



'SAU MEIN PACHEES HAQ HAMARA'

A Struggle to reclaim the rightful share of Dalits and Adivasis

April 24, 2012, Parliament street, New Delhi



Dalit activists marching towards the Parliament to demand their rights

Massive uproar and agitation by over a thousand SC/STs marked the initiation of the campaign "Sau Mein Pachees Haq Hamara" at Jantar Mantar on 24th April, 2012. The protesters flooded the roads of Jantar Mantar as they marched along the high pitch drum beats, adding to the rhythm of the march, echoing the demands for having a (i) **Central Legislation on Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)** and (ii) **the Union Government to return the amount Rs. 36, 186.74 Cr. of SCP and Rs. 17,889.22 Cr. of TSP**, which is the shortfall in current year (2012-13) allocation.

People were furious and they even ran up to the barricades which the Police had put for security purposes, a symbolic gesture, to signify if the demands are not met, they would cross-over while protesting the next time. Even the scorching heat did not deter those who joined the protest march from several other states. **They hooted in unison, "Hamara Haq Leke rahenge!"**

What is the struggle about?

SCP and TSP are the two plans which form an integral part of the SC/STs welfare fund, where the government had decided that out of every 100 rupees spent by them, Rs.16/- will be spent for Dalits and Rs.8/- spent for Adivasis annually (based on the population at the national and state levels; AND that the funds would be used for such schemes that will directly benefit SC/ST individuals/households or SC/ST bastis/tolas/localities. **The government has instead, very conveniently, diverted a large share of this money for general and notional schemes, hardly benefitting the Dalits**

and the Adivasis. One of the recent examples being diversion and misappropriation of funds during the common wealth games, where a large sum of money was spent on building the stadia and other such infrastructure, at the cost of homeless and neglected Dalits and Adivasis. This act on government's part is utterly shameful. It demeans the importance of govt. budgetary planning and sense of justice.

In the current Union Budget 2012-13, a shortfall of Rs. Cr. 27526.78 in SCP and Rs. Cr. **11008.90** in TSP is observed, which violates the guidelines of the SCP and TSP. Even in the amounts that have been allocated, there is a 'notional' allocation (other than intended) of Rs. Cr. 6,229.96 in SCP and Rs. Cr. 2267.05 in TSP. In the XIth plan period alone, Rs Cr. 96,236.70 was denied to Dalits and Rs Cr. 46,628.50 to Adivasis, making a total of Rs. Cr. 1,42,865.20 for SCP/TSP of the Union Government alone. If the aggregate of Union and state denials were to be aggregated, the amount denied would be double of what it is now at the Union level.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had also remarked that SCP and TSP funds should be non-divertible and non-lapsable, with the clear objective of bridging the gap in socio-economic development of the SCs and STs within a period of 10 years. 33 years have lapsed and the government has failed to keep its promise even for once.

Dalit activists mourned having been betrayed

During the protest, Street plays were performed depicting **government's misappropriation of the Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) funds** (exclusive for development and welfare of SC and ST, instituted in 1978-79 by the government) and the **undertones of bias and untouchability that** an average Dalit faces on a day to day basis.



Dalit activists shave their heads in protest

Around 100 people along with leading Dalit activists shaved their heads as a symbol of mourning to portray the bleak picture of the government and how it is 'cheating' and wearing the money belonging to SC /ST. Some of the prominent people who shaved off their heads were **Sri Rajendra Gautam, national vice-president of Samata Sainik Dal, Sri. Madhava Rao, retd Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Paul Divakar, General Secretary of Dalit Ardhik Adhikar Andolan, NCDHR, Dr. Prasad Sirivella General Secretary of the National Dalit Movement for Justice** and several protestors. Mr. PS Krishnan, Retd. Principal Secretary, Rural Development, and many renowned activists graced the occasion by addressing the gathering.

The protest at Jantar Mantar has been organised in coordination with the **re-opening day of the Parliament session**. There were parallel protests in 6 other states and eventually this would culminate **into a huge mass mobilization on 9th May 2012 leading to "Chalo Parliament"**.

What is our need and demand?

Since the marginalized communities (SC/STs and tribal) have seldom had a chance to voice their opinion and even to seek what is rightful and deserving. Following are some of the key demands that were **submitted to the Prime Minister in the memorandum**:

- I. A Central Legislation to be designed for Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan. This Central legislation should provide for:
 - a. Clearly setting apart a proportion of the total Plan outlays of Centre and States that is equivalent to the population proportion of SCs/STs at national and state level, for their development.
 - b. A well- designed, dedicated institutional set-up at the Central & State level, which shall allocate SCP/TSP funds to the Ministries/Departments, duly taking into consideration the developmental needs of SCs/STs. This will enable the Ministries/Departments to clearly show the schemes formulated for the development of SC/STs under a separate budget head.
 - c. Encouraging participation of community, CSOs and experts in planning as well as implementation and evaluations of schemes.
 - d. Publishing of the performance/outcome budget every year, providing details about the beneficiaries and be made available to public access.
- II. The demand is that the shortfall including the notional amounts of Rs. Cr. 33,756.74 of SCP and Rs. Cr. 13,275.95 of TSP in the current Union budget 2012-13, be returned and reallocated to schemes with a clear objective of bridging socio-economic gap between SCs/STs and Non-SCs/STs with particular focus on health, education, housing, assignment/acquisition of land, employment, income generation, entrepreneurship and access to basic amenities.

Who we are?

SC/ST Budget Adhikar Andolan, is a coalition of several organizations across the country, committed to the realization of the rightful economic claims of Dalits and Adivasis under the specially constituted SCP and TSP, national schemes in India.



Dalits from across the country march in protest