with the service. Women and Children are facing huge discrimination while seeking health care service, they are not thoroughly checked, verbally abused and denied quality service on the ground of Caste. The social welfare statistics report of 2015-16 shows that the Pre-natal Mortality rate was highest among the Schedule caste with 40% followed by 36% among the Schedule Tribe whereas it was 30% among the other social group. NFHS 4 and 5 clearly shows that the anaemia among the 6 months to 5 years children increased from 59% to 67% and is high among the Rural children. Rural hospitals still lack proper infrastructures and quality health care. Oxfam report also highlights the fact that Privatization of health care facilities accounts for 62% of health care

infrastructure and most of them being established in the cities and urban areas further restricting Dalits and Adivasis to access the same as it demands huge out of pocket expenses, time and debt. Maternal Mortality Rate has declined marginally in the country according to NFHS 5 data but MMR among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe are still alarming. As shared by the Ministries of Tribal Affairs, posted on 25th July, IMR has declined from 95.7% (2005-06) to 50.3%(2019-21) among the scheduled Tribe. As per the NFHS 5, IMR is still considerably higher in Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe than the others , under five mortality rate for STs is 50 deaths per 1000 live births and for SCs is 49 deaths per 1000 live births whereas country's mortality rate is 42 deaths per live births.

In the last financial year of 2022-23, under health care schemes, maximum allocation was done under general schemes. Under Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY. Rs. 1964 Cr was allocated for ST and SCs last year which is now Rs.1864cr. for both SC and ST women which indicates a decrease of Rs.100cr. in allocation this year. Under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, most of the allocations were made for the general schemes and it was clear that no exclusive Schemes was in place for SC and STs to cater their dignified health rights. Under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Rs. 5400.06 Cr was allocated for the STs of which Rs.4334.3 Cr was allocated under the non-targeted schemes. Also, the total allocation for the SCs under the same department was Rs. 10,424.35Cr was done, of which Rs. 9176.5Cr was allocated under the non-targeted schemes. It is clear that allocations which were supposed to serve the SCs and STs welfare are diverted majorly under the non targeted schemes which seldom reach the community. This FY 2023-24 under the department of Health and Family welfare, Rs. 9323.81 Cr has been allocated for SCs and Rs. 4830.41 Cr for STs. The allocation under Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) with support from Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) is Rs. 1175.72 Cr for SC and Rs. 688.97 Cr for STs. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) is allocated Rs. 2320.27 Cr for SC and Rs. 1250.51 Cr for ST. There has been slight reduction in the allocation under the PMJAY in this FY 2023-24 for both SC and ST.

According to the OXFAM report, India spends 1.4% of GDP on Health which is less than our immediate neighbouring countries of Nepal and Sri Lanka. It is recommended that India should increase its public health expenditure at

least to 3 to 5% of the GDP and strengthening of Rural public health care to cater the poorest of the poor should be taken as a priority.

7. Education Justice

Pre-Matric Scholarship:

From the academic year 2022-23, the Union Government will no longer offer pre-matric scholarships to students from classes 1 through 8 who are members of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Community (OBC), and minority communities¹⁴ which has drawn severe criticism. The Right to Education Act (RTE Act), according to the government, guarantees all students a right to a compulsory education up to eighth grade¹⁵. A standing parliamentary committee has reported in the Lok Sabha that there is no difference in the number of beneficiaries under the study grant scheme for the years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23, even in the pre-matric scholarship for the Scheduled Tribe. Given the objective of reducing early school dropout, these numbers ought to be increased. The parliamentary body suggests that the ministry has not done enough to ensure that the program's targets were based on accurate data, or that the number of tribal students in the preschool classes has remained stagnant. The ministry ought to take the necessary action to guarantee that the program reaches as many students as possible.¹⁶

Pre-Matric scholarship for SC/ST students is a centrally sponsored scheme that was introduced in 1st July 2012 and is implemented by both the state governments and UTs. In order to reduce dropout rates, particularly during the transition from the elementary to secondary stages, the scholarship is granted to help parents of SC/ST children educate their children 9th to 10th standard.

The total central assistance released for 3 years under Pre -Matric scholarship for SC students studying in class IX and X is about Rs. 1154 Cr (26, 30,366-beneficiaries) in 2018-19, Rs. 352.89 Cr (28,09,542-beneficiaries) in 2019-20 and Rs. 569.03 Cr (30,68,876-beneficiaries) in 2020-21 respectively. The total unutilized amount in the financial year 2018-19 is Rs. 9.36 Cr, 2019-20 is Rs. 2.30 Cr and 2020-21 is Rs. 130.49 Cr respectively. Similarly, the pre matric scholarship for ST's in the FY 2018-19 is

Rs. 350 Cr, 2019-20 is Rs. 340 Cr, 2020-21 is Rs. 400 Cr, 2021-22 is Rs. 400 Cr and in 2022-23 is Rs. 419 Cr. The total unutilized amount in the FY 2018-19 is Rs. 38.50 Cr, 2019-20 is Rs. 99.99 Cr and in 2020-21 is Rs. 151.09 Cr.

In 2022, thousands of students had also applied for the scholarship. However, the Ministry has rejected the applications of students from grade 1 through 8. The union government has explained that the students studying in these classes are covered under Right to Education (RTE) act 2009 where free and compulsory elementary education is given to all. However, this kind of decision will increase the number of elementary school dropouts and non-attendance. The allocation for the pre-matric scholarship for SC and Others in this FY 2023-24 is Rs. 500 Cr while the pre matric scholarship for ST is Rs. 411.63 Cr.

Post Matric Scholarship and schemes for higher education:

New PMS-SC guidelines talks about providing financial assistance at the post-matriculation or post-secondary level to enable them to complete their education, the post-matric scholarship aims to significantly increase the gross enrolment ratio of SC/ST students in higher education, with a focus on those from the poorest households with reducing dropout rates. There is a new initiative under this "Freeship Card" which allows scholarship-eligible students to enrol in an institution without having to pay admission fees, tuition or hostel fees in advance and later to be paid to the institute.

Post-Matric scholarships (PMS) are intended to increase student participation in school, reduce dropout rates, encourage students to pursue higher education, close the gender gap, and promote equity in society. It enables them to continue and complete their education without encountering several financial obstacles, as well as to ensure a better employment future and accomplish their objectives. A study has found that merit-based grants enable students to graduate on time while income-based grants reduce dropout rates. Any form of social discrimination will be eliminated as a result of an increase in literacy rates, paving the way for the development of a healthy and developed nation¹⁷. In this union

14 <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/union-government-stops-pre-matric-scholarship-for-sc-st-obc-and-minority-students-of-class-1-to-8-and-explains-why/article66195791.ece>

15 <https://thewire.in/education/gujarat-muslim-students-parents-struggle-with-cancellation-of-pre-matric-scholarship-manf>

16 <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/pre-matric-scholarship-scheme-number-of-beneficiaries-variation-1925557-2022-03-15>

17 Mandal et al. (2021) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351020106_ATTITUDE_TOWARDS_EDUCATION_OF_POST-MATRIC_SCHOLARSHIP_RECIPIENT_AND_NON-RECIPIENT_STUDENTS_OF_12TH_GRADE_UNDER_WBCHSE_BOARD_OF_WEST_BENGAL_INDIA_Article_History/link/609195b9299bf1ad8d789afe/download

budget 2023-24 the allocation PMS for the Scheduled Caste is Rs. 6359.14 Cr and for Scheduled Tribe its Rs. 1970.77 Cr. The higher education spending for the SCs through statement 10A of the union budget (also known as the Allocation for Welfare of SCs or AWSC), two ministries have been mentioned. One is the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) within which various schemes add up to reflect an outlay of Rs. 4032 Cr for higher education, which was Rs. 3843 Cr last year. An umbrella scheme of education programme called the SHREYAS, comprises four schemes with a combined outlay of Rs. 371 Cr. The name of these schemes is National Fellowship for SCs, National Overseas Scholarships for SCs, Top Class education for SC students and free coaching for SC and OBC students.

Focusing on higher education spending for the SC and ST, two Ministries contribute to this. One is the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment where the allocation is Rs. 10,160.94 Cr and the other is the Department of Higher Education with the allocation of Rs. 4032 Cr under AWSC. Similarly, under AWST the Ministry of Tribal Affairs where the allocation is Rs. 12,386 Cr and the Department of Higher Education where the allocation is Rs. 2061 Cr, respectively. Even though there is an allocation increase of 3.7% under AWSC and 3.8 % under AWST by the Ministry of Higher Education, none of the schemes featured in the AWSC and AWST are targeted for education of SC and ST students. For example, the scheme Grants to Central Universities (CUs) has been allocated Rs. 722 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 365 Cr under AWST; University Grants Commission (UGC) allocating Rs. 890 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 460 Cr under AWST so on and so forth. However, none of these schemes have targeted the objective of the development of SC and ST students. Even though there has been an increase in the Budget for the SC/ST under the department of higher education, many of these schemes are not targeted towards the development of SC and ST students.

For example, schemes for SC & ST like scheme Grants to Central Universities (CUs) has been allocated Rs. 722 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 365 Cr under AWST, Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIST is Rs. 330 Cr for SC and Rs. 178 Cr for ST, the gross budgetary support for All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is Rs. 63 Cr for SC and Rs. 25 Cr for ST, World Class Institution is Rs. 295 Cr for SC and Rs. 150 Cr for ST, Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan is Rs. 295 Cr for SC and Rs. 160 Cr for ST, University Grants Commission (UGC) is Rs. 890 Cr for SC and Rs. 460 Cr for ST, Support

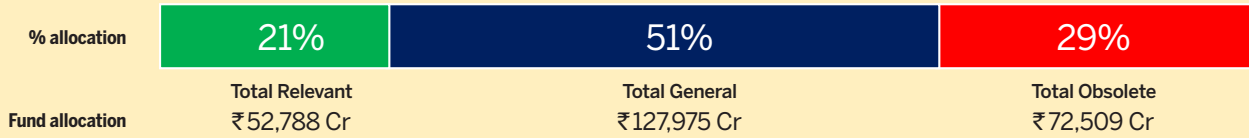
to Indian Institute of Technology is Rs. 565 Cr for SC and Rs. 274 Cr for ST. All these schemes will make a total Rs. 3160 Cr for SC and Rs. 1612 Cr for ST and have been placed erroneously inside where they do not have any financial flows for the welfare and development of the SC and ST. It is disheartening to see that the scheme which would benefit the SC/ST students like Scholarship for college and university students is given no allocation in this FY compared to the last year where Rs. 29 Cr was allocated for SC and Rs. 17.65 for ST. This is really disheartening owing to the fact that we are still on the path to recovery mode and have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. At a time when many SC/ST students are facing challenges in accessing higher education it does not make sense as to why there is no direct allocation to schemes that benefit SC and ST students.

The allocation of the Post matric scholarship for the SC students for the FY 2018-19 is Rs. 3000 Cr, 2019-20 is Rs. 2926.82 Cr, 2020-21 is Rs. 2987.33 Cr, 2021-22 is Rs. 3415.62 Cr and 2022-23 is Rs. 5660.00 Cr. Similarly, the allocation of the Post matric Scholarship for the ST students for the FY 2018-19 is Rs. 1586 Cr, 2019-20 is Rs. 1613.5 Cr, 2020-21 is Rs. 1900.00 Cr, 2021-22 is Rs. 1993.00 Cr, and 2022-23 is Rs. 1965.00 Cr.

An online Grievance Redressal Mechanism which will connect all authorities responsible for the scholarship portal's implementation. Students will have the option of submitting a complaint through the portal or a mobile app.

Another important scholarship for the SC & ST students who want to achieve their higher education abroad is called the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) which is a Central Sector scheme for Master degree or Ph.D. courses. The three-year trend allocation of the NOS for the SCs in the FY 2020-21 is Rs. 20 Cr, 2021-22 is Rs. 30 Cr and 2022-23 is Rs. 36 Cr. The same for the STs in the FY 2020-21 is Rs. 2 Cr, 2021-22 is Rs. 3 Cr and 2022-23 is Rs. 4 Cr respectively, which seems to be a meagre amount to cater the emerging demand of the communities. The allocation of NOS for SC in this FY 2023-24 is Rs. 50 Cr for SC (under SHREYAS umbrella scheme) and Rs. 4 Cr for ST. Although the allocation for the SC has increased, the allocation for the ST's remained the same as last year. Similarly, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) now known as National Fellowship for SCs (under SHREYAS umbrella scheme) got the allocation of Rs. 163 Cr and National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students has

Figure 4: Relevance of Schemes for SCs & STs- Targeted, Non-Targeted (General) & Non-Targeted (Obsolete) in Union Budget FY 2023-24 (Rs Cr)



NOTE :- The top 50 Schemes account for 90% of the total Schemes under AWSC & AWST. Schemes highlighted under the color Green are Relevant and are targeted Schemes which ensure direct benefit, under the color yellow are General which benefit everybody and not necessarily SCs or STs, and under Red are obsolete which has no relevance for the SC/ST communities. Yellow and Red together form the Non-Targeted schemes.

✔ Relevant schemes
 ✘ Obsolete schemes
 ! General flow schemes

| Name of the Schemes | | SC | ST | Total |
|---|---|--------|-------|--------|
| Ministry/Department: Agri & Farmers Welfare | | | | |
| ! | 18 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) | 10,185 | 5,196 | 15,381 |
| ! | 25 Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) | 3,338 | 1,362 | 4,700 |
| ! | 20.01 Crop Insurance Scheme | 2,667 | 1,381 | 4,048 |
| ! | 1 Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna | 1,308 | 950 | 2,258 |
| ! | 28 Krishionnati Yojana | 1,080 | 756 | 1,836 |
| Ministry/Department: DONER | | | | |
| ! | 78.02 North East Special Infra Struc Develop scheme - (NESIDS) | - | 690 | 690 |
| Ministry/Department: Drinking Water & Sanitation | | | | |
| ! | Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) National Rural Drinking Water Programme | 15,400 | 7,000 | 22,400 |
| ! | Swachh Bharat Mission - Rural Programme Component | 1,355 | 616 | 1,971 |
| Ministry/Department: Fertilisers | | | | |
| ✘ | Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea | 8,637 | 4,475 | 13,112 |
| ✘ | Urea Subsidy Payment for Import | 2,573 | 1,333 | 3,906 |
| ✘ | Subsidy for Indigenous Phosphate & Potash Fertilizers | 2,117 | 1,097 | 3,213 |
| ✘ | Subsidy for Imported Potash and Phosphate Fertilizers | 1,536 | 796 | 2,331 |
| Ministry/Department: Food & Public Distribution | | | | |
| ! | Food Subsidy to FCI NFS Act | 12,521 | 6,260 | 18,781 |
| ! | 65 Food Subsidy for Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains under NFSA | 5,479 | 2,740 | 8,219 |
| ! | Intra state movement of food grains & FPS dealers margin | 664 | - | 664 |
| Ministry/Department: Health & Family Welfare | | | | |
| ! | Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, National Urban Health Mission - GBS | 4,518 | 2,375 | 6,894 |
| ! | Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana | 1,176 | 689 | 1,865 |
| ! | Establishment of New Medical Colleges & Increase of Seats in existing Govt Medical Colleges | 1,079 | 559 | 1,638 |
| ✘ | Gross Budgetary Support - Infrastructure Maintenance | 1,696 | 775 | 2,471 |
| ✘ | Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission | - | 411 | 411 |
| Ministry/Department: Higher Education | | | | |
| ✘ | University Grants Commission | 890 | - | 890 |
| ✘ | Grants to Central Universities | 722 | - | 722 |
| ✘ | Support to IITs | 565 | - | 565 |
| Ministry/Department: Housing and Urban Affairs | | | | |
| ✔ | PMAY-Urban | 4,162 | 1,204 | 5,366 |
| Ministry/Department: Labour and Employment | | | | |
| ! | Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 | 1,522 | 788 | 2,310 |
| Ministry/Department: Ministry of Power | | | | |
| ✘ | Reform Linked Power Distribution Scheme | 2,042 | 957 | 3,000 |
| Ministry/Department: Ministry of Tribal Affairs | | | | |
| ✔ | Eklavya Model Residential Schools | - | 5,943 | 5,943 |

Continued ...

| Name of the Schemes | SC | ST | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| ✓ PM Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojna & Post Matric Scholarship for STs | - | 2,382 | 2,382 |
| ✓ Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna - PMAAGY | - | 1,485 | 1,485 |
| ✓ Grants under proviso to Article 275(1) | - | 1,472 | 1,472 |
| Ministry/Department: MSME Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises | | | |
| ! Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers | 2,480 | 1,270 | 3,750 |
| ! PM Employment Generation Programme | 693 | 405 | 1,098 |
| Ministry/Department: Road Transport and Highways | | | |
| ✗ Works under Roads wing | | 23,375 | 23,375 |
| Ministry/Department: Rural Development | | | |
| ! National Rural Livelihood Mission | 3,532 | 2,473 | 6,005 |
| ! Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme | 1,296 | 750 | 2,047 |
| ✓ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna | 13,624 | 9,536 | 23,160 |
| ✗ MGNREGA-Programme Component | 10,500 | 7,350 | 17,850 |
| Ministry/Department: School Education | | | |
| ! Samagra Shiksha Support | 7,535 | 4,131 | 11,666 |
| ! Kendriya vidyalaya Sanghathan | 1,170 | 501 | 1,671 |
| ! Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti | 816 | - | 816 |
| ! PM Schools for Rising India (SHRI) | 800 | 384 | 1,184 |
| ✓ Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman | 2,320 | 1,251 | 3,571 |
| Ministry/Department: Social Justice and Empowerment | | | |
| ✓ Post Matric Scholarship for SCs | 6,359 | - | 6,359 |
| ✓ Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana | 2,050 | - | 2,050 |
| ✓ Enforcement of PCR Act, 1995 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 | 500 | - | 500 |
| ✓ Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others | 500 | - | 500 |
| Ministry/Department: Women and Child Development | | | |
| ! Anganwadi and POSHAN, Nutrition Program | 4,740 | 2,007 | 6,747 |
| Total of Top 40 Schemes | | | |
| | 146,147 | 107,125 | 253,272 |
| % of 40 Schemes against SC & ST Total Budget | | | |
| | 92% | 90% | 91% |
| Total Allocation under SC & ST Budget | | | |
| | 159,126 | 119,510 | 278,636 |

an allocation Rs. 145 Cr in this fiscal year.

8. Scheme Analysis

As per new guideline issued by NITI Aayog on 1 April 2018 available in (eUtthaan) Portal, MSJE, GoI, where it clearly mandates 41 Ministries/Departments as obligatory Ministries/Departments to earmark fund for the real development of the communities, but as many as 38 Ministries/Departments allocated funds for SCs and under STs all 41 Ministries/Departments have allocated fund for the Tribal Development. As far as the Nodal Ministries are concerned, of course MoTA is allocating 100% for the Tribal Development, but MSJE is mandated to set the due target of only 72% of total Ministry fund, but being a Nodal Ministry for SC communities, who

constitute 16.6% of total population it should allocate 100% for the real Development of the communities. Second major concern is that, the total fund under MSJE is only Rs 9,508.01 Cr in FY 2022-23, which is less than the total allocation under one of the schemes called "256-MGNREGA-Programme Component" which is Rs 15,380.88 Cr, which is again non-targeted scheme for SC & ST communities. Moreover, guidelines also has not mandated due percentage to Department of Mines to earmark fund, but the Department is allocating funds for both SC & ST Communities. The overall percentage calculation under SC & ST budget is made out of the total of CS (Central Sector Scheme) +CSS (Centrally Sponsored Schemes) under each prescribed obligatory Ministries/Departments by the new guidelines and not from the total fund from each Ministries/Department.

Excess allocation in Notional Schemes under SC budget in FY 2023-24

- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea & Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers,-Rs 14, 862 Cr,
- MGNREGA-Programme Component-Rs 10,500 Cr
- Reform Linked Distribution Scheme- Rs 2,042.41 Cr

Excess allocation in Notional schemes under ST budget:

- Works under Roads wing-Rs 23,375 Cr
- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea & Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers,-Rs 7,700 Cr
- MGNREGA-Programme Component-Rs 7,350 Cr
- Gross Budgetary Support - Infrastructure Maintenance - Rs 7,75 Cr

Under-allocation in effective schemes under SC Budget:

- National Overseas Scholarship for SCs-Rs 50 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for SCs and OBC – Rs. 70.00 Cr
- Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs – Rs. 47.00 Cr
- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Tribal Universities – Rs. 3.00 Cr
- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation – Rs. 15.00 Cr
- National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation- Rs. 10.00 Cr
- Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers -No allocation

Under-allocation in effective schemes under ST Budget:

- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Tribal Universities- Rs. 1 Cr
- National Overseas Scholarship Scheme – Rs. 4 Cr
- Coaching and Guidance for SC,ST and Other Backward Classes- Rs 7.25 Cr
- National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students – Rs. 145 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes- Rs. 30 Cr

Excess allocation in General Scheme under SC Budget:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water MissionJal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme-Rs15,400 Cr
- Food Subsidy to FCI NFS Act-Rs 12,521 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)-Rs 10,185 Cr
- Samagra Shiksha Support- Rs 7,535 Cr
- Food Subsidy for Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains under NFSA-Rs 5,479 Cr,
- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, National Urban Health Mission - GBS-Rs 4,518.36 Cr

Excess allocation in General Scheme under ST Budget:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) National Rural Drinking Water Programme-Rs 7,000 Cr
- Food Subsidy to FCI NFS Act- Rs 6,260 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)-Rs 5,196 Cr
- Food Subsidy for Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains under NFSA- Rs 2,739.65 Cr

- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, National Urban Health Mission - GBS-Rs 2375.49 Cr

9. Ministry/Dept Wise Priority to Schemes for SC & ST

The revised guideline also mandates these two Ministries to examine each and every scheme under 41 obligatory Min/Depts and if found non-targeted then they should suggest for reformulation and reallocation of schemes. In addition to that, each Min/Dept should give physical and financial targets under output and outcome result indicators and targets under each scheme based on the fund allocation.

Often-times it is noticed that huge funds are allocated for schemes irrelevant for the communities which seems like “post-facto accounting rather than proactive planning” under the two SC & ST Budgets. The guidelines also mandate the two nodal Ministries to examine each and every scheme very critically to ensure that each scheme is targeted (exclusively for communities) and that should sustain the development for a longer period.

Being an Apex level think tank body, NITI Aayog should ensure periodic review to track the performance of each obligatory Ministries/Departments in consultation with the two Nodal Ministries. Moreover, the role of “Dr. Ambedkar International Center Acts as a Think Tank and Resource center for SC budget, that should play a critical role examining each and every scheme scientifically and give suggestions to every Min/Depts to ensure that development pace is accelerated for sustaining development. Similarly for ST Budget, National Institute of Labor Economics Research and Development (NILERD) should Act the same.

Over the last couple of years, the output and outcome-based monitoring had been in place through “(eUtthaan)” real time Dashboard run by MSJE, GoI, but due to some technical issues it is yet to be updated. Other than that, beneficiaries’ details and redressal mechanism also are yet to be updated.

In-depth analysis under the current financial year reveals that almost 9.1% funds earmarked for different schemes are either non-targeted or general in nature. For instance, Rs 14,862 Cr has been allocated towards the schemes called “Urea Subsidy Payment for Import, Subsidy for Indigenous Phosphate & Potash Fertilizers & Subsidy for Imported Potash and Phosphate Fertilizers” under

SC budget and Rs 23,375 Cr towards the scheme called “construction of four lane highways and conversion of single ways Highways “under ST budget which are general in nature. This is the top 40 schemes allocating 92% and 90% of the total fund under SC & ST budget, respectively, and is not exclusively for these communities.

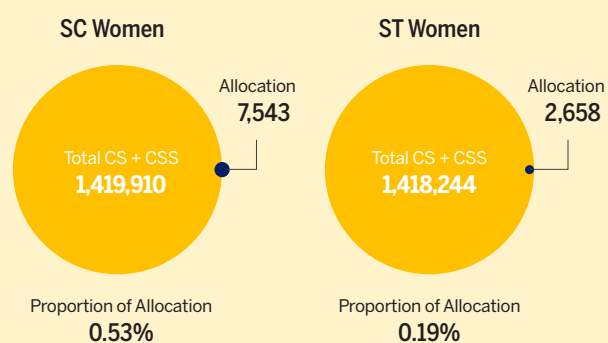
10. Gender Budget Analysis

The Gender responsive budget from the Dalit perspective is still at large unclear, vague and unjust when it is clear that the Dalits are the most vulnerable community and marginalized in majority of the socio- economic and educational sectors. In fact, most of the time, gender is taken only in terms of binary, and rest are neglected. Like the last four financial years, budget allocation for SC and ST women are shrinking each year. The FY of 2022-23, Rs. 11,958.95cr. was allocated for SC women and Rs.5744.20cr. for ST women. Under the Gender Budget of FY 2023-24 allocation for SC women it is Rs. 7543cr. and for ST women it is Rs.2658cr. There was negligible amount allocated for the transgender community last year but there is no allocation for this community for this FY 2023-24, although their needs are emergent and critical to be addressed.

Over the last four financial years the gender budget allocation has increased in Absolute terms but like previous years allocation from the total budget this year is also less than 5%. Dalit and Adivasi women are continuously denied their rights and entitlements. Out of total Union Budget of Rs.4990842.73cr, allocation for Gender Budget is Rs.223219.75cr for FY 2023-24. This year, under the Department of Higher Education, allocation for the SC girls is reduced by Rs.61.89Cr. (total allocation was Rs.213.29 for FY 2022-23, and Rs.151.40 Cr. for this FY 2023-24) and very low increase in allocation for the ST girls under the same dept. Analysis of gender budget statements and allocation for Welfare of SC and ST (AWSC & AWST) reveals that Rs7543.35cr. for SC women and Rs.2657.99cr. for ST women have been allocated for this FY 2023-24.

The four critical areas of health, education, protection & legal rights, livelihood & employment are important for the upliftment for tribal and Dalit women. As per the Oxfam report, SC and ST women are the most marginalized and vulnerable groups having the highest number of anaemic women, malnutrition, high MMR and IMR and other diseases and are denied dignity and quality service and access to health care. In the last three

Figure 5: Allocation for SC and ST Women in Gender Budget Statement (GBS)- 2023-24 Amount in Rs. Cr.



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile FY2021-22, Statement 13

FY, not a single scheme under MSJE has catered 100% benefits to the SC women, allocation for Dalit women has declined substantially from 1% in 2021 to 0.97% in FY 2022-23 and for the coming FY 2023-24, the allocation has reduced by 0.53%.

Changes to Important schemes such as Pre Matric, Post Matric and National overseas scholarships were also introduced this year which will have a massive negative impact on the education of Dalit children. Pre matric scholarship will now cover children of class IX and X only. Now, the Pre Matric scholarship has also been merged and named as Pre Matric scholarship for SC and others with allocation of Rs.500 cr.(FY 2023-24) The allocations for Access to justice for SC and ST women was Rs.180 Cr in the last FY whereas it is reduced to Rs150cr for this FY 2023-24 which indicates decrease in allocation. The access to justice and dignity has always been a very challenging area for ST and SC women when atrocities are a daily occurrence and offenders roam around scot free.

Livelihood and employment is another major area when it comes to the justice and equality for SC and ST women. ST and SC women are the most discriminated, exploited and bonded laborers. Women manual scavengers are still facing problems in accessing SRMS for alternative livelihood opportunities Also, there is no scheme or response to the needs of the transgender community, they

are at the lowest rung of the social hierarchy and suffer severe health issues and need education, employment and health schemes. Under the SMILE scheme which also covers Transgender persons, allocation of Rs. 6 cr for this FY is done which indicates very minimal increase in the allocation than that of last FY.

11. Access to Land

India is a caste-based agrarian nation where low production, increased atrocities, and the unequal allocation of its resources cause rising poverty. Material resources such as land safeguard dignity in a nation where the majority of social and economic ties are based on land and jobs associated with it, landlessness is a persistent disadvantage.

A substantial percentage of rural Dalit households in India, 58.4%, are devoid of land ownership, which is a disproportionately higher figure in comparison to households belonging to other social groups. This predicament is particularly exacerbated in certain regions, such as Haryana, Punjab, and Bihar, where a significant proportion of over 85% of Dalit households lack any land ownership apart from the land on which their residential abodes are situated. Furthermore, a considerable percentage of over 60% of Dalit households in states such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha also lack land ownership.¹⁸

According to the Agricultural Census of 2015–16, Dalits, including the Ramdasia and Mazhabi Sikh communities, only hold approximately 9% of all agricultural land in India.¹⁹ In states where they predominate, such as Haryana, Punjab, and Bihar, a majority of Dalits are landless labourers who work on land they do not own. Nationally, 71% of Dalits are labourers without land ownership. Despite making up to 32% of the population in Punjab, the Dalit Sikh communities only own 3.59% of the state's land.²⁰ Laws such as the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961 aim to address this disparity by reserving a portion of village council land for Dalit Sikhs, but it is reported that privileged castes often circumvent the legislation through proxy bidding.

Farm loan waivers are government-funded programs

18 Land and Livestock Survey, 70th Round, NSSO

19 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/landlessness-takes-away-dalits-legal-and-official-validity-as-indian-citizens/story-1QeT0Tjwp3dbdJjI930XQJ.html>

20 Agriculture Survey, 2015-16

Figure 6a: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPSC Budget for 2023-24 BE (in Rs Cr)

| Departments | Total Eligible Ministries (CS+CSS) | % of Proposed Allocation | Due Allocation under SC (Rs Cr) | Allocation under SC Budget (Rs Cr) |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare | 113,656 | 16.60 | 18,867 | 18,895 |
| Agricultural Research and Education | 2,423 | 8.30 | 201 | 202 |
| AYUSH | 1,385 | 14.00 | 194 | 126 |
| Fertilisers | 175,103 | 8.30 | 14,534 | 14,862 |
| Pharmaceuticals | 3,120 | 8.30 | 259 | 51 |
| Coal | 114 | 8.30 | 9 | 47 |
| Commerce | 4,351 | 8.30 | 361 | 22 |
| Telecommunications | 14,843 | 8.30 | 1,232 | 876 |
| Consumer Affairs | 114 | 8.30 | 9 | 2 |
| Food and Public Distribution | 205,293 | 8.30 | 17,039 | 18,693 |
| Culture | 651 | 8.30 | 54 | 54 |
| Development of North Eastern Region | 5,851 | 8.30 | 486 | 488 |
| School Education and Literacy | 54,374 | 21.74 | 11,821 | 12,876 |
| Higher Education | 6,468 | 16.60 | 1,074 | 4,032 |
| Electronics and Information Technology | 12,440 | 8.30 | 1,033 | 1,033 |
| Environment, Forests and Climate Change | 1,708 | 8.30 | 142 | 154 |
| Fisheries | 2,025 | 16.60 | 336 | 336 |
| Animal Husbandry and Dairying | 4,096 | 16.60 | 680 | 699 |
| Food Processing Industries | 3,092 | 8.30 | 257 | 130 |
| Health and Family Welfare | 56,168 | 16.60 | 9,324 | 9,324 |
| Housing and Urban Affairs | 72,548 | 22.50 | 16,323 | 4,162 |
| WR, RD,GD | 18,645 | 8.30 | 1,548 | |
| Drinking Water and Sanitation | 77,192 | 22.00 | 16,982 | 16,755 |
| Labour and Employment | 12,435 | 16.60 | 2,064 | 2,064 |
| MSME | 21,853 | 16.60 | 3,628 | 3,641 |
| Mines | 0 | 8.30 | 0 | 35 |
| New and Renewable Energy | 9,875 | 8.30 | 820 | 799 |
| Panchayati Raj | 971 | 16.60 | 161 | 161 |
| Petroleum and Natural Gas | 40,786 | 8.30 | 3,385 | 150 |
| Power | 16,109 | 16.60 | 2,674 | 2,042 |
| Road Transport and Highways | 270,250 | 8.30 | 22,431 | |
| Rural Development | 157,366 | 25.00 | 39,341 | 29,391 |
| Land Resources | 2,396 | 16.60 | 398 | 398 |
| Science and Technology | 2,777 | 8.30 | 230 | 231 |
| Skill Development and Entrepreneurship | 3,173 | 16.60 | 527 | 484 |
| Social Justice and Empowerment | 12,580 | 72.50 | 9,120 | 10,161 |
| Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities | 680 | 20.25 | 138 | 113 |
| Textiles | 3,604 | 16.60 | 598 | 265 |
| Tourism | 2,291 | 8.30 | 190 | |
| Women and Child Development | 25,190 | 20.00 | 5,038 | 5,038 |
| Youth Affairs and Sports | 1,914 | 25.28 | 484 | 322 |
| Ministry of Cooperation | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 9 |
| Chandigarh | 0 | | | 3 |
| Total | 1,419,910 | | 203,991 | 159,126 |
| As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission | | 16.60% | 235,705 | |
| As per the NITI Ayog the proposed allocation | | 14.37% | 203,991 | |
| BE allocation | | | 159,126 | |

Source: 1. https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking_DAPSC_DAPST.pdf, published by NITI Aayog, 01 Apr 2018
2. Source:Statement-3, FY 2023-24 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments, Govt of India

Figure 6b: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPST Budget for 2023-24 BE (in Rs Cr)

| Departments | Total Eligible Ministries (CS+CSS) | % of Proposed Allocation | Due Allocation under SC (Rs Cr) | Allocation under SC Budget (Rs Cr) |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare | 113,656 | 8.60 | 9,774 | 9,811 |
| Agricultural Research and Education | 2,423 | 4.30 | 104 | 104 |
| Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy (AYUSH) | 1,385 | 4.30 | 60 | 71 |
| Department of Fertilisers | 175,103 | 4.30 | 7,529 | 7,700 |
| Department of Pharmaceuticals | 3,120 | 4.30 | 134 | 26 |
| Ministry of Coal | 114 | 8.60 | 10 | 48 |
| Department of Commerce | 4,351 | 4.30 | 187 | 25 |
| Department of Telecommunications | 14,843 | 4.30 | 638 | 454 |
| Department of Consumer Affairs | 114 | 4.30 | 5 | 1 |
| Department of Food and Public Distribution | 205,293 | 4.30 | 8,828 | 9,359 |
| Ministry of Culture | 651 | 4.30 | 28 | 28 |
| Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region | 5,851 | 27.18 | 1,590 | 1,690 |
| Department of School Education and Literacy | 54,374 | 12.47 | 6,780 | 6,824 |
| Department of Higher Education | 6,468 | 8.60 | 556 | 2,061 |
| Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology | 12,440 | 6.70 | 833 | 834 |
| Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change | 1,708 | 8.60 | 147 | 159 |
| Department of Fisheries | 2,025 | 8.60 | 174 | 183 |
| Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying | 4,096 | 8.60 | 352 | 377 |
| Ministry of Food Processing Industries | 3,092 | 4.30 | 133 | 67 |
| Department of Health and Family Welfare | 56,168 | 8.60 | 4,830 | 4,830 |
| Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs | 72,548 | 4.30 | 3,120 | 1,204 |
| Dept Water Resources, River Development, Ganga Rejuvenation | 18,645 | 8.60 | 1,603 | 358 |
| Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation | 77,192 | 10.00 | 7,719 | 7,616 |
| Ministry of Labour and Employment | 12,435 | 8.60 | 1,069 | 1,069 |
| MSME | 21,853 | 8.60 | 1,879 | 1,883 |
| Ministry of Mines | 0 | 4.30 | 0 | 18 |
| Ministry of New and Renewable Energy | 9,875 | 8.60 | 849 | 572 |
| Ministry of Panchayati Raj | 971 | 8.60 | 84 | 84 |
| Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | 40,786 | 4.30 | 1,754 | 78 |
| Ministry of Power | 16,109 | 8.60 | 1,385 | 957 |
| Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | 270,250 | 4.30 | 11,621 | 23,375 |
| Department of Rural Development | 157,366 | 17.50 | 27,539 | 20,401 |
| Department of Land Resources | 2,396 | 10.00 | 240 | 240 |
| Department of Science and Technology | 2,777 | 4.30 | 119 | 119 |
| Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship | 3,173 | 8.60 | 273 | 251 |
| Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities | 680 | 10.17 | 69 | 58 |
| Ministry of Textiles | 3,604 | 8.60 | 310 | 187 |
| Ministry of Tourism | 2,291 | 4.30 | 99 | 99 |
| Ministry of Tribal Affairs | 10,914 | 100.00 | 10,914 | 12,386 |
| Ministry of Women and Child Development | 25,190 | 8.60 | 2,166 | 2,166 |
| Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | 1,914 | 8.60 | 165 | 165 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 227 |
| Dadre Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 1 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 1,338 |
| Ministry of Cooperation | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 1,418,244 | 9.98% | 115,672 | 119,510 |
| As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission | | 8.60% | 121,969 | |
| As per the NITI Aayog the proposed allocation | | 8.16% | 115,672 | |
| BE allocation | | | 119,510 | |

Source: 1. https://e-utthaan.gov.in/public/pdf/data/Guidelines-Earmarking_DAPSC_DAPST.pdf, published by NITI Aayog, 01 Apr 2018
 2. Source: Statement-3, FY 2023-24 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments, Govt of India

proposed to alleviate the financial strain of farmers by cancelling their debt obligations. However, only half of the intended beneficiaries of such programs have actually received debt write-offs from 2014 until March 2022. This is particularly the case in certain states, such as Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), Punjab (24%), Karnataka (38%), and Uttar Pradesh (52%), where the implementation of these farm loan waiver schemes has been abysmal in terms of the proportion of eligible farmers who have been able to avail themselves of the announced benefits.²¹

The land has been a social justice issue for Adivasis rather than just an economic one. Land rights are important to Adivasis for two reasons: redistribution of resources and aspirations for recognition as a distinct identity. According to the Land Transfer Regulation, only Adivasi people are permitted to receive any kind of land transfer including Government-owned forest land. The reality, however, shows a very different picture, with Adivasis being forced off their lands because they lack legal proof that they own the property where generations of their family have resided.²²

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare received a total of Rs. 28,705.64 Cr. from the Union Budget 2023–24, of which Rs. 18894.59 Cr. is designated for SCs and Rs. 9811.05 Cr for STs. When compared to the prior year, the department's allocation to the SC and ST budget decreased by Rs. 2,372.56 Cr.

12. Access to Justice

A nine-year-old boy from the Dalit community in Rajasthan died after he was beaten by his school teacher for drinking water from a pot that had been kept aside for the teacher. Such ongoing violence and injustice against members of India's Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a perfect example of the caste-based attitudes and prejudices that permeate all aspects of our society and calls for multifaceted national action. The number of atrocities committed against the members of these communities has not decreased even after three decades of the implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act. Atrocities/crime against Scheduled Castes have increased by 1.2% in 2021 (50,900) when compared to

the total number of crimes against Scheduled Castes in 2020 (50,291 cases). In 2021, Uttar Pradesh (13,146 cases) had the highest number of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs), accounting for 25.82% of all cases, followed by Rajasthan with 14.7% (7524) and Madhya Pradesh with 14.1% (7,214). Furthermore, as per the NCRB report, Atrocities/Crimes against Scheduled Tribes have increased by 6.4% in 2021 (8,802 cases) over the total number of atrocity cases against Scheduled Tribes in 2020 (8,272 cases). Madhya Pradesh (2627, cases) reported the highest number of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes (STs) accounting for 29.8% followed by Rajasthan with 24% (2121 cases) and Odisha with 7.6% (676 cases) during 2021.

Violence against Dalit and Adivasi women is also on the rise. Cases of rape against SC women (including juveniles) account for 7.64% of all reported incidences, whereas crimes against ST women account for 15%. The report also contains detailed data on incidences of rape involving Dalits. Instances of minor rape, attempted rape, attacks on women to violate their modesty, and kidnapping of women and minors were reported by a combined 16.8% of SC women and 26.8% of ST women.

Including instances from the previous year, there were a total of 70,818 incidents of atrocities against Scheduled Castes that were still under investigation which accounts to 96.0% of the pending cases in the courts at the end of 2021. Similar to this, there were 12,159 atrocities against Scheduled Tribe cases that needed to be investigated accounting to 95.4% by the end of 2021. Conviction percentage under the SCs and STs (PoA) Act in conjunction with the Indian Penal Code (IPC) remained at 36.0% for SCs and 28.1% for STs.²³

It is deeply concerning to hear that despite being banned, manual scavenging continues to claim lives in our country. The recent statement made by the Union government that no one had died from manual scavenging in the previous three years is hard to believe. The fact that 233 people died "due to accidents while performing hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks" during this time period is a tragic reminder of the dangers of this practice and the urgent need to put an end to it.

21 The State Bank Of India Survey, 2022

22 A Study of the Land Rights of Adivasis in India, 202 : International Journal of Law Management & Humanities <https://www.ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/A-Study-of-the-Land-Rights-of-Adivasis-in-India.pdf>

23 <https://www.newsclick.in/NCRB-Report-Shows-Rise-Atrocities-Towards-Dalits-Adivasis#:~:text=Conviction%20percentage%20under%20the%20SCs,SCs%20and%2028.1%25%20for%20STs.>

Figure 7: Closing the Gap - Suggested Schemes

| | SC Schemes (Rs. Cr.) | ST Schemes (Rs. Cr.) | | SC Schemes (Rs. Cr.) | ST Schemes (Rs. Cr.) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Higher Education | | | School Education | | |
| Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls | 2,500 | 2,000 | 500 state of the art modern schools for SC/ST students | 3,000 | 2,000 |
| Top Class Residential Coaching for SC Students | 1,500 | 700 | Inclusion Cells in Schools | 300 | 200 |
| Boys Hostels in every district headquarters - 640 | 2,500 | 1,500 | Appointment of SC/ST Teachers in Rural Areas | 800 | 300 |
| girls hostels in every district head-quarters - 640 | 2,000 | 1,500 | Special Teacher Training Programme on Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion | 300 | 150 |
| Remedial coaching in english language | 500 | 250 | High class hostels for SC/ST Students at district headquarters | 6,000 | 3,000 |
| B.R Ambedkar Universities in 10 states - Punjab, Bengal, U.P, Bihar, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, M.P, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana | 40,000 | 20,000 | Appointment of Permanent SC/ST Women Cooks | 500 | 200 |
| Agri Coop | | | Skill Development | | |
| Minor irrigation programme for SC/ST farmlands | 700 | 600 | Training Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development for SC/ST Youth | 400 | 200 |
| Sustainable Agriculture Grants for SC/ST Farmers | 800 | 400 | Social Justice | | |
| Horticulture and sericulture scheme for SC/ST | 350 | 250 | Implementation of SC/ST POA Act | 6,500 | 3,500 |
| Agriculture Research | | | Finance Development Corporation for SC Woman | 5,000 | 2,500 |
| Agricultural Training Institute for SC/ST | 600 | 350 | Insurance scheme for Criminally assaulted SC/ST Woman | 1,000 | 500 |
| AHDF | | | Scaling up NFSC to all SC PhD Students | 800 | 400 |
| District Level SC/ST Dairy Cooperatives Scheme | 600 | 250 | Pre-Medical Coaching and Scholarship for SC/ST Students | 500 | 200 |
| Livestock Development Fund for SC/ST Family | 550 | 350 | Special fund for protection and empowerment of SC/ST Woman | 400 | 200 |
| Small Scale Entrepreneurship Fund for Goat, Pig, Hen and Cow Breeding | 300 | 250 | Special Development funds for Nomadic, semi-nomadic and Vimuktajatis of SCs and STs. | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| DWS | | | Establishment of Centers in Universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy | 7,000 | 3,000 |
| Community Well Regeneration Scheme in SC/ST Localities | 800 | 400 | Special Fast Track Court for Speedy Trail of SC/ST Cases | 5,000 | 2,000 |
| Provision for Drinking Water for SC/ST families | 1,200 | 500 | SC & ST fellowship for non-NET research students | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Health Family Welf | | | Compensation to Victims | 3,000 | 1,000 |
| Modernization of Health Centres in SC/ST Areas | 1,500 | 1,000 | B.R Ambedkar Centres for learning and libraries in SC ST dominated districts | 1,000 | 500 |
| Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls | 2,400 | 1,000 | Rehabilitation of Women Ex. Manual Scavengers | 2,500 | 0 |
| Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Families | 1,500 | 700 | Formation of Special POCSO Courts to Trail SC/ST Cases | 6,000 | 3,000 |
| Superspeciality hospital for Malaria, TB, Hypertension, sickle cells, and other diseases in SC/ST Areas. | 16,000 | 9,000 | Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST Woman | 8,000 | 6,000 |
| Health Contingency fund at Municipal level for SC/ST community | 1,300 | 800 | National Single Window Helpline for SC/ST Students | 400 | 200 |
| Housing | | | Fellowships for SC- ST students under exchange programmes to foreign universities | 2,000 | 800 |
| Ambedkar Model Housing Scheme | 5,000 | 1,000 | Establishment of SC - ST Research institutes | 2,500 | 700 |
| Birsa Munda Model Housing Scheme | 0 | 2,500 | Tribal Affairs | | |
| Housing Scheme in Disaster prone for SC/ST Families | 4,000 | 2,000 | Innovation fund for Tribal Cooperatives and Tribal Entrepreneurship | 3,200 | 2,000 |
| Housing Loan on Subsidised Interest rate to SC/ST Man/Women | 2,400 | 1,200 | Special fund for FRA Implementation | 750 | 450 |
| Savitri Bai Phule SC/ST Woman Housing Programme | 2,000 | 1,500 | Special fund for implementation of PESA in Schedule Areas | 0 | 340 |
| Labour & Employment | | | Special Mission for Development of Minor Forest Produce | 0 | 350 |
| Rehabilitation and Protection of SC Child Labour | 800 | 500 | Model Schools for SC/ST Girls | 5,200 | 2,500 |
| Top class coaching for competetive exams | 500 | 300 | Schools of international Standard at State Level for SC/ST Students | 8,000 | 5,500 |
| Establishment of Employment Centre for SC/ST Labour | 2,500 | 1,500 | Special Development Fund for most Vulnerable Tribal Groups | 0 | 1,200 |
| MSME | | | Women Child | | |
| Standup Fund for Unemployed SC | 5,000 | 3,000 | Establishment of Mini health centres in SC/ST Habitants | 2,600 | 1,100 |
| SC/ST Innovation fund for employment generation activities | 2,400 | 2,000 | Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Women | 1,000 | 582 |
| Cedit Support Program for SC/ST educated unemployed youth for Self Employmnt | 2,500 | 1,500 | Special Child Protection Mission for SC/ST Children | 600 | 300 |
| Special SC/ST Women Employment Fund | 1,500 | 1,200 | Targeted Health Coverage for Migrants SC/ST Children | 1,000 | 1,500 |
| Market Development Programme for SC/ST Farmers Product | 600 | 300 | Appointment of SC/ST Caretakers | 100 | 200 |
| Rural Development | | | Rehabilitation of Trafficked SC/ST Women | 500 | 500 |
| Unemployment Allowance for SC/ST BPL Individual/Families | 700 | 300 | Continued ... | | |
| Restoration of Alienated land for STs | 0 | 500 | | | |

Figure 7: Suggested Schemes for SC ST Budgets

| | SC Schemes (Rs. Cr.) | ST Schemes (Rs. Cr.) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| WR RD GR | | |
| Canal Construction Programme for SC/ST farmland | 1,500 | 800 |
| Water Catchment Area Development Programme for SC/ST | 600 | 500 |
| Youth Sports | | |
| Special Sports program for SC/ST youths under Khelo India | 1,500 | 900 |
| Overseas Training for SC/ST Sports Persons | 600 | 500 |
| Grand Total | 203,991 | 115,672 |

NOTE 1: 1. In the Union Budget FY2023-24 with reference to Fig -1 Total Targeted Schemes for SCs is Rs 30,475 Cr. and STs Rs 24,384 Cr. with the total gap of SC allocation is Rs. 1,73,516.43 Cr. and Rs.91,287.51 Cr. for STs. The above table details of suggested schemes are for closing the Gap in the allocation.

It is heartening to know that 199 of the 233 people who died in these incidents have received compensation under Supreme Court guidelines established in 2014. The atrocious practice of manual scavenging still continues to force Dalits to get into sewers, unprotected, for mere pennies.

It is demoralizing to see that the allocation for the implementation of the PoA Act, which aims to protect the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, has been so inadequate in the past. The previous year's allocation of only Rs. 600 Cr is a clear indication of the lack of priority and urgency given to this crucial issue. The growing atrocities against the protected communities in our country is a pressing concern that requires immediate attention and action.. An allocation of Rs. 1500 Cr is what is truly needed to tackle this issue head-on and provide the necessary resources for the implementation of the PoA Act. However, this year's allocation for the implementation of POA Act has been reduced and capped at Rs 500 cr for the FY 2023-24.

13. Schemes for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

PwDs are further marginalised amongst the oppressed caste groups that are already battling for social security, well-being and survival. According to Census 2011, the overall PwD population in India is 2.6 crore (2.21%), with SC PwD accounting to 2.45% and ST PwD accounting to 2.05%.

While significant attention has been paid to the issue of women with disabilities, caste remains an unexplored territory, particularly in discussions about reservation for people with disabilities. Among persons with disabilities, only about 12% complete the primary level of education.

Less than 3% persons with disabilities among Dalits are secondary graduates against about 7% and 4% among general and other backward castes respectively. Less than 1% of persons with disabilities among Dalits and STs are graduates against about 3% among upper castes.

According to a caste-segregated examination of PwD status, 89.1% and 89.8% of SC and ST with disabilities, respectively, do not obtain assistive aid-help due to a lack of affordability through personal resources and a lack of awareness about these choices. This worsened during the COVID-19 epidemic, with little to no vital services and resources available to underprivileged areas.

The budget for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in the Union Budget 2023-24 is Rs. 112.88 Cr for SCs and Rs. 58.48 Cr for STs, compared to Rs. 117.09 Cr and Rs. 60.66 Cr, respectively, in the FY 2022-23. The DEPwD's well-funded initiatives include:

- 1) Scheme for the Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA)
- 2) Assistance to Disabled Persons for the Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances
- 3) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme
- 4) Scholarship for students with disabilities
- 5) Support to National Institutes

Because there is no caste-based reservation policy, there are just general-flow plans. However in the budget 2023-

Table 1: Age-Wise Distribution of Persons with Disabilities across Social Groups

| Age Range | Dalits | ST | OBC | Others | Total |
|-----------|--------|------|------|--------|-------|
| 0-4 | 10.4 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 9.7 |
| 5-9 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 10.2 | 11.7 |
| 10-14 | 12.4 | 12.6 | 12.1 | 11.3 | 12 |
| 15-19 | 9.9 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.1 |
| 20-29 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.5 | 16.8 | 15.8 |
| 30-39 | 13.1 | 12.8 | 12.7 | 13.0 | 12.8 |
| 40-49 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 10.6 | 10.2 |
| 50-59 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.1 |
| 60> | 8.5 | 9.9 | 10.7 | 11.7 | 10.7 |

Source: https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/New_files/India/Dalits_with_disabilities_IIDS_working_paper_pdf
http://www.nhfdc.nic.in/upload/nhfdc/Persons_Disabilities_31mar21.pdf

24, Rs.16.73 Cr has been allocated for Scholarship for students with disabilities for SCs and Rs. 10 Cr for STs.

For the Scheme Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances allocation for SCs is Rs. 40.67 Cr and Rs. 21.07 Cr for STs.

For the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme the allocation for SCs is Rs. 21.58 Cr and Rs. 9.31 Cr for STs.

14. Disaster Management and Climate Budget

Disaster Management and Mitigation

The year 2022-23 was yet another period of multiple disaster events in different parts of the country. With the IPCC draft 6th Assessment Report (2021) projections on climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for South Asia, and forecasts of rampant, intense and frequent forest fires, heatwaves, water stress and flooding, shifts in weather conditions have raised an alarm for India as well. Notably, the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (2019) recorded an increase of 18.2% fatalities (from 6,891 to 8,145 deaths) due to forces of nature between 2014-2019. These include deaths due to lightning, heat/sun stroke, floods and exposure to cold, landslide, and cyclones²⁴.

It is against the magnifying disaster risks and calamities that budgetary allocations for disaster management and mitigation need to be studied. The total outlay for disaster management in MHA's budget has been reduced by 20% from (BE) Rs 492.78Cr in 2022-23 to (BE) Rs 393.65Cr in 2023-24. The allocations in RE 2022-23 plummeted by 60% from BE 2022-23. The National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP), Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the World Bank is allocated Rs 110.00Cr in 2023-24 for administrative expenses. The decline in allocation for NCRMP could likely be on account of the completion of the project in September 2022 (NDMA, Gol, Annual Report 2020-21). The reduction in allocations of MHA could be owing to the decentralised nature of disaster management functions. With the state governments as primary authority on disaster management, the MHA assistance is largely restricted to providing immediate relief to support to the States in times of rare severity and natural calamities to supplement the funds from the SDRF.

Exemption of Disaster Management from AWSC & AWST

The ministry of finance has allocated Rs. 8780 Cr. to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and Rs 10928Cr. to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in 2023-24. The assistance to states from NDRF was reduced from Rs. 10408Cr. (BE) to Rs.6400 Cr (RE) in 2022-23, with only 5% increase in allocation for 2023-24. It is important to note that based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the Centre allocated Rs 32,031Cr to the SDMF and Rs 13,693 crore to the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) for 2021-22 to 2025-26. Moreover, the disaster risk reduction schemes have been merged with the development schemes and therefore are difficult to be tracked.

The NDRF /SDRF Norms of Assistance, due to their inherent design, have resulted in default exclusion of the landless, homesteadless and sharecroppers/tenant farmers and daily wage losses of informal workers in particular from accessing relief assistance for their losses and damages in disasters. This has been unearthed and established by NCDHR's Climate and Disaster Resilience unit, National Dalit Watch²⁵ through a series of social inclusion assessments of damages and losses in disasters over the decade along with civil society and media. The allocations for disaster relief and mitigation are non-targeted by reason of exemption from DAPSC and DAPST, and absence of disaggregated data have rendered the allocations unamenable to fund flow and output and outcome analysis for SCs and STs communities even as they face disparate consequences of disasters.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Climate change has increased the occurrences of disasters, and aggravated the prevailing inequalities in the availability, access and realization of quality public services, social protection schemes and sustainable livelihood opportunities. It impacts the marginal landholders, landless and homestead less, chiefly constituted of SC and ST communities, iniquitously. They are deprived of secure livelihood, and resilient shelters, and dwell in precarious conditions threatening women, young girls and children more without water and sanitation infrastructure and livelihood assistance

24 <https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/ADSI-2019-FULL-REPORT.pdf> p.9

25 <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/ndw-publications/>

for lack of land ownership. While leapfrogging in climate commitments, the Economic Survey 2022-23 has very pertinently acknowledged that the jobs that are likely to be created in the so-called 'green economy' are tilted towards skill and technology-intensive than in traditional industries. This implies that without targeted budgets for climate-resilient livelihood options both on-farm and off-farm, these communities would be ill-prepared to eke out a living with dignity and security since a majority of them are engaged in informal labour. It is against these climate risk and impact scenarios that India's climate budget for adaptation and mitigation becomes vital for SCs and STs.

In 2022-23, India and the world witnessed a significant enhancement in climate commitments by the various countries, and the historic decision to institute a Loss and Damage Fund, at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Egypt, in November 2022, to compensate the vulnerable countries suffering disproportionate impacts of climate change. During the intervening period between CoP26 to Cop27 the Government of India advanced noteworthy initiatives. In a nutshell, the Cabinet approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), translating into a transition to greener economic growth and clean energy; net zero emissions by 2070; reduced Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45% and 50% of cumulative electric non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030, and the launch of the campaign LiFE, 'Lifestyle for Environment'. In all this, what are the budget outlays for making SC/ST communities climate resilient is a key question as the global commitments get implemented nationally, invoking the equity principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities for being disproportionately impacted with lesser capacity to recoup without the state's intervention.

India's Climate Goals

India's climate actions are operationalized through the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises eight missions. These pertain to solar energy, energy efficiency, water, sustainable agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, health, green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change to combat against climate change. Different ministries/departments implement the programmes and schemes under the NAPCC monitored by the Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Therefore, in the absence of a consolidated national climate budget and statement, accessing information about the fund flow has remained onerous and unviable for analysis.

Among various climate change schemes, the total budget of the National Green India Mission has been allocated Rs. 220.00 Cr in 2023-24, of which only 6.82% has been allocated for SCs, and 9.09% for STs. Furthermore, the National Adaptation Fund has no budgetary allocation in BE 2023-24, from being halved to Rs 30.00Cr (RE) in 2022-23. Consequently, the already insufficient allocations for SCs and STs in previous years have been deprived of allocations in 2023-24.

Similarly, the National Coastal Mission (NCM) budget was slashed from BE Rs 195.00Cr to RE of Rs 4.00Cr, with Rs 12.50Cr (BE) for 2023-24. The scheme is meant to ensure livelihood security of coastal communities including fisher-folks, to conserve and protect the coastal stretches. Within the scheme, the allocations for SC & ST have remained negligible to nil over the past 3 years. It is difficult to comprehend how such low allocations would deliver its objectives considering that close to 5,700 km coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis²⁶. The Climate Change Action Plan/programme as well has not been allocated budget even though the previous allocations too were egregiously low, rendering the paltry allocations for SCs and STs insignificant and aimless.

The agriculture ministry has allocated 16.62% for SCs and 8.63% for STs of its Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) budget of Rs 113655.00Cr. However, the normative allocations remain elusive without explicit targets to cover SC and ST beneficiaries. Within the ministry's budget, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana's (PMFBY) BE is Rs. 13625.00Cr, of which the allocations for SCs and STs have remained static at Rs. 2666.94Cr. and Rs 1381.26Cr as the 2023-24 BE. The earmarking for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme too has remained constant at Rs. 60,000Cr as the RE 2022-23²⁷, of which 16.98% has been earmarked for SCs and 8.66% for STs. Notably, of the marginally increased budget for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna at Rs 7150.35Cr, Rs. 1307.79Cr (18.29%) and Rs. 950.00Cr (13.29%) have been allocated for SC and STs, marking a 11% and 39.51% increase from the RE 2022-23 but marginal increase from BE 2022-23.

26 https://nidm.gov.in/easindia2014/err/pdf/country_profile/India.pdf

These schemes focus on the expansion of cultivable area, increased production, training farmers and so on. From the climate resilience perspective, they are of significance to the SC/ST small and marginal landholders being confronted with persistent droughts and drought-like situations due to erratic rainfall and climatic conditions. However, the schemes remain universal in nature without specifying the intended coverage of SC/STs.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been allocated (BE) Rs 69684.75Cr, which is 16.84% increase from BE 2022-23. JJM constitutes 90% of the Ministry of Jal Shakti/Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation's BE 2023-24. The allocations for SCs and STs have remained above 22% and 10% under the scheme in the last three years, with a slightly downward curve observed from AE 2020-21 to 2022-23. Climate change has resulted in spatial and temporal variation in rainfall pattern, ensuing in diminished surface storage and further exploitation for commercial and household usage. Hence, ensuring piped water connection to the SC and ST households who face special hardship in accessing potable water particularly in rural areas becomes paramount.

Similarly, Swachh Bharat Mission- Rural (SBM-Gramin) being implemented by the Ministry under the NAPCC's National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH), has been allocated Rs. 7192.00Cr, the same BE 2022-23, with 18.84% allocations for the SCs and 8.56% for STs. However, both these schemes implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti/Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation are universal in nature and therefore infeasible to ascertain the SC and ST coverage notwithstanding the proportionate allocations.

It is to be noted that the conditionality for 5%-10% beneficiary contribution for the piped-water connection and homestead landownership for SBM have precluded the SC/STs from availing these vital life-saving public services even as they grapple with recurrent drought and floods and resultant agrarian distress, loss of land and biodiversity, poor access to water and sanitation impacting reproductive and child health in perilous ways, as also recognized in the SBM guidelines.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MoNRE) BE for 2023-24 is Rs. 9874.81Cr, which is an understandably

enormous 45% increase from BE 2022-23 in view of transition to renewable energy sources, viz. solar power, wind power, bio and hydrogen power. Among them, Solar Power bagged 75.61% of the Ministry's total central sector scheme budget. As per scheme description in the Ministry's Demand No. 71, 3 lakh solar street lights, distribution of 25 lakh solar study lamps and installation of solar power packs had to be installed. However, the Outcome Budget 2023-24²⁸ reveals concentration on creation of solar parks, rooftop solar panels and cells, domestic manufacturing of solar modules and cells, barring the only direct benefit scheme of Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM), which is for installation of solar powered agriculture pumps. This scheme too is silent on the intended coverage of SC/ST household and villages. Overall, the ministry has allocated 119% more for SCs from Rs 364.00 Cr. in BE 2022-23 to Rs. 799.00Cr. in 2023-24. This however, the enhanced outlay marks a 45% increase from RE 2022-23. Equally, for the STs, the Ministry's total allocation for STs stands at Rs. 572.00Cr in accordance with RE 2022-23. Going by the AWSC and AWST earmarking norms, the allocation for SCs is 10.70% and 7.66% for STs.

India is yet to have its Climate Policy and 'Climate Budget Statement' delineating adaptation and mitigation financing. The reduction in social spending, such as, MGNREGA, can lead to maladaptation and greater vulnerability to climate shocks, despite the allocations to the AWSA and AWST for climate adaptation. However, the absence of clear SC/ST target-oriented outputs and outcomes, indicators, and results risk defeating the purpose for earmarking. They are prerequisites to tracking the progress of programmes objectives and rationalising the fund flow for the target communities. The finance minister in her budget speech has announced new schemes for ecological conservation in, namely, GOBAR-DHAN, PM-PRANAM, MISHTI. However, they would also have to be spell out SC/ST oriented targets specifying the intended and actual coverage and benefits of climate actions to the SC / ST communities.

15. Child Rights

Children account for 40% of the overall population, and have been important stakeholders in the budget, particularly those from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled

27 A merger of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna-Per Drop More Crop, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna, National Project on Soil and Health Fertility, Rainfed Area Development and Climate Change, Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization including Management of Crop Residue etc.

28 https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/OutcomeBudgetE2023_2024.pdf pg.179-181

Tribe communities. Targeted programmes for SC/ST children include

- 1) The National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme, which is Rs. 61 Cr for SC and Rs. 22 Cr for ST students,
- 2) The Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) is Rs. 2320.27 Cr for SC children and Rs. 1250.51 Cr for ST children. Dr Sylvia Karpagam, public health doctor and activist points out that " There is evidence to show that mid-day meals not only enhance school attendance and child nutrition but also help children to eat together and thus break some of the social norms around gender, caste and religion."
- 3) The National Child Labour Project, which includes subsidies to volunteer organisations and repayment of bonded labour support, costs just Rs. 3.32 Cr for SC and Rs. 1.72 Cr for ST.
- 4) Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others is Rs. 500 cr for SC and Rs. 411.63 Cr for ST under Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST.

Critical initiatives like Boys and Girls Hostels, National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao receive no funding from AWSC and AWST. The majority of the funds have been allocated through Samagra Shiksha, with Rs. 7534.96 Cr allocated through AWSC and Rs. 4130.55 Cr allocated through AWST.

The overall expenditure on children by the government of India for FY 2023-24 is Rs. 1,03,790.70 Cr, with the SC spending Rs. 14764.13 Cr (1.04% as against CS+CSS of SC) and the ST spending Rs. 5542.05 Cr (0.39% as against CS+CSS of ST).

The Department of School Education and Literacy has budgeted Rs. 12,876.01 Cr for AWSC and Rs. 6824.04 Cr for AWST. This sum has grown by 17% for AWSC and 12% for AWST over the previous year. The union government's spending on the child budget is terribly insufficient; it is critical to safeguard and boost expenditures to promote child rights.

The central government has merged general schemes such as Anganwadi services with Poshan Abhiyan-National Nutrition Mission, which is now known as 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' (includes Umbrella ICDS such as Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls), allocation for which has been made for SC Rs. 4740.48 Cr under AWSC, and for ST Rs. 2,007.01 Cr.

The enrolment rate for Dalit boys grew from only 47.7% to a meagre 63.25%, when compared to the dominant caste boys, enrolments jumped from an already relatively impressive 73.22% to 82.92%. Even poorer results were observed when looking at the Dalit girl's enrolment rate, which inched from 15.72% to 32.61%, when compared to their dominant caste counterparts whose enrolment climbed from 43.56% to 59.15% (Desai & Kulkarni).

Recommendations



1. Out of the total Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, there are approximately 50% of the Schemes numbering around 46 Schemes which are general with no physical targets for SCs or STs. It is recommended that the Finance Ministry and NITI Aayog to direct the concerned ministries to design clear physical targets and design transparent processes for SCs and STs to access these schemes.
2. There are about 50,000 Crores that are completely obsolete schemes which is considered a total diversion from the SC and ST welfare and development. These funds should be returned to the ministries for MOTA and MSJE and relevant schemes
3. All obligatory ministries should allocate population proportionate funds for Dalits and Adivasis as per the NITI Aayog guidelines of April 2018

Recommendations



4. Allocation to direct benefit schemes like Post-Matric Scholarships, hostels, skill development schemes should be increased and timely transfer of funds should be ensured to beneficiaries at all cost. A higher allocation for the National Overseas scheme should be implemented
 5. Allocation of 50% for Dalit women and a special component plan for Dalit women should be established with strong mechanisms to monitor and ensure effective implementation.
 6. Schemes for the rehabilitation of the women engaged in manual scavenging should be reintroduced and an adequate allocation to eliminate the practice should be in place. They have however introduced a new scheme called Namaste for mechanization of sanitation, it should be ensured that this should be given to women.
 7. All schools and hostels must be made disabled-friendly keeping in mind the needs of people with disabilities funds should provide to ensure this happens.
 8. Lack of legislative framework for implementation of SC & ST schemes has led to lack of implementation of most schemes. There is therefore an urgent need for passing of SCP/TSP legislation.
- 9A. With regard to climate action budgeting, the following recommendations are being made:
- a. Institute the National Climate Budget with earmarking for adaptation and mitigation by mainstreaming climate actions across the central sector and centrally sponsored programmes/schemes
 - b. Enhance the budget for climate actions under the AWSC and AWST proportionate to SC and ST population taking into consideration regional and socio-economic vulnerabilities and exposure to climate risks.
 - c. Mandate clear SC/ST targets and reporting for ministries earmarking for climate adaptation and mitigation schemes under AWSC and AWST
 - d. Adopt a matrix-based allocation and utilization of budgets for adaptation and mitigation disaggregated by caste and tribal status, gender, age and disability.
 - e. Specify the coverage targets for SCs and STs across climate adaptation and mitigation budgets under the AWSC and AWST
 - f. Converge the Climate Adaptation budget with the existing Gender budget, Child budget, and SC & ST welfare and development budgets
 - g. Introduce measures to include the landless, homestead less and sharecroppers under existing
- and new schemes/programmes for land allocation and alternative local and stable livelihood and income generation for climate resilience.
- h. Constitute a Special Authority for Climate Change Adaptation be created in order to conceive and implement such packages where in the locus of decision-making both pertaining to implementation administration and finances should be devolved to the Panchayat level to ensure immediate, ongoing and complete access to the SC-ST and other marginalized communities.
- 9B. The following recommendations are being made with regard to disaster management and mitigation financing:
- i. The regions/geographies most vulnerable to Climate Change and the resultant recurrent disasters and the most vulnerable populations in those regions (especially the SC-ST communities with pre-existing vulnerabilities imposed by caste, gender, ethnicity, and disability) should be identified based on the projections made using IPCC reports and other scientific studies.
 - j. Design special targeted packages that integrate immediate relief, relocation to safe locations when required and adaptation of livelihoods along with relevant and diversified skilling need to enhance their resilience.
 - k. Obligate AWSC and AWST allocations under the National Disaster Response Fund schemes to extend immediate assistance for the losses and damages of informal workers, landless and homesteadless to enable immediate recovery after disasters.
 - l. Obligate AWSC and AWST allocations under National Disaster Mitigation Fund to undertake targeted disaster mitigation projects/schemes for SC/STs.
 - m. Institute disaggregated data and targets for the existing and new central sector and centrally sponsored schemes on disaster relief and mitigation.
10. All schemes that have direct benefit transfers should be encouraged both for quickness of pace of transfer and to reduce transmission losses.
11. Allocation for the implementation of the PoA Act should be increased to prevent crime against Dalit women, men, children, people with disabilities and queer and trans persons. There is need for establishing clear mechanisms to provide protection and security to any victims of caste-based discrimination and violence. The current allocation is grossly inadequate. Special Courts should be set up for speedy trials of cases, and increased compensation should be given to victims of caste and ethnicity-based atrocities.

The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights is a forum launched in 1998, committed to the elimination of discrimination based on caste. A democratic secular platform led by Dalit women and men activists, with support and solidarity from movements and organizations, academics, individuals, people's organizations and institutions throughout the country who are committed to work to protect and promote human rights of Dalits. **Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA)** is a part of NCDHR and looks at the various economic rights of Dalits including education and entrepreneurship. It uses the Union and state Government budgets as the main vehicle to tracking schemes and entitlements of Dalits. It involves in advocacy with policy makers and executives in strengthening the existing policies and tracking it for accountability and transparency.



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