

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

5th Floor LokNayak Bhawan,

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Press Release

New Delhi 05th March 2013

--Chairperson National Commission for Scheduled Castes seeks Action Taken Report from Punjab Government on non-implementation of welfare schemes

Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Shri PL Punia has directed Punjab Government to carry out a detailed exercise to look into the non-implementation of welfare schemes in the state. He also asked the state to present an Action Taken Report by 13 May 2013. Chief Secretary Rakesh Singh, Principal Secretary Finance Satish Chandra and Secretary Welfare Anurag Srivastava were present during the hearing of the complaint lodged by Paramjit Singh Kainth of Chamaar Mahan Sabha, Patiala.

As per the Planning Commission guidelines Scheduled Castes Sub Plan is to be prepared every year and its allocation should be at least in proportion to Scheduled Caste population. Punjab has 28.85% SC population. The state government has allocated Rs 4039 crores in the financial year 2012- 2013 for the purpose. The issue of non compliance was taken up in State Level Review held on 11 July 2011 but no compliance was made.

The budgetary and non- budgetary plans have a prescribed share for Scheduled castes Sub Plan. The Plan amount is spent on schemes for upliftment of scheduled castes by making provisions of residential schools, student hostels, coaching centers for competitive examinations in all districts, reimbursement of college fees and Self financing course, working women hostels, residential colonies, purchase and distribution of Land to landless families.