

'SAU MEIN PACHEES HAQ HAMARA'

A Struggle to reclaim the rightful share of the Dalits and the Adivasis

Thousands of Dalits & Adivasis from all over India stormed the capital demanding their share! The scorching heat did not deter their spirits as they screamed in unison for their "HAQ"! One could hear the beating of drums as if to stir the capital to reclaim what is rightfully theirs!

The outcry of tens of thousands of agitated Dalits and Adivasis screaming "Sau Mein Pachees Haq Hamara" could be heard a mile away. **Aruna Roy, NAC member, acknowledging it to be a political battle, fiercely articulated the need to demand from all political parties the inclusion of the agenda of legislating the SCP /TSP into their respective party manifestoes in order to win votes from Dalits and Adivasis.** Harsh Mander was another NAC Member who addressed the gathering. **Vimal Thorat, member of SC/ST Budget Adhikar Andolan ascertained that they will not rest till we have won the fight for dignity which also includes economic rights.**

Shri Prakash Karat, stated that the SCP / TSP funds never reach the people according to the set guidelines and his party fully supports the demand to make SCP / TSP a law, while assuring support to the movement, both inside and outside the Parliament. Shri Mungekar, invoking the diversion of SCP / TSP funds by the Delhi government which is on record of the parliament, exhorted the Union and state governments to be sincere and honest to the welfare of Dalits and Adivasis for they demand their legitimate right and not charity. Among other members of Parliament addressing the gathering were Shri D Raja, Shri JD Seelam, Shri Arjun Meghwal, , Shri Ashok Argal, , Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and many others who supported the struggle and promised to take this up with the PM. **Rajendra Gautam, member of the Andolan, lamented the wretched conditions of Dalits and Adivasis who have no houses and jobs, because of which the SCP was instituted, and strongly demanded that the stolen money be returned and used for providing them a dignified living. Paul Divakar, another member of this Andolan frustrated by the deception of the government stated that they will flood the streets of every capital in the nation till the demands are met.**

What is our need and demand?

Since the marginalized communities (SC/STs) have seldom had a chance to voice their opinion and even seek what is rightful and deserving. We seek your cooperation and support and demand nothing but justice. Following are some of the key demands:

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

What is the struggle about?

SCP and TSP were instituted in the year 1978-79, these are the two plans which form an integral part of the SC/STs and Tribal welfare fund, where the government had decided that out of every 100 rupees spent by the government, Rs.16/- will be spent for Dalits and Rs.8/- spent for Adivasis every year; 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 to general schemes, hardly benefitting the Dalits and the Adivasis.** One of the recent examples being diversion and misappropriation of funds which happened during the common wealth games where a large sum of money was spent on building the stadia and other such infrastructure, thus weaning the rights of the SC/ST's and Dalits. 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. 27526.78 cr. to SCP and Rs. 11008.90 cr. to TSP in violation of the Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) guidelines has been noticed. Even in the amounts that have been allocated, there is a 'notional' allocation (other than intended) of Rs. 6,229.96 cr. in SCP and Rs. 2267.05 cr. in TSP. In the XIth plan period alone Rs 96,236.70 cr. was denied to Dalits and Rs 46,628.50 cr. to Adivasis, making a total of Rs.1, 42,865.20 cr. 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.

Who we are?

SC/ST Budget Adhikar Andolan, we are a coalition of several organizations across the country, committed to the realization of excess rightful claims of Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), **demand: (i) Central Legislation on SCP for SCs and TSP for STs 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 and the notional schemes which have no flows to the SCs and STs for their development.