



Implementation of (STSDf) scheduled tribes special development fund act 2017 of Telangana: A case study of Telangana

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Abstract

After the formation of the new State of Telangana, on the 2nd June, 2014, the State Government has attached the top-most priority for the development of Scheduled Tribes population in the State, which accounts for 9.08% of the total population as per the 2011 Census. The Tribal Welfare Department was nominated as nodal department to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of various schemes reflect the importance given by the Government to ensure all-round development of the Scheduled Tribes.

The Act is aimed to ensure accelerated development of SCs and STs with emphasis on achieving equality, focusing on economic, educational and human development along with security and social dignity and promoting equity among SCs and STs. In accordance with section (3) of the SDF Act, the State Government shall earmark a portion of the total Pragathi Paddu outlay of the State in proportion to population of SCs and STs in the state in every financial year to be called as the SC & ST Special Development Fund.

Keywords: scheduled tribes, schemes, act, and census

Introduction

The Act facilitates to allocate the budgets in tune with the percentage of ST Population in the State. Section 14 of the Act mandates that if any Special Development Fund remains unspent, it shall be compensated in the next financial year in the same proportion on the reach of actual expenditure to the total budget estimate of Pragathi Paddu at the end of financial year in the manner prescribed.

The convergence gives the scope for faster achievement of intended objectives. The coordination among departments and schemes fuels to increase the momentum of development process through inter sectoral coordination.

The details of budget allocations made to the Line Departments and the expenditure incurred during the year 2018-19 is as follows:

Table 1: Budget Allocation to Departments

Sl. No	Department	Budget Amount (Rs.in Crs)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crs)
1	Tribal Welfare Department	3166.21	2372.16
2	Agriculture	1332.19	1084.49
3	Rural Development & SERP	1057.05	1068.48
4	TRANSCO	488.46	488.46
5	Housing Department	328.79	164.39
6	Planning Department	315.98	72.67
7	Civil Supplies	245.57	204.36
8	Industries	228.02	135.58
9	Rural Water Supply	212.06	137.71
10	ENC, Panchayat Raj	195.73	23.94
11	Other Departments	2123.06	757.76
	Total	9693.12	6510.00

Scheduled Tribe special development fund is to ensure, accelerated development of Scheduled Tribe with emphasis on achieving equality in the coming years focusing on economic, educational and human development along with ensuring their security and social empowerment and promoting equity among scheduled tribes, by earmarking a portion, in proportion to the population of Scheduled Tribes in the state, of the total Pragathi Paddu out lay of the state of Telangana as the Scheduled Tribes special development fund of the state and ensuring effective Institutional mechanisms for the implementation and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

Main features of STSDF

1. It extends to the whole of the state of Telangana
2. It shall come into force on Pragathi padu schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribe.
3. Pragathi padu benefits all social groups including Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes.
4. State council for Development of Scheduled Tribes headed by the chief minister reports to the Governor and he report to President of India regarding administration of Scheduled areas as mentioned in Paragraph 3 of Part A of Fifth Schedule to the constitution of India.

Various innovative schemes such as Individual beneficiary oriented schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi, Aasara Pensions, Investment support scheme for the farmers (RythuBandhu), Farm Insurance Scheme(Rhythubima), Schemes for Education like that of New Residential Schools & Women Degree Colleges, Sanna Biyyam to hostels, Schemes for health care such as KCR Kits, Schemes for entrepreneurship like that of CMs ST Entrepreneurship scheme and other community oriented infrastructure schemes like that of provision of drinking water to households, Improvement of Minor Irrigation facilities with state flagship schemes such as Mission Kakatiya Irrigation notable among the certain initiatives taken by the Government for the development of STs. Government enacted the “Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2017 “(Act 18/2017), and framed rules for this act.

Objective

1. To analyze the socio-economic status of the STs Communities of Telangana State.
2. To study the government schemes and Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2017 of Telangana for the welfare of tribal communities.
3. To Analyze and challenges and make recommendations

Methodology

The literature used to write and analyze the socio-economic conditions and Implementation of (STSDF) Scheduled Tribes special Development Fund Act 2017 of Telangana tribes in this paper is collected from various secondary sources like internet, research articles, government reports and websites.

Result and Discussions

Brief profile of Schedule Tribes in the State

Table 2: District wise distribution of total population and Scheduled tribes

Name of the District	Total Population			ST Population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Adilabad	2741239	1369597	1371642	495794	247472	248322
Hyderabad	3943323	2018575	1924748	48937	25556	23381
Karimnagar	3776269	1880800	1895469	106745	53495	53250
Khammam	2797370	1390988	1406382	765565	378532	387033
Mahbubnagar	4053028	2050386	2002642	364269	187035	177234
Medak	3033288	1523030	1510258	168985	86574	82411
Nalgonda	3488809	1759772	1729037	394279	203876	190403
Nizamabad	2551335	1250641	1300694	192941	95679	97262
Rangareddy	5296741	2701008	2595733	218757	112768	105989
Warangal	3512576	1759281	1753295	530656	268976	261680
Total	35193978	17704078	17489900	3286928	1659963	1626965

Source: Computed from Primary Census Abstract Data for Scheduled Tribes, 2011, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Above tables show the district wise distribution of total population and scheduled tribes in Telangana state. Most of ST is living in Khammam (765565) district and followed by Warangal, Adilabad, Mahbubnagar, Hyderabad district contribute least tribes population to the total ST population. Male and female ST is also highly concentrated in Khammam district.

Table 3: District wise distribution of ST population

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Percentage of STs population to total ST population of the State		
		Total	Male	Female
1.	Adilabad	15.1	14.9	15.3
2.	Hyderabad	1.5	1.5	1.4
3.	Karimnagar	3.2	3.2	3.3

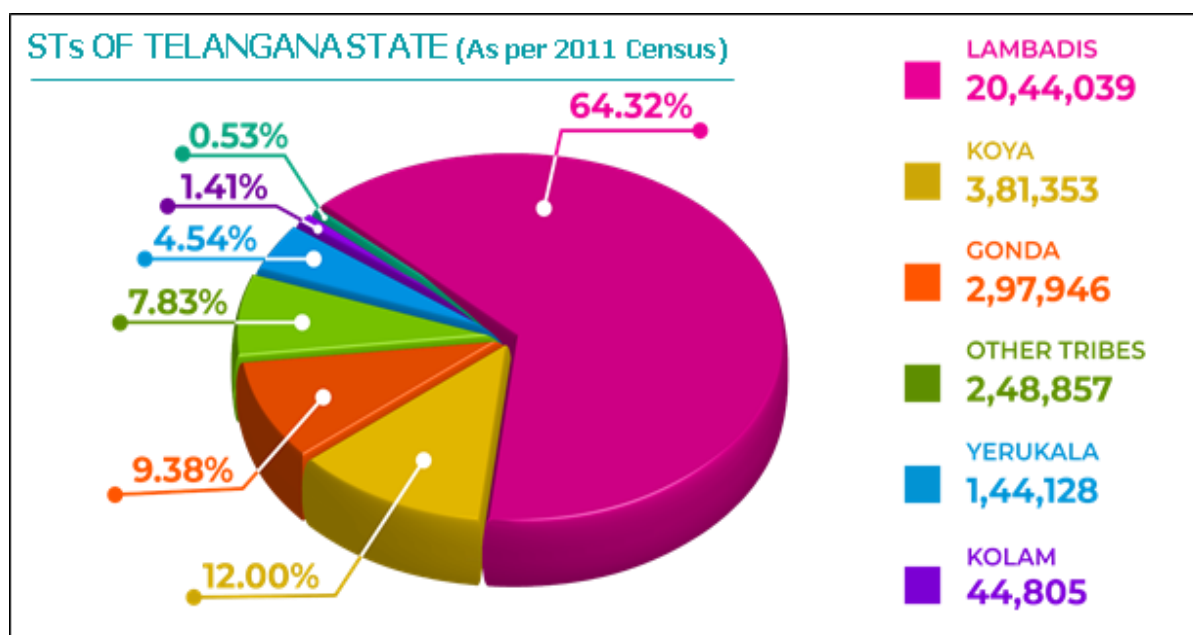
4.	Khammam	23.3	22.8	23.8
5.	Mahbubnagar	11.1	11.3	10.8
6.	Medak	5.1	5.2	5.1
7.	Nalgonda	12.0	12.3	11.7
8.	Nizamabad	5.9	5.8	6.0
9.	Rangareddy	6.7	6.8	6.5
10.	Warangal	16.1	16.2	16.1
Total		100	100	100

Source: Computed from Primary Census Abstract Data for Scheduled Tribes, 2011, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Above table shows that most of ST lives in Khammam (23.3%) district and followed by Warangal (15.1%), Adilabad (15.1%), Nalgonda (12%), the lowest percentage of STs Population to total population in Hyderabad (1.5%). Most ST male and female lives in Khammam (22.8% and 23.8% respectively) district and followed by Warangal (16.2% & 16.1%), Adilabad (14.9% & 15.3%), Nalgonda (12.3% and 11.7%), the lowest percentage of STs population to total population in Hyderabad (1.5 & 1.4%). It is observed that the distribution of female ST population lives in Khammam (23.8%) district among the Telangana state.

Profile of Tribal Communities

There are 32 Scheduled Tribes in the State of Telangana as per A.P. Reorganization Act, 2014. The Tribal population account for 9% of the total population in the State. ST population in ITDA districts is 52.96% of the total ST population in the State and remaining 47.04% Tribal's inhabit the plain areas. The main communities of Tribal's in the State are: Government of Telangana has brought in "The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act/ Act 18 of 2017 on March 30, 2017.



Source: Telangana-Tribal-Welfare-Dept-Annual-Report-2018-19

Fig 1

Table 4

S.No	Tribe	Total	Traditional Skills
1	Lambada	20.44 lakhs	Largest Tribal Community in Telangana Dispersed nomadic Tribe; Colorful Costumes and Intricate needle work.
2	Koya	3.81 lakhs	Largest Adivasi Community of Telangana Indigenous knowledge systems; the famed Medaram Samakka Saralamma jatara is the largest Tribal fair in Asia.
3	Gond/ Naikpod	2.97 lakhs	Third largest Tribal Community Adivasi Community; Freedom fighting legacy; Ojha Craft work
4	Yerukala	1.44 lakhs	Fourth Largest Tribal Community of Telangana. Strengths: Basket Making works; Sooth Saying with rich oral traditional literature; prominent economic activity of pig rearing.
5	Kolam	0.44 lakhs	Largest PVTG Community Adivasi Community with contiguous interstate

			zone. Basketry and Bamboo craft; Ancient living and ancient language.
6	Pardhan	0.24 lakhs	Tribal Community of Telangana Singing and Oral Traditions, storytelling, relatively more literate
7	Chenchu	0.16 lakhs	PvTG Community in Nallamalla Forests Sustainable lifestyle, Honey Tapping, fishing
8	Andh	0.13 lakhs	Ancient Tribe Ethnobotanic and Rich Medicinal Knowledge, Spirtuality.
9	Thoti	0.04 lakhs	PvTG Community in Adilabad Tract Bards and Traditional singers, Body art/ Tattooing, Repositories of genealogies, performing arts
10	Kondared dis	0.02 lakhs	Ancient Tribe Bamboo work, toddy tapping(Jilugu kallu)

Source: Computed from Primary Census Abstract Data for Scheduled Tribes, 2011, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

State specific programmes

1. Planning, resources allocation and scheme for Scheduled Tribes special Development Fund

1. The State shall, in every financial year, earmark in such manner as may be prescribed, a portion of the total pragathipaddu outlays of the State which shall be proportionate to the Scheduled Tribes population of the State, to be called as Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund.
2. The Department as may be authorized by the Government shall, every financial year, communicate, in the manner prescribed, to the other departments, a provisional outlay out of the Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund as earmarked under section 3 for preparation of respective department wise schemes for Scheduled Tribes.
3. The Special Development Funds of the departments shall include only such schemes that secure direct and quantifiable benefits to the Scheduled Tribe individuals or Scheduled Tribe households or Scheduled Tribe habitations or Tribal areas that have the potential to bridge the gaps in development following the norms laid down in this Act and the rules made there under.
4. The departments shall prepare an action plan for special development Fund and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund to promote equity in the development among various social groups within Scheduled Tribes and focused development of Scheduled Tribe habitations. In case of Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund, special attention shall be paid to Scheduled Tribes residing in the Scheduled Areas.
5. The departments shall ensure coverage of Scheduled Tribes in the ongoing general schemes consistent with their eligibility for the same.
6. On receipt of communication under section 4, each department, shall, after ascertaining the gaps in the development of Scheduled Tribes, prioritize the development need of Scheduled Tribes through a consultative process, as may be prescribed, and shall formulate the schemes for Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund within the State Annual Pragathipaddu priorities.
7. Each Department, excluding the departments separately notified under this Act, shall submit, each year to the respective Nodal Departments, the Special Development Fund Schemes proposed to be included in the Special Development Funds, for appraisal by the Nodal Agency concerned, within the time frame and in the format, as may be prescribed.

2. Appraisal, allocation and approval of schemes under scheduled Tribes special development

1. The Nodal Agency for Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund, shall take up appraisal of schemes respectively submitted by the departments, to ensure conformity with the conditions and norms laid down in the
2. The respective Nodal Agency, while indicating allocation of Special Development Fund and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund to the schemes shall follow the norms mentioned below:-
 - a. for schemes exclusively benefitting Scheduled Tribe individuals or Scheduled Tribe households, 100% of scheme cost shall be allocated and accounted for under Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund or Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund, as the case may be;
 - b. For schemes benefitting Scheduled Tribe habitations, 100% of scheme cost shall be allocated and accounted for under Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund. In case of other habitations the cost shall be allocated and accounted in proportion of the population of the Scheduled Tribes;
 - c. For general schemes, included in the Special Development Fund, benefitting Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe individuals or Scheduled Tribe households, along with others, the scheme cost shall be allocated and accounted for under Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund, as per Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries covered;
 - d. In respect of non-divisible infrastructure works, a portion of the scheme cost as may be determined by the Government shall be deemed to have been attributed for Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund respective

Funding for Tribal Welfare

3. Budget provisioning, Distribution and strengthening of implementation machinery

1. The Schemes proposed by the State Council for Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/Scheduled Tribes Special Development fund shall be considered for inclusion in the Demands for Grants for the departments under the relevant head of account for the Scheduled
2. Castes Special Development Fund/Scheduled Tribes Development Fund.
3. If any amount of Special Development fund remains unspent, it shall be compensated in the next financial year in the same proportion on the reach of actual expenditure to total budget estimate of Pragathi Padu at the end of a financial year in the manner prescribed.
4. There shall be an exclusive Secretary, Finance in Finance Department for performing the functions relating to Budget implementation and allocation according to the provisions Of this Act within the overall discipline of the ways and means position as determined by the Finance department.
5. Budget Release Orders shall be issued to each department, for the amount provided in the Budget Estimates for Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund immediately after passing of the budget by the State Legislature in accordance with the Schedule and norms prescribed.

4. Transparency and Accountant ability in the Implementation of Scheduled castes special development fund, Scheduled tribes special development fund scheme.

1. Each department shall ensure transparency and accountability at all levels in the implementation of Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund schemes.
2. Government shall formulate an appropriate scheme, to award incentives for commendable performance and disincentives for proven negligence and lack of due diligence, in discharge of responsibilities under this Act by any functionary or official concerned Provided that disciplinary action shall be governed by the relevant service/disciplinary rules applicable to the Government officials and functionaries.
3. The Nodal agency shall place before the State Legislature, an Annual Report on outcome of implementation of Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/ Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund containing department-wise achievements and the un- utilised funds during the financial year under report. The report on Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund to the extent of Scheduled Areas shall form part of the Report regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas to be submitted to Governor in consultation with Telangana Tribes Advisory Council.
4. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out all or any of the purposes of this Act. (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-
 - a. Determination of gaps in development of Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes under section 2;
 - b. Earmarking Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/ Scheduled Tribes Special Development Funds from the Pragathi Padu outlays under section 3;
 - c. Identification of and preparation of schemes under Special Development Fund by the departments under

Scheduled Tribes, the qualification, disqualification and other allowances to the non-Official members of the State Council under section 17; (g) constitution of Nodal Agencies for Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/ Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund under section 19; (h) constitution of Administrative and Technical Support Unit in respective Nodal Department for Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/ Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund under section 22; (i) constitution of Special Development Fund Support Unit at department level under section 23; (j) constitution of District Monitoring Committee and the connected matters under section 24; (k) institutional strengthening at State, district and sub-district level for ensuring effective implementation, awareness, mass contact programme, social audit and monitoring of Scheduled Castes Special Development

Fund/ Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund under section 25; and (l) procedures for ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/Scheduled Tribes Special (l) procedures for ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of Scheduled Castes Special Development Fund/Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund under section 26. (3) Every rule made under this Act shall, immediately after it is made, be laid before each House of the State Legislature, if it is in session and if it is not in session, in the session immediately following for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions and if, before the expiration of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following the Legislature agrees in making any modification in the rule or in the annulment of the rule, the rule shall, from the date on which the modification or annulment is notified, have effect only in such modified form or shall stand annulled as the case may be so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

5. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Act, the Government may, by order, make such provisions or give such directions not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of the difficulty; Provided that no such power shall be exercised

after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act. (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as it is made, before each House of the State Legislature.

6. The Government may constitute a committee consisting of such official and non-official members on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, to carry out the functions entrusted to it in connection with monitoring the implementation of the provisions
7. The Telangana Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013 is hereby repealed and upon such repeal the Telangana General Clauses Act, 1891 shall apply.

Challenges

Human Capital

Education (literacy), Health

Accessibility: Connectivity by road/rail; communication network

Remoteness

Limited local market & job potential impacts Bank financing & access to loans etc

Concept of "Development"

Conserving Tribal heritage

Education

TS Literacy- 66.54%

Tribal Literacy- 49.80%

ST Male vs ST Female- 61.02% vs 40.64%

Health:

- No separate Health indices recorded for Tribal populations
- NFHS4 Survey- Anaemic among pregnant women- 51%, lactating mothers 58% and 0-5 yrs 57%
- Model survey conducted (2018) reveals nutritional lag for 0-5 yrs,
- Adolescent girls and pregnant & lactating mothers
- Stunting -53%, Wasting- 59% in 0-5 age group
- 11% children are moderately anaemic; 2% severely anaemic
- 57% women anaemic, 59% adolescent girls anaemic

Accessibility

This impacts infrastructure creation, availability of resource persons, communications, higher risks during floods, endemic outbreaks etc.

Remoteness

Lack of service providers (willing staff), escalated costs for material, few able and willing contractors, local VTDA's requiring financial support, limited marketing opportunities etc.

Recommendations

Having kept in view article 46 of the Constitution Of India, under the Directive Principles of State Policy, according to which the State shall promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitations, and the Preamble Of the Constitution wherein it has inter-alia been resolved to Secure all its citizens, justice, social, economic and political and equality Of Status and opportunity, amongst others, Act No. 1 of 2013 has been enacted in the combined State to ensure, accelerated development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with emphasis on achieving equality in the next ten years focusing on economic, educational and human development along with ensuring the security and social dignity and promoting equity among Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, by earmarking a portion, in proportion to population Of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State, of the total plan outlay of the State as the outlay of the Scheduled Castes Sub-plan/ Tribal Sub-Plan of the Sate and ensuring effective institutional mechanisms for the implementation and for matters connected therewith.

Pursuant to the formation of the State of Telangana with effect from 02-06-2014, the said Act has been adapted and the Telangana Scheduled Castes Sub-plan and Tribal Sub-plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2013 is in force in the State.

Castes Sub-plan/ Tribal Sub-Plan of the percent and ensuring effective institutional mechanisms for the implementation and for matters connected therewith. Pursuant to the formation of the State of Telangana with effect from 02-06-2014, the said Act has been adapted and the Telangana Scheduled Castes Sub-plan and Tribal Sub-plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2013 is in force in the State.

Scheme for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with following terms

8. To study the existing Act and suggest amendments and Improvements in the light of the changes in the budgeting procedure including measures for transparency, accountability and targeted approach for developmental schemes, allocation of funds, implementation of programmes/ schemes and their monitoring;
9. To suggest strategies and schemes to be adopted for improving the educational standards amongst Scheduled Castes,
10. To elucidate approaches to providing basic infrastructure in Scheduled Caste habitations and better health facilities in Scheduled areas;
11. To suggest measures for improving delivery and quality of Economic Support Schemes (ESS) and skill development by considering different age groups among Scheduled Castes living in urban, Semi-urban and rural areas;
12. To suggest measures for sustainable agriculture and allied sectors for Scheduled Tribe Farmers. To bring a new legislation to be in tune with the changed budgeting procedure along with certain required modifications.

Conclusion

Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund aims to bridge the gap between the Schedule Tribes (STs) and the general population with respect to all socio-economic development indicators in a time-bound manner. Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund discrepancies in the implementation, including: (i) non-adoption of specific norms for release of funds, (ii) weak programme management, (iii) deficient monitoring system, (iv) and non-implementation of information programmes. Funds under Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund are required to be put into a separate head of account, to strengthen administrative arrangements for proper utilisation and monitoring of funds. Efforts should be made towards optimal utilisation of allocated of funds for a given financial year; and (ii) a non-lapsable fund should be created to pool funds that could not be utilised in a financial. The basic objective of Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund is to channelize the flow of outlays from state ministries by earmarking funds for the development of STs in states (in proportion to their population). Nodal units at state/district units should also indicate state-specific allocation and release for STs separately under centrally sponsored schemes and central sector schemes. Involvement of local community in the planning process could be strengthened with the involvement of the community in tribal dominant blocks. It recommended that inputs/ suggestions of local tribal community should be sought in effective implementation of Telangana State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund.

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