

Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis 2024-25



National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights-Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan

1. Introduction

This year is a crucial year for the country, as general elections will take place and it's a "vote on account" budget. Against the current background of the looming elections, this budget is critical to understanding the priorities of the government in power today. India today is the world's largest democracy and the world's fastest-growing market. India has surpassed China at a rate of 6.7% growth amidst several turmoil's and crisis around the world. India is well placed compared to a lot of countries around the world. Along with the economy, inequalities are also growing, and the government had an opportunity to ensure that adequate allocations to schemes and public entitlements for Dalits and Adivasis should have been given priority, but this was a lost opportunity.

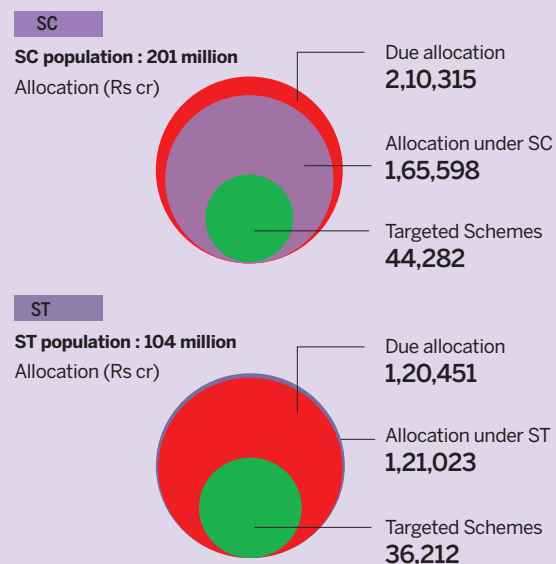
The total budget estimate this year is Rs. 51,08,780, out of which the allocation for SCs is Rs. 1,65,598 Crs and for STs it is Rs. 1,21,023. It is important to note that, as per the guidelines, it should have allocated 16.8% for Dalits and 8.6% for Adivasis, but an allocation of 11.5% for SCs and 8.4% for STs was made.

Out of this total allocation, it is sad to note that only about 3.1% of SCs and about 2.5% of STs actually have targeted benefits for the community; the rest of the money is notional.

In India, we have two main streams of Taxes – The Direct Taxes and Indirect Taxes. In 2017, The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced which brought in significant changes in the Tax system creating a unified indirect tax system reducing tax evasion and streamlining business processes. However the Direct tax system has a major lacunae which could not prevent corporations to evade taxes.

Figure 1: Budget For Scheduled Castes & For Scheduled Tribes -2024-25 (in Rs. Cr.)

	SC	ST
(a) Total Expenditure Budget Estimate 2024-25 (Note 1)	51,08,780	51,08,780
(b) Total Eligible Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Note 2)	14,41,237	14,39,780
(c) Due Allocation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Schemes as per the New Guidelines of NITI Aayog (Note 1)	2,10,315	1,20,451
(d) Allocation for SC Schemes (as per Statement 10A) and ST Schemes (as per Statement 10B)	1,65,598	1,21,023
(e) % of Allocation (e) = (d)% of (b)	11.5%	8.4%
(f) Targeted Schemes	44,282	36,212
(g) % of Targeted Allocation (g)=(f)% of (b)	3.1%	2.5%
(i) Total Gap in allocation (Due Allocation- Targeted Schemes) (i) = (c) - (f)	1,66,033	84,238



Source: Gov of India -Budget Expenditure Profile 2024-25 Ministry of Finance.

*Note-1: Total Expenditure through budget and resources of public enterprises, as per statement-1, Expenditure Profile, FY 2024-25

* Note-2: The Total eligible schemes have been designated by the NITI Aayog as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog Dated 1 April 2018, eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol.

Note 3: The due allocation under obligatory ministries/departments is calculated as per the new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog Dated 1 April 2018 available in eUthan Portal, MSJE, Gol. 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 the Budget 2024-25

1. The total allocation of this year for SCs has increased from Rs 159,126 Crs to Rs 1,65,598 and for STs it has increased from Rs 119,510 last year to Rs 1,21,023 Crs
2. From a total allocation of Rs. 1,65,598 only about Rs. 44,282 Crs actually goes directly to the SC Community and only about Rs. 36,212 Crs from the total allocation of Rs. 1,21,023 Crs to the tribals.
3. Despite growing incidences of violence against SC and ST women, there is only a marginal allocation of Rs. 168Cr for their access to justice. There is only one scheme pertaining to the same, namely 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of PCR Act, 1955, and the PoA Act, 1989', which focuses primarily on sensitization programs under Gender Budget.
4. It is good to see a marginal increase in allocation for the National Overseas Scholarship for SCs from 50 Crs to 95 Crs this year.
5. Despite a demand for an increase in post-matric scholarship, the budget this year is Rs. 6349 Crs for scheduled castes and Rs. 2374 Crs for scheduled tribes, a marginal increase from last year.
6. Eklavya Model schools have a significant allocation of Rs. 6399 Crs under the ST budget.
7. It is disappointing to see that an allocation for PVTGs has dropped drastically to Rs. 20 Crs from last year's Rs. 256 Crs.

Table 4 Tax raised but not realised 2013-2023 illustrates the direct tax collection over the last 10 financial years between FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23, a total of Rs 1,15,68,979 Crores have not been realized under Corporation tax, income tax, Customs, Union Excise Principal tax that includes amounts under both disputed and not-disputed groups.

However, this total non-realized tax amount of Rs 1,15,68,979 Crores money could have been effectively utilized towards provision of housing, entrepreneurship, quality education and water and sanitation needs of at least 100 mill poorest of the poor – SC, ST and other poor. Instead corporations and businesses have been allowed to evade tax in addition to the concessions they already receive from the Govt.

Figure 1a: Tax not realised against corporation tax, income, custom, excise duty & service tax

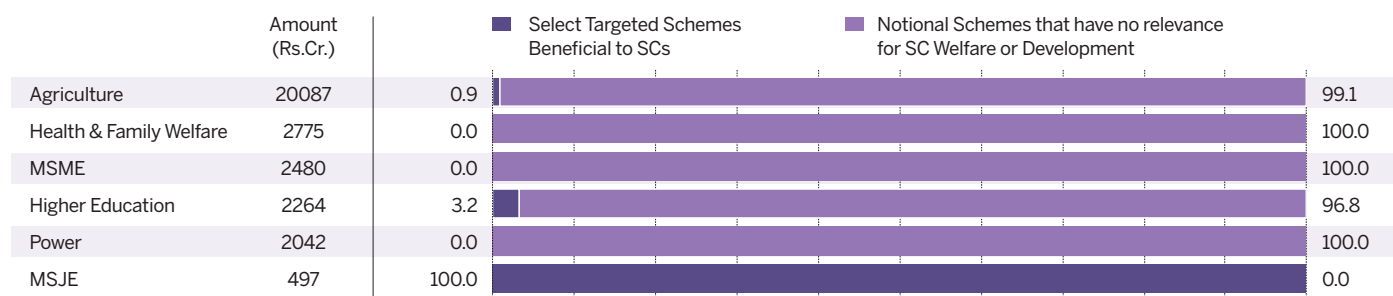
Total tax not realised excluding CGST & IGST (in Rs. Cr.)

	Corporation Tax	Taxes on Income	Customs	Union Excise	Service Tax	Total	
2013-14	1,92,013	2,83,706	14,444	49,796	43,388	5,83,347	
2014-15	2,63,674	3,00,729	15,546	51,505	69,307	7,00,761	
2015-16	3,43,915	3,15,216	15,950	47,549	54,286	7,76,916	
2016-17	3,83,091	3,47,955	17,216	58,701	65,731	8,72,693	
2017-18	4,68,668	2,63,622	13,521	63,014	90,832	8,99,657	
2018-19	4,88,264	4,52,828	14,783	61,365	91,958	11,09,198	
2019-20	5,96,649	5,27,032	23,321	58,298	92,433	12,97,733	
2020-21	7,65,375	6,75,880	22,408	56,542	99,093	16,19,298	
2021-22	6,88,828	7,01,823	26,233	59,062	1,05,770	15,81,716	
2022-23	9,95,446	9,31,901	31,766	58,552	1,09,994	21,27,659	
Total	39,98,464	35,85,085	1,48,977	4,56,036	6,69,411	1,15,68,979	

Source: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in>

Figure 1b: Select Targeted vs Notional Schemes under SC Budget in FY 2023-24 BE

Break-up of Targeted vs Non-Targeted Schemes



Select Targeted Schemes Beneficial to SCs

Scheme	Amount (Rs.Cr.)
Agriculture	
Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)	174
Total	174
MSJE	
National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation	10
National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	15
Coaching and Guidance for SC,ST and Other Backward Classes	15.25
National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	50
National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme	61
National Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe Hub Centre	60
Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes	70
Top Class Education for SCs	111
Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High School in Targeted Area (SRESHTA) for SCs	104.65
Total	496.9
Higher Education	
PM Research Fellowship	72
Prime Minister's Girls' Hostel	1.5
Total	73.5
Grand total	744.4

Notional Schemes that have no relevance for SC Welfare or Development

Agriculture	
Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea & Import of Urea	11,210.24
Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers	3,652
Crop Insurance Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	2,666.94
Krishionnati Yojana Digital Agriculture	1,075.96
Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna	1,307.79
Total	19,912.93
MSME	
Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers	2,480.00
Total	2,480.00
Power	
Reform Linked Distribution Scheme	2,042.41
Total	2,042.41
Health & Family Welfare	
Infrastructure Maintenance Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)	1,696.08
Human Resources for Health and Medical Education Establishment of New Medical Colleges and Increase of Seats in existing Government Medical Colleges (PMSSN)	1,079
Total	2,775.08
Higher Education	
Grants to Central Universities (CUs)	722
Support to IISc and IISER	147
Support to Indian Institutes of Technology	565
Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIST*	330
World Class Institutions*	295
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)*	63
Assistance to Other Institutions*	36
Deemed Universities promoted by Central Government	32
Total	2,190
Grand Total	26,920.42

Grants to Central Universities (CUs)

The above table reveals that there are good number of schemes but the allocation is less and there a number of irrelevant schemes, where the allocation is huge, but unfortunately these schemes hardly give benefit to the communities. For instance, there is a scheme called Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) where the allocation is only Rs 174 Cr under Ministry of Agriculture, and gives benefit to the communities, but there are number of irrelevant schemes under the same Ministry where the is Rs 19,913 Cr which is huge amount but that hardly give benefit to the communities. Similarly, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, there are many good and effective number of schemes which give direct benefit to the communities, but the allocation is very less.

2. Analysis of Utilization-Budget Credibility

Budget credibility is the extent to which government budgets are implemented by comparing actual revenues and expenditures with approved budget estimates. In developing countries like India, SC budgets are underutilized, which is a common phenomenon across the country. For instance, according to statements 10A and 10B, under the Union Budget, published by the Ministry of Finance, in FY 2019–20, under the SC Budget, 20% of funds were unspent, followed by 14% of funds in FY 2020–21. This underutilization violates the very concept of budget credibility. According to the Budget Credibility Concept, if the deviation between the approved budget and budget utilization is more than 10%, then it can be considered as Budget Credibility. Similarly in FY 2019–20, under the ST Budget, 11% of funds were unspent. These figures, however, are provided by CAG, which is the supreme audit department in India.

A deeper analysis of scheme credibility reveals that a lot of schemes are facing challenges in implementing them properly. Over the last five years, i.e., from FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22, some of the most important schemes, like “Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)” where the total allocation for the last five years between FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22 was Rs 3,322.51 Cr, the fund utilization was Rs 2,086.61 Cr and the fund non-utilization was Rs 1235.9 Cr that accounts for 37.2% of the total fund allocation, One more good scheme is “State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations,” where the total allocation was Rs 205 Cr for the SC communities, but utilization is 135.9 Cr resulting in 33.7% of the funds being unutilized. One more important scheme called the

“Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High School in Targeted Area (SRESHTA) for SCs,” where the total allocation was Rs 200 Cr of which the total utilization was Rs 38 Cr resulted in 80.99% non-utilization of funds. It's very important to point out that, under one of the best schemes called “National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation,” where the total allocation was Rs 725.6 Cr of which the total fund utilization was Rs 518.2 Cr, resulting in Rs 207.4 Cr of non-utilization that accounts for 28.6% of the total allocated fund.

There are some general schemes where fund utilization is comparatively better than effective schemes. For instance, in a scheme called “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan),” the fund allocation for the above-mentioned financial period was Rs 35,837.48 Cr, of which the fund utilization was Rs 22,315.20 Cr, as a result of which only 37.7% of funds have been found to be non-utilized. One more general scheme called “Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)/National Rural Drinking Water Mission Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme—Normal Programme,” where the total fund allocation was Rs 22,698.6 Cr of which the total fund utilization is Rs 19,167 Cr resulted in only 15.6% non-utilization of funds.

There are some non-targeted schemes where the fund utilization is more than 100%; for instance, there is a scheme called “Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea,” where the total allocation was Rs 5,211.3 Cr of which the total fund utilization was Rs 8712.5 Cr, resulting in more fund utilization by Rs 3501.3 Cr that accounts for 167% of the total fund allocation. One more non-targeted scheme is the Urea Subsidy Scheme for the import of urea and indigenous urea. The total allocation is Rs 2,699.8 Cr of which the utilization is Rs 4,513.7 Cr which accounts for 167% of the total allocated fund. Regarding targeted and effective schemes like the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the total allocation over the last five years is Rs 1,533 Cr and the utilization is Rs 1,308 Cr accounting for 85.3% of the underutilization. Regarding the general scheme, there is a good scheme called “Employees’ Pension Scheme, 1995,” where the total allocation is Rs 2,448.9 Cr and utilization is Rs 3,471.8 Cr accounting for 141.8% of utilization. In FY 2022–23, the total fund allocation under the SC budget is Rs 1,42,342 Cr and the utilization is Rs 1,33,008 Cr which accounts for 93% and under the ST budget, the total SC budget is Rs 89,265 Cr in same financial year, followed by Rs 92,176 Cr utilization, that accounts for 103%.

Figure 2a: Scheduled Castes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2024-25

	2024-25 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs. Cr.)	14,41,237
Due Allocations (Rs. Cr.) (*)	2,10,315
% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline	14.4%
Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	1,65,598
% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS	11.5%
Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	44,282
% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS	3.1%

*2024-25: 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 FY2024-25

Figure 2b: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2024-25

	2024-25 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs. Cr.)	14,39,780
Due Allocations (Rs. Cr.) (*)	1,20,451
% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline	8.2%
Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	1,21,023
% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	8.4%
Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	36,212
% Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS	2.5%

*2024-25: 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 STs and has named it as DAPST (Development Action Plan For Schedule Tribes) 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 8.16% in stead of 8.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile SCP & TSP Policy
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2024-25

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
2020-21 (BE)	8,98,430	1,39,172	15.5%	83,257	9.3%	16,174	1.8%
2021-22 (BE)	10,81,427	1,61,260	14.9%	1,26,259	11.7%	48,397	4.5%
2022-23 (BE)	12,30,836	1,82,976	14.9%	1,42,342	11.6%	53,795	4.4%
2023-24 (BE)	14,19,910	2,03,991	14.4%	1,59,126	11.2%	30,475	2.1%
2024-25 (BE)	14,41,237	2,10,315	14.4%	1,65,598	11.5%	44,282	3.1%
Total	60,71,840	8,97,714	14.8%	6,76,582	11.1%	1,93,123	3.2%

*FY 2024-25: 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 SCP & TSP Policy
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2020-21 to FY2024-25

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 SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS
2020-21 (BE)	8,95,043	77,034	8.1%	53,653	5.9%	19,428	2.2%
2021-22 (BE)	10,77,460	88,077	8.2%	79,942	7.4%	27,830	2.6%
2022-23 (BE)	12,26,282	98,664	8.2%	89,265	7.3%	43,586	3.6%
2023-24 (BE)	14,18,244	1,15,672	8.2%	1,19,510	8.4%	24,384	1.7%
2024-25 (BE)	14,39,780	1,20,451	8.2%	1,21,023	8.4%	36,212	2.5%
Total	60,56,808	4,99,897	8.3%	4,63,393	7.7%	1,51,440	2.5%

*FY 2024-25: 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 DAPST (Development Action Plan For Schedule Tribes) 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 8.2% in stead of 8.6% which is prescribed by earstwhile SCP & TSP Policy
Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2020-21 to FY2024-25

3. Livelihood

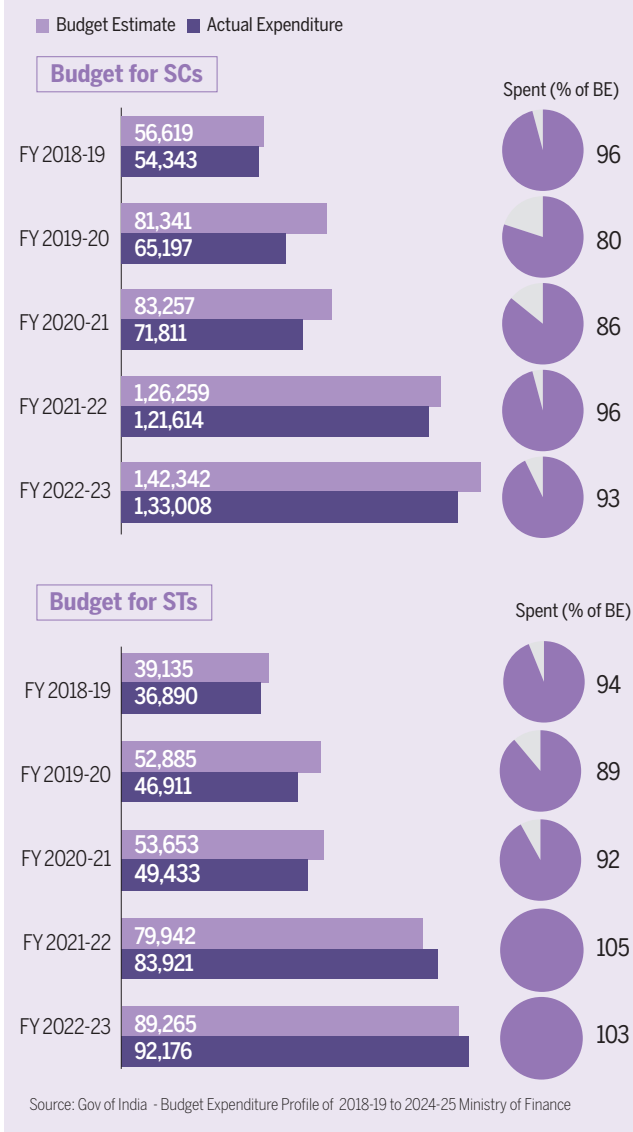
India is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. India has always been an inspiration and has been engineered to harbor goodwill and global development in various fields—people of Indian origin rule global politics, business, innovation, etc. Pick any first-world country, and you are sure to find Indians in positions or fields of practice that are shaping the economy and geopolitics of that country. While it is true that Indians are ruling globally, it is ironic to see the uncountable number of Dalits, Adivasis, and other marginalized communities still hanging by a thread in terms of livelihood in India.

Dalits in this country own only 8% of the land, which is shocking but not surprising because Dalits have been marginalized and atrocities have been committed since time immemorial. Adivasis, especially those dependent on forest produce for their livelihood, are continuously losing their livelihood as the country moves forward with forest conservation to create 'Carbon Sinks'. The ambiguity of the recent amendment to the Forest Rights Act has thrown a sharp blow on the face of forest dwellers, making Gram Sabha powerless in the position of safeguarding the interests of its people

According to the article titled "Development Project Vs. Internally Displaced Populations in India: A Literature-Based Appraisal" by Nalin Singh Negi and Sujata Ganguly¹, more than 50 million people have been displaced from forests from 1961 to 2011.

The MGNREGA scheme is one of the flagship employment guarantee schemes in India which has tremendously impacted the lives of millions of rural households in the country. In the last FY 2023-24, a total of Rs.60,000 Cr. was allocated under this scheme, of which Rs. 10,5000 Cr. was allocated from the SC budget and Rs. Cr was allocated from the ST budget. From the FY 2014 to 2021, allocation (BE) of Rs. 8310.0 cr. was done whereas the Actual Expenditure (AE) incurred was Rs. 137721.1 cr. which shows an over-expenditure of Rs 4462.1 Cr. from the SC budget and over expenditure of Rs. 4271.7 Cr. was from the ST budget. This is indeed a general scheme with huge allocations from the SC and ST budget. When the proposal for priority wage payment along the caste lines to the SCs and STs workers was raised, there was a huge backlash from the people in various states, which compelled the government to revoke its order in the year 2021. In this FY

Figure 3: Utilisation of funds for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Schemes in Union Budget FY18-19 to FY22-23 (Rs.Cr)



2024-25, Rs. 13250 cr from the SC budget and Rs.10355 cr. has been allocated under the MGNREGA scheme.

Under the PM-Kaushal Vikas Yojna, Rs. 2157.1 cr. has been allocated (BE) from the SC budget from the FY 2017-21 whereas the actual expenditure (AE) was Rs.1710.0 cr. and in the last FY2023-24, there was zero allocation under this scheme. There was zero allocation under the Credit Enhancement Guarantee Schemes for Scheduled Castes in the last FY 2023-24 and this year also there is no allocation under this scheme. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhoday Yojna (PM-AJAY) is one of the major schemes for the promotion of economic empowerment

¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336057705_Development_Projects_vs_Internally_Displaced_Populations_in_India_A_Literature_Based_Appraisal

of the Scheduled Caste community in the country. From the last FY 2017–2021, the budget allocation was Rs.1800 cr. and the actual expenditure was Rs.1820.3 cr. In the last FY of 2023-24, there has been an increase in allocation, and the total budget allocation was Rs.2050.0 cr which is a progressive step taken by govt. Similarly, under the PM Jan Jatiya Vikas Yojana (PMJVM), Rs. 288.5 cr. was allocated (BE) in the last FY 2023–24, which is also remarkable as there was no allocation done under this scheme in the last five FY 2017–21. In this current FY 2024-25, Rs.164.32 cr. has been allocated under PMJVM and Rs.2150 cr. has been allocated under PM-AJAY.

Dalits and Adivasis engaged in the fisheries and shipbreaking industries need immediate attention from the government because of the plight of people from the Dalit and Adivasi belts migrating to the shipbreaking industries, where they are exposed to various kinds of life-threatening hazards but with no work or life security. Dalit fishing communities are continuously forced into an identity crisis and special positions in their states to access their rights and entitlements. In the last financial year, Rs. 76.63Cr. (BE) was allocated from the SC budget under the Pradhan Mantri Kishan Sampada Yojana, which is Rs.60.50 cr. for this current FY of 2024–25. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna, the allocation for the last FY 2023-24 was Rs.336 cr. from the SC budget, and for this FY 2024-25, the allocation is 395.32 cr. From the ST budget, Rs. 182.56 cr. was allocated for the last FY of 2023-24 and now it has been increased to Rs.214.7 cr. for this FY 2024-25.

Despite the large sum of allocation, it is ironic to know that a large number of Dalits are landless and hence cannot access these two schemes, so it is critical to understand who is accessing these schemes and who is being benefited. There is a need to address these challenges and key questions. Landless Dalit fishing communities are on the verge of a crisis caused by climate change and the expansion of aquaculture; therefore, they need immediate attention to safeguard their livelihood.

4. Sanitation and Frontline Workers

PEMS Act of 2013 has legally prohibited the employment of the person as a manual scavenger in the country, after which flagship programs such as the ODF Open Defecation Free program were introduced by the ruling govt in the year 2014 which aimed at replacing the

insanitary toilets with the sanitary one and reaching every household with the concrete toilet. As per the govt data 10.9 Cr Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) have been built from the year of its inception. As per the Ministry of Jal Shakti, over one lakh Villages in India have declared themselves as Open Defecation Free Village. But delving deeper into the lives and the welfare of those engaged in the unclean occupation of cleaning such as Persons engaged as manual scavengers, sewage cleaners, and manhole workers and their rehabilitation, the intention of the government differs from what the act of 2013 directed to the government of India. The government denies the existence of people engaged in manual scavenging on the pretext of demolition of unsanitary pits into sanitary toilets. Government has not conducted a nationwide survey for the identification of the manual scavengers as directed by the Act of 2013, as per the National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) data, 58,098 people were identified and it further boasts that it has given One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) to all the identified people but has denied its failure in conducting survey nationwide as the two surveys conducted in the year 2013 and 2018 and only 530 districts out of 766 Districts in the country has declared them as Manual Scavenging free as per the justification posted by the Ministry of Social justice and empowerment.²

NAMASTE schemes have replaced the earlier scheme called Schemes for the rehabilitation of the Manual Scavengers(SRMS) from the year 2022 under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and it focuses more on the mechanization of the sanitation process while also aiming at upgrading the skills of those already engaged in Sanitation work, but it lacks and denies the systemic forcing of Dalits especially Valmiki community into the inter-generational forced work of cleaning. Rephrasing of name and new labeling/branding of the community is never going to cover the stinking attitude of society towards Dalits, which always finds a way to push Dalits back to pits. Denying the existence of the people still engaged in Manual Scavenging is only going to make them more marginalized and more vulnerable to multi-dimensional poverty.

Death of Sewage cleaning workers is becoming everyday news. The tragedy of Dalits and Adivasis hardly finds its place in the printed as well as Digital Media. Minister

² Justification of Manual Scavengers in Survey, posted on 26th July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1942851>

of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shree Ramdas Athawale told Lok Sabha that between 2018 and November of 2023, 443 people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks but the shadow reports of organizations such as Safai Karamchari Andolan give a contrasting figure of 1760 deaths in a row. In this era of Climate crisis, where water scarcity is going to engulf many parts of the world, would sanitary pits, and mechanization of cleaning processes that fuel water would solve the problem? Will it reach the rural areas where the people engaging in manual scavenging thrive in the fullest form? what are the sustainable alternatives we are hoping for and developing?

Prohibition of employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act of 2013 has crossed a decade and looking back in the last 10 years (FY 2014-15 to FY 22-23), a total Budget estimate (BE) of Rs.1273.2 cr. was made of which only 231.2 cr. was utilized in these 10 years. In 2022, the NAMASTE scheme was launched as a central sector scheme, and in FY 2023-24, the budget estimate of Rs.97.4 cr. was made. It is to be noted that the whole issue of Manual scavenging is being sternly turned or showcased as an issue of mechanization and no more as a Human rights issue, this shifting of perspective is dangerous for the Dalit community who are no longer looked at through the lens of Human rights. This renamed scheme lacks the welfare component for those engaged in manual scavenging.

Swachh Bharat Mission is a general scheme. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission- Rural, a total budget estimate of Rs.16527.9 was done from FY 2021-24 of which Rs.14209.8 cr. was the Actual Expenditure and the total unutilized amount was Rs.2318.1 cr. In the last FY of 2023-24, Rs. 1354.9 was the budget estimate and the same amount of allocation has been done for this FY 2024-25 from the SC budget and Rs.615.9 Cr. from the ST budget. Rs.10 Cr. was allocated to the National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Commission in the last FY of 2023-24 which now has been remarkably reduced to Rs.0.01 Cr. for this FY 2024-25.

5. Public Health

The provision of public health services is contingent upon

the presence of essential infrastructure, which serves as a crucial barometer for comprehending a nation's health care policy and welfare framework. To attain universal health care, India must show that it has the political will, the administrative know-how, and the democratic vision. Public health is fundamentally about social justice. India has never exceeded 1.1% of its GDP for health care, compared to the 3% target set by Alma Ata³. There are several significant reasons for this. Both the federal government and the states contribute to expenditure as a proportion of GDP, although historically, the federal government has done so in greater measure. The cost of running the government-run hospitals and paying nurses' wages is also included in this expense, which is mostly covered by the states, many of which struggle to provide sizable amounts of funding on their own⁴.

In India, caste has a significant influence on health outcomes, partly due to overt discrimination that severely restricts access to high-quality medical treatment. The fact that many members of scheduled castes are stuck in extreme poverty with little chance of upward mobility is another way that caste negatively affects health outcomes. According to the UN, about one in three Dalits experience multidimensional poverty, which restricts their access to even public hospitals. This poverty includes financial, educational, and basic infrastructural issues. There is a basic discrepancy between the locations of Indian healthcare institutions and Dalit communities. About 90% of Dalits reside in rural regions, even though more than three-quarters of health infrastructure and resources are found in metropolitan areas⁵. Due to the overpowering influence of more visible issues like uneven resource allocation and spending, inadequate service coverage, infrastructure gaps, a lack of human resources, affordability, and governance concerns, the prevalent conversations in public health in India have frequently tended to ignore questions of discrimination while examining the disparity in health status among social groups⁶.

India's universal healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, has difficulties in service acceptance following its launch in 2018. The senior management of Ayushman Bharat was perplexed by the target population's sluggish

3 The Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978 emerged as a major milestone of the twentieth century in the field of public health, and it identified primary health care as the key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All. For more details, please see https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/almaata-declaration-en.pdf?sfvrsn=7b3c2167_2

4 Desiraju, K. (2021). Issues in public health in India-Keynote address by Keshav Desiraju, former secretary of health and family welfare to the Government of India. *Journal of Public Health*, 43(Supplement_2), ii3-ii9.

5 Patel, R. (2023), <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/caste-out>

6 George, S. (2015). Caste and care: is Indian healthcare delivery system favourable for Dalits? (Vol. 350). Institute for Social and Economic Change.

service uptake of a free universal healthcare coverage plan⁷. Large-scale corruption in the payment of insurance claims was discovered in the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) report on the evaluation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), one of the two components of the Ayushman Bharat scheme. It stated that the State Health Authorities (SHAs) had not validated claims thoroughly enough before distributing them to hospitals that were empanelled under the programme. The disparity between the supply and demand of healthcare services, rising government spending on health, and inadequate funding for rural health centres remain significant obstacles despite the remarkable progress that has been made. One of the sustainable development goals of Ayushman Bharat is to help attain universal health coverage. By providing fair and affordable healthcare services to all Indians, the programme will effectively realize its mission⁸. From FY 2017-2021 the total allocation for prominent schemes like the Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana for SC is Rs. 3322.6 Cr. and the total utilization is Rs. 2086.6 Cr. The total allocation for the affordable medicine scheme like Jan Aushadi Scheme is just Rs. 4 Cr and the utilization for the same is Rs. 4.7 Cr. As for ST the total allocation for the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana from 2017-21 is Rs. 1533.2 Cr. and the total utilization is Rs. 1308.1 Cr. The total allocation for the affordable medicine scheme like the Jan Aushadi Scheme is just Rs. 3 Cr and the utilization for the same is Rs. 4.5 Cr.

In FY 2024-25 under the department of Health and Family welfare, Rs. 9404.33 Cr has been allocated to the SC and Rs. 4872.12 Cr to the STs. Similarly, the allocation under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) with support from Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) is Rs. 1240.55 Cr for SC and Rs. 704.05 Cr for STs. Under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN), Rs. 2493.27 Cr has been allocated to the SCs and Rs. 1334.57 Cr has been allocated to the STs. There has been an increase in the allocation under the PMJAY in FY 2024–25 for SC Rs.64.83 Cr. and ST Rs. 15.08 Cr. The allocation for the Jan Aushadi schemes this year for SC is Rs. 23.62 Cr and for ST it is Rs. 12.24 Cr.

6. Education Justice

Pre- Matric Scholarship

Education is key to ensuring development. In several ways, it aids in the individual's social standing advancement. A person may lead a desirable quality of life with the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and attitudes they learn through education. All people must have access to education and knowledge. Dalits' disadvantage in the educational system might be linked to past caste-based discrimination and economic and social marginalisation. Poverty and illiterate family situations are commonly blamed for the Dalit population's low educational attainment. Only public schools in India are subject to reservation laws and quotas for members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; private institutions are exempt. Furthermore, these laws still do not apply to Dalits who have converted to other religions, like as Islam or Christianity⁹.

People's life can be changed by education. Through education, members of lower castes are better able to question the laws and customs that work exclusively to benefit those from higher castes¹⁰. Various initiatives have been tried in India to boost the motivation for Dalit children to attend school.

A centrally supported scheme known as the Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students was launched on July 1, 2012. The scholarship is given to parents of SC/ST children to assist them in sending their kids to the 9th or 10th standard, with the goal of lowering dropout rates, especially during the transition from elementary to secondary school. However, the government has announced that the scheme would no longer be offered to the students in classes 1 to 8, since it will be covered by RTE¹¹. The allocation for the Pre matric scholarship for SCs from the FY 2017-21 is Rs. 1955 Cr and the utilization is Rs. 1671.2 Cr. The allocation for the Pre-matric scholarship for STs from the FY 2017-21 is Rs. 1775 Cr and the utilization is Rs. 1688.6 Cr.

This FY 2024-25 the allocation for the Pre-Matric Scholarship is Rs. 500 Cr for SC and others and Rs. 440.36

7 Pandey, N., Jha, S., & Rai, V. (2021). Ayushman Bharat: service adoption challenges in universal healthcare system. South Asian Journal of Business and Management Cases, 10(1), 35-49.

8 Grewal, H., Sharma, P., Dhillion, G., Munjal, R. S., Verma, R. K., & Kashyap, R. (2023). Universal Health Care System in India: An In-Depth Examination of the Ayushman Bharat Initiative. Cureus, 15(6).

9 Ranka (2014) https://www.academia.edu/8992185/The_scenario_of_education_in_Dalits

10 Raj et.al., (2020), <https://www.jcreview.com/admin/Uploads/Files/61a928b9832d86.84551291.pdf>

11 <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>

Cr for STs. The Central Share of scholarships awarded under the Pre- and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes is disbursed directly into the beneficiary's account using the Aadhar Based Payment System (APBS) as of FY 2022–2023.

Post- Matric Scholarship

One can see that relative to elementary and secondary education, the data on literacy and enrolment in higher education among Indian students belonging to Scheduled Castes indicates a lower figure for higher education¹².

15% of seats in universities are set aside for members of Scheduled Castes. Institutions of technical education also experience this. However, some reserved seats in higher education's technical and professional courses remain empty. Universities sometimes disregard the policies the University Grant Commission (UGC) (Government of India) established for Dalit students. More work must be done to guarantee that rules and quotas are implemented, as seen by the pervasive discrimination against Dalits across the board in the educational system¹³.

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 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 because of an increase in literacy rates, paving the way for the development of a healthy and developed nation¹⁴. The allocation for the Post matric scholarship for SCs from the FY 2017-21 is Rs. 15677.8 Cr and the utilization is Rs. 18042.4 Cr. The allocation for the Post matric scholarship for STs from the FY 2017-21 is Rs. 8439.6 Cr and the utilization is Rs. 9062.7 Cr.

In this union budget 2024-25 the allocation PMS for the Scheduled Caste is Rs. 6349.97Cr and for Scheduled Tribe its Rs. 2374.15Cr.

Focusing on higher education spending for the SC and

ST, the Department of Higher Education has allocated of Rs. 4180.60 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 2126.30 Cr for ST. Even though there is an allocation increase of 3.7% under AWSC and 3.2 % 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. 1103 Cr under AWSC and Rs.536 Cr under AWST; the University Grants Commission (UGC) allocating Rs. 425 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 225 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. 1103 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 536 Cr under AWST, Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIST is Rs. 353 Cr for SC and Rs. 201 Cr for ST, the gross budgetary support for All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is Rs. 60 Cr for SC and Rs. 24 Cr for ST, World Class Institution is Rs. 341 Cr for SC and Rs. 171 Cr for ST, Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Siksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) which used to be known as Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan is Rs. 315 Cr for SC and Rs. 178 Cr for ST, University Grants Commission (UGC) is Rs.425 Cr for SC and Rs.225 Cr for ST, Support to Indian Institute of Technology is Rs. 623 Cr for SCs and Rs.310 Cr for STs. All these schemes will make a total of Rs. 3220 Cr for SCs and Rs. 1645 Cr for STs and have been placed erroneously inside where they do not have any financial flows for the welfare and development of the SCs and STs.

The allocation for FY 2020–21 is Rs. 4008.60 Cr with 62.87 lakh beneficiaries, Rs. 1930.38 Cr with 30.25 lakh beneficiaries during FY 2021–22, and Rs. 4392.50 Cr with 46.41 lakh beneficiaries during FY 2022-23.

Another important scholarship for SC and 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's degree or Ph.D. courses. The three-year trend allocation of the NOS for

¹² Kamalakara (2023) https://www.academia.edu/106359341/Dalits_and_Higher_Education_in_India

¹³ (ibid,1-9)

¹⁴ 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

Figure 4: Relevance of Schemes for SCs & STs- Targeted, Non-Targeted (General) & Non-Targeted (Obsolete) in Union Budget FY 2024-25 (Rs Cr)

% allocation	30.5%	52.6%	16.9%
Fund allocation	Total Relevant ₹78,138 Cr	Total General ₹1,34,800 Cr	Total Obsolete ₹43,163 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	Allocation to AWSC	Allocation to AWST	Total
Ministry/Department: Agricultural Research and Education				
✓	Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes (PM Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojna) Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)	0	1,000	1,000
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare				
✓	Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)	0	6,399	6,399
!	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)	10,177	5,117	15,294
✗	Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)	3,962	2,154	6,116
✓	Grants under provision to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	0	1,600	1,600
!	Crop Insurance Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	2,424	1,256	3,679
!	Krishionnati Yojana.	1,213	1,084	2,297
!	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna	1,182	1,051	2,233
Animal Husbandry and Dairying				
!	Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme	511	273	784
Coal				
✗	Schemes of UT Transport	0	446	446
Commerce				
!	Other Establishment	0	420	420
Cooperation				
!	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National/Special Projects	0	250	250
✓	Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes (PM Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojna) Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)	0	240	240
Culture				
!	Tribal Area Component	0	224	224
Drinking Water and Sanitation				
!	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water Mission Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme - Programme Component	15,436	7,016	22,452
!	SBM-Rural Programme Component	1,355	616	1,971
Electronics and Information Technology				
✗	Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) Production linked Incentive for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing	508	410	919
✗	Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India Modified Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors Fab/Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP)/Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facilities in India	349	282	630
Fertilisers				
✗	Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea	8,378	4,444	12,822
✗	Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers	2,307	1,247	3,554
✗	Urea Subsidy Payment for Import of Urea	2,028	1,102	3,130
✗	Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Imported P and K Fertilizers	1,643	903	2,546
!	Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)	0	580	580

Continued ...

Name of the Schemes	Allocation to AWSC	Allocation to AWST	Total
Fisheries			
❗ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	395	215	610
Food and Public Distribution			
❗ Food Subsidy to Food Corporation of India under National Food Security Act.	12,254	6,808	19,061
❗ Food Subsidy for Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains under NFSA	5,901	3,057	8,959
✖ Assistance to States Agencies for Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains and FPS Dealers Margin under NFSA	588	305	893
Health and Family Welfare			
❗ Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening , National Health Programme and National Urban Health MissionGross Budgetary Support (GBS)	4,985	2,610	7,594
✖ Infrastructure MaintenanceGross Budgetary Support (GBS)	1,735	811	2,546
✅ Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)Support from (PMSSN)	1,241	704	1,945
❗ Human Resources for Health and Medical Education	747	387	1,134
✅ Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)	667	345	1,013
Higher Education			
✖ Grants to Central Universities (CUs)	1,103	536	1,639
✖ Support to Indian Institutes of Technology	623	310	933
✖ University Grants Commission (UGC)	425	225	650
❗ Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IISTGrants to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIST	353	201	554
✖ World Class Institutions	341	171	512
Housing and Urban Affairs			
✅ PMAY-Urban (Schemes financed from Central Road and Infrastructure Fund)Other items of States/UTs Component	3,818	1,407	5,225
Labour and Employment			
❗ Employees Pension Scheme, 1995	1,818	942	2,759
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises			
❗ Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers	1,789	989	2,777
❗ Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	863	455	1,318
❗ PM Vishwakarma	756	392	1,147
New and Renewable Energy			
❗ Solar Power (Grid)Programme Component	805	850	1,655
Petroleum and Natural Gas			
❗ LPG Connection to Poor Households	755	391	1,146
Power			
✖ Reform Linked Distribution Scheme	2,453	1,247	3,700
Rural Development			
✅ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)- RuralPMAY-Programme Component	13,625	9,538	23,163
✅ MGNREGA-Programme Component	13,250	10,355	23,605
❗ National Rural Livelihood MissionNRLM-Programme Component	4,012	2,808	6,820
❗ National Social Assistance ProgrammeIndira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	1,296	750	2,047
❗ National Social Assistance ProgrammeIndira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme(IGNWPS)	367	226	593
School Education and Literacy			
❗ Samagra ShikshaSupport for Samagra Shiksha	7,535	4,227	11,762
❗ Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)	2,493	1,335	3,828
❗ Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	1,270	575	1,845
✅ PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)	1,000	575	1,575
❗ Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	871	436	1,307
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship			
❗ Skill India Programme.Skill India Programme	400	207	607

Name of the Schemes		Allocation to AWSC	Allocation to AWST	Total
Social Justice and Empowerment				
✓	Post Matric Scholarship for SCs	6,350	2,374	8,724
✓	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY)	2,150	0	2,150
✓	Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	560	0	560
✓	Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others	500	440	940
Telecommunications				
✗	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and Compensation to Telecom Service Providers	838	217	1,055
✗	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Bharatnet/Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure Bharatnet	706	366	1,071
Women and Child Development				
!	Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)4591.88	4,872	2,221	7,093
Total of Top 40 Schemes		1,57,982	98,119	2,56,101
Total Allocation under SC & ST Budget		1,65,598	1,21,023	2,86,621
% of 40 Schemes against SC & ST Total Budget		95%	81%	89%

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 meager amount to cater to the emerging demand of the communities. The allocation of NOS for SC in this FY 2024-25 is Rs. 95 Cr for SC (under the SHREYAS umbrella scheme) and Rs. 6 Cr for ST. Although the allocation for the SC has increased, the allocation for the STs remained the same as last year. Similarly, the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) now known as the National Fellowship for SCs (under the SHREYAS umbrella scheme), has an allocation of Rs. 188 Cr and the National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students has an allocation of Rs. 165 Cr in this fiscal year. The allocation for the PM Research fellowship under AWSC is Rs. 63 Cr which was Rs. 72 Cr in the last FY and under AWST it is Rs. 30 Cr which was Rs. 34 Cr in the last FY. It is disheartening to see that such good schemes are getting meagre amounts as compared to non-targeted schemes like Grants to Central Universities, UGC, and PM-USHA. It is interesting to note that there is no allocation for interest subsidies and contributions to guarantee funds. The scheme was introduced with full interest subsidy during the moratorium period on modern education loans without any collateral security and third-party guarantee for pursuing technical or professional courses in India-Students whose annual gross parental or family income

is up to Rs.4.5 lakhs are eligible under the scheme.

The existing Scheme was modified with the approval of the Cabinet on March 28th, 2018¹⁵ but now it has been totally removed since the FY 2023-24.

Relevance of Schemes for SC & ST

Excess allocation in notional schemes under the SC budget in FY 2024–25

- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea and for Import of Urea: Rs 10,406 Cr
- Nutrient-Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers and for Imported P and K Fertilizers: Rs 3,950 Cr
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS): Rs 3,962.2 Cr
- Reform-Linked Distribution Scheme: Rs 2453 Cr
- Compensation to Service Providers for Creation and Compensation to Telecom Service Providers: Rs 1,544 Cr

¹⁵ https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/CSIS%20-%20NewGuidelines.pdf

Excess allocation in notional schemes under the ST budget in FY 2024-25:

- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea and for Import of Urea: Rs 5546.38 Cr
- Nutrient-Based Subsidy Payment for Imported P and K Fertilizers and for Imported P and K Fertilizers: Rs 2150 Cr
- Compensation to Service Providers for the Creation and Augmentation of Telecom Infrastructure (Bharatnet and Telecom Service Providers): Rs 65 Cr
- Reform-Linked Distribution Scheme: Rs 1247 Cr

Under allocation in effective schemes under the SC Budget:

- Top-Class Education for SCs: Rs 110 Cr
- National Overseas Scholarship for SCs: Rs 96 Cr
- National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme: Rs 70 Cr
- National Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe Hub Centre: Rs 66 Cr
- Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs: Rs 35 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for SCs and OBCs: Rs 10 Cr

Under allocation in effective schemes under ST Budget:

- National Overseas Scholarship Scheme: Rs 6 Cr

- National Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe Hub Centre: Rs 22 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes: Rs 30 Cr
- PM Research Fellowship: Rs 30 Cr
- Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): Rs 20 Cr

Excess allocation in general schemes under the SC Budget:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) : Rs 15,436 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan): Rs 10,177Cr
- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening: Rs 4,985 Cr
- Crop Insurance Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Rs 2,424 Cr

Excess allocation in general scheme under ST Budget:

- Road Works under Roads Wing: Rs 16,300 Cr
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): Rs 7,016 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan): Rs 5,117 Cr
- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening: Rs 2610 Cr

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

The revised guidelines for DAPSC & ST 2018 say that it's been a priority and commitment for this present government to promote socio-economic empowerment and inclusive development of the most vulnerable and deprived communities. The guideline mandates every obligatory ministry or department to earmark funds out of the overall allocation of CSSs and CSs and not against the total budget of the ministries or departments. In cases of non-utilization of funds, the budget should be utilized under other schemes of the same ministry or department with the approval of the minister and financial advisor. As many as 41 obligatory ministries and departments have been mandated to earmark the budget with the proposed percentage of funds, but it should not be less than 50 percent of the population percentage or actuals, whichever is higher. But for the two nodal ministries, like the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), this guideline mandates to earmark 72.5% and 100%, respectively, for SC & ST communities. This guideline also mandates each central ministry or department to earmark proportionate funds as per the state-wise percentage of the SC and ST populations under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in beneficiary-oriented schemes. Regarding the non-divertibility of fund, the fund diversion is allowed within the concerned ministry or department to spend under other schemes, as mentioned above. With regard to designing innovative schemes, this guideline mandates having national, state, and district-level think tanks to give inputs for the formulation of suitable projects/schemes at the ground level as per the needs of the communities. The Ministries and state/Union territories should enable and promote institutional capacities at different levels to ensure improved utilization, effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of earmarked funds for these communities. The Ministries concerned and state and UTs should encourage to design new interventions and innovative schemes based on ground-level implementation experience.

Regarding proper implementation of the program for the SC and ST budgets, output and outcome-based monitoring should be conducted with the help of a real-time dashboard. Fortunately, the two nodal ministries have been uploading the data to the e-Utthaan portal,

but the details of the beneficiary list are yet to be uploaded to maintain transparency and accountability for the communities. Other than this, according to the amendment to the allocation of Business Rule 1961 vide Gazette Notification a F. No. 1/21/26/2016-Cab. Dated 31st January 2017, the two nodal ministries have the responsibility to monitor the SC & ST budgets regularly. The Outcome Budget, published by the Ministry of Finance covers 148 schemes across Ministries and Departments, setting physical and financial targets with output and outcome result indicators, which seems quite interesting. Therefore, in this context, the two nodal Ministries should also undertake this exercise, publishing a separate outcome budget for the SC & ST budgets for entire schemes exclusively. The role of NITI Aayog is also very crucial in reviewing and evaluating the performance of these two budgets coordinating with concerned ministries and departments to strengthen the SC & ST budgets to bridge the development gaps between the communities and the rest of the population.

8. Gender Budget Analysis

The Union government's 'Gender Budget Statement' is a powerful tool to bring forward a gender perspective at all the stages of policymaking. However, wide gaps continue to exist between the goals and the lived realities of Dalit and Adivasi women. Several inconsistencies and gaps have been observed in the GBS over the years, but there have been no noteworthy changes in the GBS process, particularly from the perspective of Dalit and Adivasi women. This year also the same trend has been followed: SC budget for Dalit women is Rs19050.24Cr and for ST women it is Rs.4837.25Cr. Our analysis of the Gender Budget Statement¹⁶ (henceforth GBS) and Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (AWSC/AWST) reveals that the allocations are meagre, reflecting the lack of priority given to Dalit and Adivasi women. The Union Budget 2024-25 allocates 1.32% for Dalit women and 0.34% for Tribal women from the total eligible Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS).

This year, the Modi government has raised the total gender budgeting amount to Rs 309690.1Cr giving it a renewed focus. This is based on the inclusion of gender issue in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration on September 9, followed by enactment of 'Nari Shakti

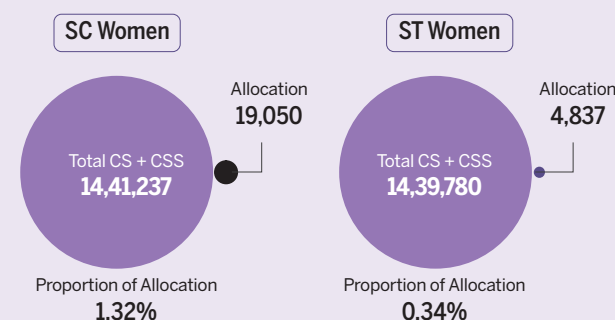
¹⁶ As one of the mechanisms of Gender Responsive Budgeting the Ministry of Finance introduced Gender Budget Statement in the Union Budget as an initiative to estimate how much government's total budget is flowing for women.

Vandan Adhiniyam'. However, for the Dalit and Adivasi women, nothing much has changed. According to gender budget statements tabled in Parliament, the budget for 100% women specific programmes (Part A) was Rs.112394.15 Cr in BE of 2024-25, and Rs.197295.95 Cr in Part B. The gender budget statement is presented in two parts - Part A constitutes schemes in which 100% provision is for women and Part B reflects schemes where the allocations for women constitute at least 30% of the provision. However, if we specifically look at the allocation for Dalit and Adivasi women in both Part A and B, it is appalling. In Part A the allocation is Rs. 10031.85Cr for Dalit women and Rs. 2997.90Cr for Adivasi women. In part B allocation for Dalit women is Rs. 9018.39 Cr and for Adivasi women it is Rs. 1839.35 Cr.

Given the huge demand for scholarships, particularly for girls student, the budgets for the Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) scheme are highly inadequate. The allocation for Post Matric Scheme for SC girls is Rs. 1904.99Cr while Rs. 30.63Cr for ST girls. There was a substantial increase towards the allocation towards general schemes this year. For instance, the allocation towards the 'Samagra Shiksha' scheme is Rs625.40 Cr and 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' saw an allocation of Rs. 4872.48Cr. Samagra Shiksha scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. While Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' is also a centrally sponsored scheme providing a package of six services. Additionally, some very important direct benefiting schemes for SC students saw declined allocations. The National Fellowship for SCs saw a very low allocation of Rs.56.40Cr. National Overseas Scholarship for SCs saw an allocation of Rs28.50Cr only.

Women from these communities are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and violence owing to their caste and gender identities. The latest NCRB data for 2022 reveals that atrocities against Dalit women and girls account for 15.11% of total crimes registered under the SCs & STs (PoA) Act from 2014-19. These atrocities have increased by 46% in the last six years for Dalit women and girls¹⁷. Despite growing incidences of violence against SC and ST women, there is only a marginal allocation of Rs. 168Cr for their access to justice. There is only one scheme pertaining to the same, namely 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of PCR Act, 1955 and

Figure 5: Allocation for SC and ST Women in Gender Budget Statement (GBS)- 2024-25 Amount in Rs.Cr.



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile 2024-25 Statement 13

PoA Act, 1989' which focuses primarily on sensitization programmes and not on equitable redress mechanisms, this year this scheme didn't see any increase in allocation.

Additionally, the budget also failed to make allocations for sexual minorities such as transgender community and other across the LGBTQI+ spectrum. The budget has completely invisibilised them and has failed to address issues of intersectionality. Under the scheme 'Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)' there is no allocation for SC and ST women. Such an approach towards development shows the failure of the planning process to redistribute resources towards inclusive development. The Government has also recently introduced 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. This scheme saw an allocation of only Rs.35.08Cr.

9. Land Rights

One consequence of the long-standing caste system and related custom of untouchability is the widespread landlessness of Dalits in India. Among all the socioeconomic strata, Dalits own the least amount of agricultural land in the nation as compared to their rural population. The percentage of rural scheduled caste (SC) households that are "self-employed in agriculture" in their own land is only 17.1% across all of India, according to the National Sample Survey Office's (66th round) survey.

¹⁷ <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Dalit-Women-Rise-For-Justice-Status-Report-2021.pdf>

Figure 6a: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPSC Budget for 2024-25 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	1,16,222	16.60	19,293	19,487	
Agricultural Research and Education	2,780	8.30	231	231	
AYUSH	1,577	14.00	221	133	
Fertilisers	1,64,103	8.30	13,621	14,362	
Pharmaceuticals	4,049	8.30	336	44	
Coal	114	8.30	9	70	
Commerce	3,123	8.30	259	14	
Telecommunications	4,314	8.30	358	1,585	
Consumer Affairs	169	8.30	14	2	
Food and Public Distribution	2,12,826	8.30	17,665	18,743	
Culture	520	8.30	43	43	
Development of North Eastern Region	5,866	8.30	487	490	
School Education and Literacy	57,804	21.74	12,567	13,478	
Higher Education	7,488	16.60	1,243	4,181	
Electronics and Information Technology	17,320	8.30	1,438	1,438	
Environment, Forests and Climate Change	1,788	8.30	148	167	
Fisheries	2,382	16.60	395	395	
Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4,275	16.60	710	715	
Food Processing Industries	3,053	8.30	253	133	
Health and Family Welfare	56,653	16.60	9,404	9,404	
Housing and Urban Affairs	73,507	22.50	16,539	3,818	
WR, RD,GD	19,710	8.30	1,636	0	
Drinking Water and Sanitation	77,355	22.00	17,018	16,791	
Labour and Employment	11,706	16.60	1,943	1,945	
MSME	21,868	16.60	3,630	3,755	
Mines	0	8.30	0	23	
New and Renewable Energy	12,603	8.30	1,046	1,018	
Panchayati Raj	1,134	16.60	188	188	
Petroleum and Natural Gas	29,483	8.30	2,447	979	
Power	16,362	16.60	2,716	2,453	
Road Transport and Highways	2,77,830	8.30	23,060	0	
Rural Development	1,77,352	25.00	44,338	32,622	
Land Resources	2,642	16.60	439	23	
Science and Technology	2,819	8.30	234	234	
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	3,121	16.60	518	463	
Social Justice and Empowerment	12,796	72.50	9,277	10,343	
Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	758	20.25	153	126	
Textiles	3,866	16.60	642	260	
Tourism	2,349	8.30	195	0	
Women and Child Development	25,848	20.00	5,170	5,170	
Youth Affairs and Sports	1,705	25.28	431	268	
Ministry of Cooperation	0	0.00	0	0	
Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	3	
TOTAL	14,41,237		2,10,315	1,65,598	
As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission		16.60%			
As per the NITI Aayog the proposed allocation		14.37%			
BE allocation					

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 24-25 Expenditure of Ministries and Departments, Govt of India

Figure 6b: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPST Budget for 2024-25 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	1,16,222	8.60	9,995	10,976	<div></div>
Agricultural Research and Education	2,780	4.30	120	120	<div></div>
Ministry of AYUSH	1,577	4.30	68	81	<div></div>
Department of Fertilisers	1,64,103	4.30	7,056	7,700	<div></div>
Department of Pharmaceuticals	4,049	4.30	174	23	<div></div>
Ministry of Coal	114	8.60	10	73	<div></div>
Department of Commerce	3,123	4.30	134	24	<div></div>
Department of Telecommunications	4,314	4.30	186	604	<div></div>
Department of Consumer Affairs	169	4.30	7	1	<div></div>
Department of Food and Public Distribution	2,12,826	4.30	9,151	10,170	<div></div>
Ministry of Culture	520	4.30	22	22	<div></div>
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	5,866	27.18	1,594	1,700	<div></div>
Department of School Education and Literacy	57,804	12.47	7,208	7,289	<div></div>
Department of Higher Education	7,488	8.60	644	2,126	<div></div>
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	17,320	6.70	1,160	1,160	<div></div>
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	1,788	8.60	154	174	<div></div>
Department of Fisheries	2,382	8.60	205	215	<div></div>
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4,275	8.60	368	377	<div></div>
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	3,053	4.30	131	69	<div></div>
Department of Health and Family Welfare	56,653	8.60	4,872	4,872	<div></div>
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	73,507	4.30	3,161	1,407	<div></div>
Dept Water Resources, River Development, Ganga Rejuvenation	19,710	8.60	1,695	359	<div></div>
Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation	77,355	10.00	7,735	7,632	<div></div>
Ministry of Labour and Employment	11,706	8.60	1,007	1,007	<div></div>
MSME	21,868	8.60	1,881	1,998	<div></div>
Ministry of Mines	0	4.30	0	12	<div></div>
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	12,603	8.60	1,084	1,059	<div></div>
Ministry of Panchayati Raj	1,134	8.60	97	98	<div></div>
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	29,483	4.30	1,268	507	<div></div>
Ministry of Power	16,362	8.60	1,407	1,247	<div></div>
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	2,77,830	4.30	11,947	16,300	<div></div>
Department of Rural Development	1,77,352	17.50	31,037	23,742	<div></div>
Department of Land Resources	2,642	10.00	264	14	<div></div>
Department of Science and Technology	2,819	4.30	121	121	<div></div>
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	3,121	8.60	268	240	<div></div>
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	758	10.17	77	65	<div></div>
Ministry of Textiles	3,866	8.60	332	195	<div></div>
Ministry of Tourism	2,349	4.30	101	101	<div></div>
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	11,338	100.00	11,338	12,938	<div></div>
Ministry of Women and Child Development	25,848	8.60	2,223	2,380	<div></div>
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	1,705	8.60	147	146	<div></div>
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0	224	<div></div>
Dadre Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	0	0.00	0	1	<div></div>
Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	1,451	<div></div>
Ministry of Cooperation	0	0.00	0	0	<div></div>
TOTAL	14,39,780	9.98%	1,20,451	1,21,023	
As per the Norms set by Jadhav commission		8.60%			
As per the NITI Aayog the proposed allocation		8.16%			

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

This contrasts with 39.4% of rural households belonging to the socially advanced classes, or those who are not SC, ST, or SEBC¹⁸ castes¹⁹. Most Dalits have never owned land before. They moved to different areas to get land. Dalits who do not have land fought with farmers to get better wages, own their own land, and stop working for free. Although the Zamindari class was eliminated as the result of the land reform law, the actual transformation of land ownership was not altered; hence, the disparity persisted. The land was still obtained by the most powerful individual, family, or group within the specific caste even after the land was redistributed among the lower castes. As a result, the conditions of the poorest of the poor remained unchanged for an extended period, except for a slight marginal growth²⁰. Positive gains in the equal allocation of land have been undermined by the extent to which urbanisation has reshaped the village economy. Improved access to government agencies and information has also aided caste landlords in obtaining approval for illicit deals. Politics is important; it can be seen in everything from building relationships to building unlawful layouts to please the vote bank. Nonetheless, the "central axis" of land acquisition continues to be caste²¹. Most of the problems Dalits have now been facing is because they do not have any land. For Dalits, land is an issue of dignity and a symbol of resistance. The function of caste goes beyond social injustices and needs to be viewed as a social framework of wealth accumulation²². Only around 9% of all agricultural land is owned by Dalits, according to the Agricultural Census of 2015–16. The same agricultural census tells us that the number of marginal lands held by the Scheduled Castes is 13247 (hectare) in 2010-11 and 13559 (hectare) in 2015-16. For Scheduled Tribe the number of marginal land holdings is 6470 (hectare) in 2010-11 and 7127 (hectare) in 2015-16²³.

Farm loan waivers are government programs that help farmers pay off their debts. But only half of the people who were supposed to benefit from these programs got their debts taken away from 2014 to March 2022²⁴.

As for the Adivasis the Land Transfer Regulation says

that only Adivasi people can get land transfers, including forest land owned by the Government. The truth is that Adivasis are being forced to leave their land because they do not have proof that they own the land where their family has lived for many generations²⁵.

This FY 2024-25 the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare received of Rs. 19486.51 Cr. for SCs and Rs. 10976.28 Cr. for STs which together constitute Rs. 30462.79 Cr. When compared to the prior year, the department's allocation to the SC and ST budget has increased by Rs. 1757.15Cr. Most of the increase has been done in AWST budget which is Rs. 1165.23 Cr but in the AWSC budget the same has been decreased by Rs. 591.92 Cr.

10. Youth and Unemployment

Stuck in the Grind: Breaking the Cycle of Youth Unemployment for India's Scheduled Castes and Tribes

According to the 2011 Census data, the population of youth (aged 18–35) in India is 6,31,27,692 in SC and 3,13,76,446 in ST, and the total budget allocated under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the FY 2024–25 for SC is Rs. 268 Cr and for ST is Rs. 145.78 Cr. The major roadblock holding back young people in India, especially those from SC/ST community, is unemployment. The youth are facing a double setback: both low participation rates (fewer even looking for work) and sky-high unemployment rates (10.09% for 15-24-year-olds, as of October 2023). The SC and ST youth comprise 35% and 23.8% of the population, respectively, in their communities. The NSS-PLF survey on employment brings out quite clearly that a higher percentage (6.4% of SC and 4.3% of ST workers) were unemployed.

The cycle of limited opportunities traps families in economic vulnerability for generations. According to the National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) over 74% of the enrolled workforce belongs to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) who have a monthly income of Rs 10,000

18 Socially and Educationally Backward Classes

19 <https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/social-justice/the-importance-of-giving-land-to-dalits/article29268726.ece>

20 <https://www.impriindia.com/event-report/land-labour-and-dalits/>

21 <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/bengaluru/deprived-castes-pushed-out-in-race-to-grab-land-in-peri-urban-areas-study-1013327.html>

22 Upadhyay, C., & Rathod, S. (2021). Caste at the city's edge: Land struggles in peri-urban Bengaluru. *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, (26).

23 https://agcensus.nic.in/document/agcen1516/T1_ac_2015_16.pdf

24 The State Bank of India Survey, 2022

25 <https://www.jilmh.com/wp-content/uploads/A-Study-of-the-Land-Rights-of-Adivasis-in-India.pdf>

or below. Of the total workers, informal wage workers without any job or social security are SCs at about 84% and STs at 70%. The harsh reality for young SC/ST graduates, twice as likely to be jobless compared to their high school counterparts. Out of the total allocation of Rs 12531.47 Cr under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Rs 1945.12 Cr has been allocated for SCs and Rs 1007.38 Cr for STs.

Highlighting some schemes for the SC youth for the years 2017-2021:

1. For the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana, the budget allocation from FY 2020–21 to FY 2021–2022 was Rs. 522.9 Cr and the actual expenditure was Rs. 568.3 Cr. In FY 2024-25 BE is Rs.24.90 Cr which has drastically decreased.
2. Employment Generation Schemes/ Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana: The budget allocation for FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22 was Rs. 1745.5 Cr, and the actual expenditure was Rs. 1633.2 Cr which shows only 6.4% of BE is unutilised.
3. Under the Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the budget allocation was Rs. 2157.1 Cr and the actual expenditure was Rs. 1710.4 Cr

Highlighting some schemes for the ST youth for the years 2017-2021:

1. For the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana the budget allocation was Rs. 270.9 Cr and the actual expenditure was Rs. 317.1 Cr.
2. Employment Generation Scheme/Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana the budget allocation was Rs. 901.7 Cr and the actual expenditure was Rs. 792.8 Cr which shows only 12.07 % of BE is unutilized.
3. Kaushal Vikas Yojana the budget allocation was Rs. 1105.9 Cr and the actual expenditure was Rs. 876.5 Cr which shows only 28.31 % of BE is unutilized.

Post-pandemic bounce-back everyone was hyped about? It turns out it missed a major group: the educated young from the Dalit Adivasi community. The effects of the caste system are still messing with the game. Businesses

owned by folks from Scheduled Castes and Tribes usually have fewer than 20 workers, while their general category counterparts are running whole empires. And women from SC/ST communities earn even less than their general category.

11. Access to Justice

The incidents of atrocity and discrimination against the members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, based on their caste origin, is a centuries-old pattern of suppressing the community and hindering the possibilities of their growth and development even after the affirmative provisions in the Constitution of India and stringent laws like Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocity) Act 1989 & Amendment Act, 2015 & 2018, and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. The crime against the SCs and STs is increasing with time and with the emergence of new forms of atrocity every year. There is a consecutive rise in the number of incidents of caste-induced atrocities against the said communities, as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data from 2019 to 2022. The latest statistics are available till 2022. In 2019 (45935), whereas there has been a massive increase in number of cases of atrocities in 2022(57582). The percentage of increase stands at 25.34. Similarly, the escalation is recorded in the crime against the Scheduled Tribes. Comparing the cases of atrocities in 2019 (8257) and 2022 (10064), one can easily witness the massive rise in the cases of atrocities which stands at 21.18%.

The allocation of budget for strengthening of the machinery for enforcement of the “Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955” and the “Prevention of Atrocity Act, 1989” is said to be allocated to the states, which is mandatorily stated not only to be disbursed to the victims of the caste atrocities but also to strengthen the machinery to prevent the incidents of caste violence against the SCs and STs. But this allocation was been reduced from 600Cr to 500Cr in 2023-24 over 2022-23, and FY 2021-22 secured 600Cr. In FY 2024-25, the allocation is 560 Cr for the implementation of the PoA and PCR Act.

Although there has been an increase in the budget allocated but that won't suffice the need to ensure proper implementation of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 2015 which also provides for compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of atrocity. In addition, the state governments

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		
Higher Education			500 seated state of the art modern schools for SC/ST students	15,000	12,000
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	4,000	2,000	Inclusion Cells in Schools	200	120
Top Class Residential Coaching for SC Students	500	0	Appointment of SC/ST Teachers in Rural Areas	12,000	10,000
Boys Hostels in every district headquarters - 640	3,000	1,500	Special Teacher Training Programme on Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion	500	400
Girls hostels in every district head-quarters - 640+B41	4,000	2,500	High class hostels for SC/ST Students at district headquarters	15,000	12,000
Remedial coaching in english language	200	100	Appointment of Permanent SC/ST Women Cooks	3,000	2,000
B.R Ambedkar Universities in 10 states - Punjab, Bengal, U.P, Bihar, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, M.P, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana	15,000	0	Special Nutritional Supplements	800	400
Agri Coop			Skill Development		
Minor irrigation programme for SC/ST farmlands	500	100	Training Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development for SC/ST Youth	600	300
Sustainable Agriculture Grants for SC/ST Farmers	250	100			
Horticulture and sericulture scheme for SC/ST	250	200	Social Justice		
Agriculture Research			Implementation of SC/ST POA Act	3,000	1,500
Agricultural Training Institute for SC/ST	3,000	600	Finance Development Corporation for SC Woman	5,000	31
AH D F			Insurance scheme for Criminally assaulted SC/ST Woman	300	150
District Level SC/ST Dairy Cooperatives Scheme	1,200	250	Scaling up NFSC to all SC PhD Students	700	300
Livestock Development Fund for SC/ST Family	400	400	Pre-Medical Coaching and Scholarship for SC/ST Students	300	150
Small Scale Entrepreneurship Fund for Goat, Pig, Hen and Cow Breeding	2,500	600	Special fund for protection and empowerment of SC/ST Woman	500	150
DWS			Special Development funds for Nomadic, semi-nomadic and Vimuktajatis of SCs and STs.	300	500
Community Well Regeneration Scheme in SC/ST Localities	400	300	Establishment of Centers in Universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy	5,000	5,000
Provision for Drinking Water for SC/ST families	1,000	700	Special Fast Track Court for Speedy Trail of SC/ST Cases	6,000	4,000
Health Family Welf			SC & ST fellowship for non-NET research students	700	500
Modernization of Health Centres in SC/ST Areas	1,000	300	Compensation to Victims	2,000	1,000
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	6,000	600	B.R Ambedkar Centres for learning and libraries in SC ST dominated districts	2,000	500
Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Families	500	300	Rehabilitation of Women Ex. Manual Scavengers	3,000	0
Superspeciality hospital for Malaria, TB, Hypertension, sickle cells, and other diseases in SC/ST Areas.	12,000	10,000	Formation of Special POCSO Courts to Trail SC/ST Cases	5,000	4,000
Health Contingency fund at Municipal level for SC/ST community	500	200	Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST Woman	3,000	1,500
Housing			National Single Window Helpline for SC/ST Students	1,000	200
Ambedkar Model Housing Scheme	12,000	0	Fellowships for SC- ST students under exchange programmes to foreign universities	1,500	500
Birsa Munda Model Housing Scheme	3,000	13,000	Establishment of SC - ST Research institutes	3,000	1,500
Housing Scheme in Disaster prone for SC/ST Families	6,000	3,000	Tribal Affairs		
Housing Loan on Subsidised Interest rate to SC/ST Man/Women	6,000	3,000	Innovation fund for Tribal Cooperatives and Tribal Entrepreneurship	50	500
Savitri Bai Phule SC/ST Woman Housing Programme	4,000	2,500	Special fund for FRA Implementation	100	400
Labour & Employment			Special fund for implementation of PESA in Schedule Areas	265	1,000
Rehabilitation and Protection of SC Child Labour	900	300	Special Mission for Development of Minor Forest Produce	300	100
Top class coaching for competitive exams	300	200	Model Schools for SC/ST Girls	6,000	2,500
Establishment of Employment Centre for SC/ST Labour	2,000	200	Schools of international Standard at State Level for SC/ST Students	5,000	3,000
MSME			Special Development Fund for most Vulnerable Tribal Groups	200	400
Standup Fund for Unemployed SC	2,500	0	Women Child		
SC/ST Innovation fund for employment generation activities	2,000	1,000	Establishment of Mini health centres in SC/ST Habitants	1,000	500
Credit Support Program for SC/ST educated unemployed youth for Self Employment	2,000	1,200	Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Women	300	250
Special SC/ST Women Employment Fund	1,000	400	Special Child Protection Mission for SC/ST Children	600	300
Market Development Programme for SC/ST Farmers Product	900	800	Targeted Health Coverage for Migrants SC/ST Children	400	250
Rural Development			Appointment of SC/ST Caretakers	200	150
Unemployment Allowance for SC/ST BPL Individual/Families	600	500	Rehabilitation of Trafficked SC/ST Women	500	150
Restoration of Alienated land for STs	0	1,000			

Continued ...

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	3,000	2,000
Water Catchment Area Development Programme for SC/ST	300	150
Youth Sports		
Special Sports program for SC/ST youths under Khelo India	3,000	2,000
Overseas Training for SC/ST Sports Persons	300	250
Grand Total	2,10,315	1,20,451

NOTE:- 1. In the Union Budget FY2024-25 with reference to Fig -1 Total Targeted Schemes for SCs is Rs 44,281.5 Cr. and STs Rs. 36,212.2 Cr. with the total gap of SC allocation is Rs. 1,66,033 Cr. and Rs. 84,238 Cr. for STs. The above table details of suggested schemes are for closing the Gap in the allocation.

have obligations to strengthen the machinery as per statutory provisions of the PoA Act to prevent incidents and reduce the pendency in courts, which is next to impossible within the limited budget provided.

Apart from that, the rise in incidents, low convictions, and high pendency rates show the frail implementation of the provisions of the Act, such as the establishment of Exclusive/Special Courts for speedy trial and inadequate distribution of monetary compensation and rehabilitation to the victims.

The budget utilisation trend over the last ten years, from 2014-15 to 2023-24, illustrates that utilisation (Actual Expenditure) is consecutively increasing and exceeding the allocated budget each year. It shows that the budget is insufficient and inadequate to meet the expenses to secure and safeguard justice for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. Therefore, it is a dire necessity to enhance the budget allocation under this specific head. It is also strongly recommended to provide separate budget heads stating the total budget for monetary assistance to the survivors of caste violence, establishment of Special/Exclusive Courts, and Regular meetings for Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

12. Schemes for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

According to Census 2011, the overall PwD population in India is 2.6 crore (2.21%), with SC PwD accounting for 2.45% and ST PwD accounting for 2.05%. If we look at caste-segregated analysis on the status of PwDs, it shows that 89.1% and 89.8% of SC and ST with disabilities, respectively, do not receive assistive aid because of the issue of affordability by personal means or lack of

awareness about these options.

Highlighting some SC schemes for persons with disabilities for the years 2017-2021:

1. In the scheme for implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the budget allocation was Rs. 246.3 Cr and the actual utilization tends to be Rs. 96.2 Cr which shows only 60.94 % of BE is unutilized. And this FY 2024- 25 the budget allocation is Rs. 22.46 Cr.
2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances: The budget allocation was Rs. 219.8 Cr and the budget utilization tends to be Rs. 207.0 Cr which shows only 5.8 % of BE is unutilized. And this FY 2024- 25 the budget allocation is Rs. 52.29 Cr.
3. Scholarships for Students with Disabilities the budget allocation was Rs. 60.6 Cr and the budget utilization tends to be Rs. 94.0 Cr. And this FY 2024- 25 the budget allocation is Rs. 23.68 Cr.

Highlighting some ST schemes for persons with disability for the years 2017-2021:

1. Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disability Act the budget allocation was Rs. 114.2 Cr and the budget utilization tends to be Rs. 46.7 Cr which shows 59.1% of BE is unutilized. And for FY 2024- 25 the budget allocation is Rs. 11.63 Cr.
2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances: The budget allocation was Rs. 114.2 Cr and the budget utilization tends to be Rs. 116.8 Cr. And this FY 2024- 25 the budget allocation is Rs. 27.09 Cr.
3. Scholarships for Students with Disabilities the budget allocation was Rs. 30.7 Cr and the budget utilization tends to be Rs. 33.0 Cr. And this FY 2024- 25 the budget allocation is Rs. 12.27 Cr.

In the Union Budget 2024–25, the allocation towards the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is Rs. 125.82 Cr for SCs and Rs. 65.18 Cr for STs. Under this scheme, the scholarship allocation for students with disabilities for SCs is Rs. 23.68 Cr and Rs. 12.27 Cr for STs.

For the Scheme Assistance to Disabled Persons for the Purchase or Fitting of Aids and Appliances, the allocation for SCs is Rs. 52.29 Cr and Rs. 27.09 Cr for STs. For the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, the allocation for SCs is Rs. 27.39 Cr and Rs. 14.19 Cr for STs.

Some of the schemes for persons with disabilities:

Early Years: DISHA provides early intervention for young children through therapies and daycare, while VIKAAS offers social and vocational skills training for older youth.

Living Options: SAMARTH offers respite care for families and vulnerable individuals, while GHARAUNDA provides a permanent home for adults with specific disabilities.

Health and Support: NIRAMAYA gives health insurance coverage, SAHYOGI trains caregivers, and GYAN PRABHA supports education and vocational training.

Marketing and Empowerment: PRERNA helps sell products made by PwDs, and SAMBHAV provides information and access to assistive devices.

Awareness and Inclusion: BADHTE KADAM promotes community awareness and social integration of people with disabilities.

13. Climate Resilience

Inclusive Climate and Disaster resilience warrants a fair share of Targeted Programmes, Budgets and S.M.A.R.T Indicators for SCs & STs

The world, and particularly the Asia Pacific region, which houses India, constantly faces climate change-related challenges, which result in colossal loss and damage to lives and property, both private and public. Therefore, climate and disaster-resilient development are the universal requirements for sustainable development. These challenges have surged over decades, as pronounced by successive IPCC reports. The manifestations of climate change events witnessed in the surge of natural disasters endangering agricultural and allied sectors, natural resource-based livelihood, food availability, water and sanitation, physical safety, and social protection of the people. Among all, however, are the SCs and STs who are dependent on these natural resources and dwell in resource-rich but hazard-prone geographies, inhabiting

low-lying areas without the means to cope with the effects of recurring disasters such as droughts, floods, cyclones, forest fires, heatwaves, etc. The endemic landlessness and lack of development assets have tied their survival to unorganized odd jobs and agricultural labor. They suffer from the disproportionate burdens of these climate change-induced and aggravated losses and damages that have not allowed them to move towards safe resilience and rebuilding.

The allocations for the welfare of the SC and the STs (AWSC & AWST) must principally be population-based, as per the NITI Aayog guidelines²⁶. Together, these communities constitute one-fourth of India's billion-plus population, a whopping 25 percent. Yet, despite the constitutional and policy directives, the earmarked resources have failed to reach them in an adequate, relevant, and responsive manner to enable the appreciable realization of the development gains and climate and disaster resilience.

While the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal authority for overseeing the climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes, there are a host of other ministries/line departments implementing climate adaptation and mitigation programmes. Therefore, of the forty ministries and line departments 'obligated' to earmark and implement AWSC and AWST by the NITI, fall the ministries that implement climate programmes. However, the absence of the Climate Budget statement renders it impossible to identify the specific programmes/schemes of climate relevance and sensitivity that should form the consolidated climate earmarking by the Government of India. Within this, rationalizing the earmarking for climate schemes in the AWSC and AWST too becomes an aimless endeavour. The mainstreaming of climate actions and disaster risk reduction in the development schemes, saving those pronounced as climate schemes (some analysed below).

The National Plan on Climate Change outlines eight National Missions on climate change, anchored by eight ministries. However, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction-oriented schemes are dovetailed into most ministerial programmes but are not classified as climate programmes. For instance, social protection schemes, livelihood schemes like MGNREGA, MSME schemes; housing schemes; a bunch of agriculture schemes; rural development programmes and so on, intrinsically

²⁶ Latest guidelines issued by NITI Aayog dated 1 April 2018 available on the eUthan Portal, MSJE, GoI

contribute to climate adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), even without anchoring NAPCC missions.

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

The interim union budget 2024-25 has earmarked Rs 19486.51Cr to the agriculture ministry, which is a marginal increase of 3.13% from the previous financial year's budget estimate (BE). The analysis of the available Actual Expenditure (AE) figures for the FY 2020-21 to 2022-23 shows a substantial underutilization of the AWSC budget. In addition, the absence of SC-ST targeted beneficiaries for the AWSC and AWST prohibits correlating the utilized allocations with the actual number of beneficiaries, even where greater utilization is observed for AWST.

Although several schemes are climate adaptation and DRR relevant, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana's (PMFBY) aimed at providing risk coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of any failure of any of the notified crops because of natural calamities, pests, and diseases etc., has seen little increase in its allocations for SCs over the years. Besides, a significant underspending has been noticed under the scheme during FY 2020-21 and 2022-23. Likewise, another popular central sector scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan), is an important beneficiary-targeted scheme that provides vital annual assistance of Rs 6,000 to farmers. Considering the agrarian crises that hit smallholder and marginal farmers disparately, it offers much-needed succour to SC and ST farmers. The scheme portal²⁷ provides a gender-disaggregated beneficiaries database, but it falls short of publishing the SC-ST beneficiary data to support the utilization of AWSC and AWST under the scheme. budgeted for FY (BE) 2024-25 at Rs. 10177 Cr. under AWSC and Rs. 1255.6 Cr for AWST, has seen an insignificant increase from the previous financial year. Besides, while the expenditures have exceeded allocation under the AWST in previous FYs, the underutilization of the AWSC under the schemes remained constant.

The agriculture schemes subsumed under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) focus on the expansion of cultivable areas, natural farming, increased production, training of 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. The scheme has been allocated (BE) Rs 1181.93 in FY 2024-25 for AWSC but has faced significant cuts at budget revision, accompanied by underutilization. The scheme, too, remains general without specific SC and ST targets.

Drinking Water & Sanitation

Climate change has resulted in spatial and temporal variations in rainfall patterns, resulting in diminished surface storage and further exploitation for commercial and household usage. Time and again, reports of caste violence over access to water during natural calamities, particularly drought, are not unknown in rural areas. AWSC under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)/ National Rural Drinking Water Mission has been allocated (BE) Rs. 15435.84 in FY 2024-25, with a marginal increase from last FY. The scheme intends to build water supply infrastructure for Functional Tap Connections (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024, and corners 90 % of the ministry's budget. Still, despite high budget utilization, the lack of SC-ST targets makes it harder to ascertain the number of beneficiaries of the scheme.

New & Renewable Energy

With the commitment to achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070, and milestones of meeting 50 percent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE) has allocated BE Rs. 805 Cr. for AWSC under Solar Power (Grid), which is 53.16% increase from BE 2023-24. In the same vein, MoNRE has earmarked BE Rs. 850 Cr for AWST, which is a 50.35% increase from the last FY, under the Scheme. However, the table above shows huge underutilization of AWSC and AWST budgets under the scheme. This clearly shows that the communities are deprived of the benefits of solar energy and warrants the Ministry and MSJE & MoTA's attention to these trends of underutilization. The Ministry's website states that as of 30-06-2023, solar projects of 70.10 GW capacity have been commissioned in the country. However, the output and outcome indicators relate to the quantity of solar energy generated and not the number of SC and SC villages or households that will be connected to these grids. Thus, the allocations are rendered ineffective not only on account of missing SC-ST targets but also by sheer underspending of the resources.

²⁷ https://pmkisan.gov.in/rpt_beneficiarystatus_pub.aspx

It is important to note that the budgets of the Ministry of Social Justice and Employment (MSJE) and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), each responsible for overseeing the development of the SC and ST communities, respectively, fall short of reflecting the climate and disaster-informed earmarking and the monitoring of the AWSC and AWST earmarking and performance outcomes of other ministries. Furthermore, without the specified proportion or obligated percentage of earmarking for climate and disaster resilience by the ministries, including the MSJE and MoTA, it is farfetched to monitor the actual allocations and expenditures for climate and disaster resilience for the SCs and STs, who invariably dwell in the country's most hazard vulnerable geographies, occupying public lands for housing and agriculture in the low-lying and uninhabitable areas, owing to massive landlessness. Therefore, even if the ministries earmark population-proportionate budgets, it is of less avail to these communities without clear targets and a definite share in climate and disaster risk reduction financing and SC-ST-targeted resilience development programmes.

To conclude, the following are the key findings:

1. A major loophole in public budgeting concerning the AWSC and AWST in climate and disaster risk reduction schemes/programmes is the sheer lack of SCs and STs-oriented specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (S.M.A.R.T) indicators for explaining the allocations and monitoring the outcomes.
2. Serious levels of underspending of AWSC and AWST were observed in various central sector schemes of the agriculture and energy ministries respectively. These schemes can contribute significantly to the resilience building of these communities if implemented with clear intent, targets, and design.
3. The absence of a National Climate Budget Statement (as done by the Bihar and Odisha governments), prohibits determining the Union-level climate financing for adaptation and mitigation, both.
4. The absence of classification of the climate-sensitive and relevant schemes makes it impractical to assess the AWSC and AWST in climate schemes

The following are the key recommendations for SC-ST inclusive climate and disaster resilience:

(A) Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

1. Institute the National Climate Budget Statement with earmarking for adaptation and mitigation by mainstreaming climate actions across the central sector and centrally sponsored programmes/schemes, with proportionate AWSC and AWST in climate budget (refer Bihar's Green Budget).
2. 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.
3. Mandate clear SC-ST targets and reporting for ministries earmarking for climate adaptation and mitigation schemes under AWSC and AWST
4. Adopt a matrix-based allocation and utilization of budgets for adaptation and mitigation disaggregated by caste and tribal status, gender, age and disability.
5. Introduce special schemes and budgets within AWSC and AWST for assisting the landless agricultural workers to secure climate and hazard-resilient livelihood
6. Constitute a Special Authority for Climate Change Adaptation to conceive and implement such packages where the locus of decision-making both about 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.

(B). Disaster Response, Recovery, Rehabilitation

1. Obligate AWSC and AWST allocations under the National Disaster Response Fund scheme to extend immediate assistance for the loss and damage of informal workers, landless and homestead-less to enable immediate recovery after disasters.
2. Obligate AWSC and AWST allocations under the

National Disaster Mitigation Fund to undertake targeted disaster mitigation projects/schemes for SC/STs

3. Institute disaggregated data and targets for the existing and new central sector and centrally sponsored schemes on disaster relief and mitigation.

14. Child Rights

India's got a whopping 472 million children, making up almost 40% of the whole population. Education is supposed to be the great equalizer, but for SC and ST children, it is difficult. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF guidelines, Article 2 prohibits discrimination against any child based on their caste, which is particularly relevant for Dalit children who face discrimination and social exclusion. That's what Dalit and LGBTQIA+ children in India deal with every day. Bullying, isolation, and violence are what the children face on a daily basis. One of the challenges that can be seen under the POSCO Act is that the societal stigma surrounding child sexual abuse can discourage reporting and perpetuate silence, especially within marginalized communities. Through the NFHS data, we also see that in 26% of the SC/ST communities, child marriage is still prevalent, and the top 3 states where you could see this are West Bengal, Bihar, and Tripura. The Juvenile Justice Act aims to help troubled children, despite the fact that the bias in the system can lead to unfair targeting of marginalized children.

The total allocation (CS+CSS) for SCs is Rs. 14,41,237 Cr and Rs. 14,39,780 Cr for STs. And when taking the total budget allocation, it is Rs. 1,65,598 Cr for SCs and Rs. 1,21,023 Cr for STs. When compared to the SC and ST budgets, they should have received Rs. 67,895 Cr for SCs and Rs. 49,619 Cr for STs, but they have received only a meager amount.

Highlighting some schemes for SC children for the years 2017-2021:

1. Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 the budget allocation was Rs. 4417.4 Cr and the actual expenditure tends to be Rs. 4207.8 Cr
2. Pre-Matric Scholarship, the budget allocation was Rs. 1955.0 Cr and the actual expenditure tends to be Rs. 1671.2 Cr which shows 14.51 % OF BE is unutilized.
3. For the National Child Labour Project, the budget allocation was Rs. 101.8 Cr and the actual expenditure tends to be Rs. 62.2 Cr which shows 38.9% of BE is unutilized.

Highlighting some schemes for ST children for the years 2017-2021:

1. Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 the budget allocation was Rs. 1899.5 Cr and the actual expenditure tends to be Rs. 1840.3 Cr
2. Pre-Matric Scholarship, the budget allocation was Rs. 1755.0 Cr, and the actual expenditure tends to be Rs. 1688.6 Cr, which shows 3.7% of BE is unutilized.
3. For the National Child Labour Project, the budget allocation was Rs. 51.9 Cr, and the actual expenditure tends to be Rs. 31.7 Cr which shows 39% of BE is unutilized.

Targeted Programs, Uneven Outcomes:

While targeted programs like the National Means Merit Scholarship Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman are commendable, their impact remains uneven. However, critical initiatives like Boys and Girls Hostels lack funding, highlighting the need for a more holistic approach that addresses all aspects of child well-being. More money for SC and ST programs, a focus on early years, and eliminating discrimination.

Recommendations



1. There are a good number of schemes but the allocation is quite meagre and there a number of irrelevant schemes, where the allocation is huge, but unfortunately, these schemes hardly give benefit to the communities. There are some schemes allocated under six Ministries like Agriculture, Power, Health and Family welfare, Micro, medium and Small Entrepreneurship, Social Justice and Empowerment, Higher Education, where Rs 27,210 Cr has been allocated towards irrelevant schemes that hardly benefit the communities, whereas Rs 569 Cr has been allocated for effective schemes, which give direct benefit to the communities, but don't have adequate fund to ensure the development of the communities. Therefore, this kind of non-targeted big-ticket scheme should be defunded.
2. All obligatory ministries should allocate population proportionate funds for Dalits and Adivasis as per the NITI Ayog guidelines of April 2018
3. 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 costs. A higher allocation for the National Overseas scheme should be implemented
4. 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.
5. 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 the mechanization of sanitation, it should be ensured that this should be given to women.
6. 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
7. 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 the passing of SCP/ TSP legislation.
8. The following recommendations are being made to urge the Government to recognize distinct climate vulnerabilities and differential impacts on the SCs and STs and provision along the principle of equity embedded in the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities framework to protect them from adverse impacts and build resilience to climate change;
 - a. Institute the National Climate Budget[1] 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

Recommendations



- 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. Accelerate the recommendations of the 15th FC Report in particular the methodology for determining allocations, vis. a combination of capacity, risk exposure (area and population with caste, tribe, age, disability and gender-disaggregated data) and hazard and vulnerability for determining state-wise allocation for disaster management.
 - i. 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.
 - J. Obligate AWSC and AWST allocations under National Disaster Mitigation Fund to undertake targeted disaster mitigation projects/schemes for SC/STs
 - K. Institute disaggregated data and targets for existing and new central sector and centrally sponsored schemes on disaster 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 PoA 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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