

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2023-24)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**Action taken by the Government on the
Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh
Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of
the Ministry of Minority Affairs**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2023/ Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT

(2023-24)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the
Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh
Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of
the Ministry of Minority Affairs

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.12.2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.12.2023



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2023/ Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

CONTENTS

PAGE

	COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iv)
	INTRODUCTION	(v)
CHAPTER - I	REPORT	
CHAPTER- II	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.	
CHAPTER- III	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply.	
CHAPTER -IV	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration.	
CHAPTER- V	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature.	

APPENDIX

*Appendix-I	Minutes of the Third Sitting of the Committee held on 19.12.2023.	
Appendix-II	Analysis of Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.	

* Not appended with this cyclostyled copy

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2023-24)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Deepak (Dev) Adhikari
3. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
4. Shri Bholanath (B.P. Saroj)
5. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
6. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
7. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Vijay Kumar
14. Shri Akshaibar Lal
15. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
16. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
17. Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule
18. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
19. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
20. Shri Devendrappa Y.
21. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
26. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
27. Shri Naryana Koragappa
28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri Ramji
30. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
31. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Vatsala Joshi | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Banani Sarker Joshi | - | Under Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Kakai Haokip | - | Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2023-24) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Fifty-Fourth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Forty-Seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2023. The Ministry of Minority Affairs have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 25.09.2023. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 19.12.2023.

3. An analysis of the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs is given in Appendix.

4. For facility of reference, observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

20th December, 2023

29 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Forty-Seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2023. It contained 7 observations/recommendations. Action Taken Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: - **(Total: 06, Chapter: II)**
Rec. Para No. 2.11, 3.17, 4.10, 6.8, 7.10 and 8.12.
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: - **(Total: 00, Chapter: III)**
Rec. Para No. NIL
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: - **(Total: 01, Chapter: IV)**
Rec. Para No. 5.17.
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: - **(Total: 00, Chapter: V)**
Rec. Para No. NIL

3. The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of this Report.

4. The Committee will now deal with the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

Recommendation (Para No.2.11)

5. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had spent ₹3,998.57 crore in 2020-21 and ₹4,325.24 in 2021-22, however, they have been able to spend just ₹668.42 crore in 2022-23 by 13th February, 2023. The Committee understand that the reason for low expenditure in 2022-23 is an unspent balance of ₹2,700 crore with several States/UT Governments in the Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)’. Since the funds could not further be released to these States/UTs under the newly adopted Single Nodal Agency(SNA) system in PFMS unless the unspent balance lying with the State/UT Governments is spent and reconciled by them, it resulted in overall low expenditure for PMJVK. The Committee also find that due to intensive scrutiny of Project Implementing Agencies, the budgetary allocation made under Skilling Scheme has been reduced to ₹100.00 crore from ₹235.00 crore. Another reason given by the Ministry was that 100% expenditure could not be incurred in the Scholarship Scheme since a major part of such funds are spent in the last quarter of an year. The Ministry have, however, committed to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate, by the end of Financial Year 2022-23, which, the Committee are hopeful of. As regards the Budgetary Estimate for 2023-24, the Committee observe that it has been reduced to ₹3,097.00 crore in comparison to the Budgetary Estimate of ₹5,029.00 crore in 2020-21, ₹4,810.77 crore in 2021-22 and ₹5,020.50 crore in 2022-23. They have been informed that in case of expenditure more than allocation, the Ministry of Minority Affairs will seek higher funds in 2023-24 at RE stage. The Committee hope that the Ministry will be able to effectively utilize the funds allocated under various Schemes with the adoption of the new mechanism of SNA system, once the teething troubles are over, as it will increase accountability of States/UTs Governments and ensure financial propriety as well as prudence. They, therefore, recommend that necessary action and guidance may be continued by the Ministry so that SNAs are established by the States/UTs Governments at the earliest and the aims and objectives of the Schemes for empowerment of minority communities are achieved. The Committee trust that the Ministry will not leave any stone unturned to fulfill their commitment given before them to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate in 2022-23. They would also like the Ministry to take adequate steps timely in implementing all the Schemes so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 too are prudently utilized”.

6. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“After introduction of SNA model under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) as per the revised guidelines of D/o Expenditure for release of funds to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, all the States/ UTs implementing the PMJVK scheme have designated State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and opened dedicated bank accounts of the SNAs. Funds under PMJVK are being released strictly as per the guidelines of Deptt. of Expenditure.

The data regarding physical and financial progress of the scheme have been reconciled with the State/ UT Governments. As per the expenditure reported by the States/UTs from time to time and the data updated as on 20.08.2023, a total of ₹4,687 crore is lying unspent under PMJVK with the various States/ UTs.

Due to the large unspent balance with the States, during the FY 2022-23, the BE of ₹1,650 crore for the scheme was reduced to ₹500 crore at R.E. stage. The final expenditure was around ₹222 Cr. However, due to the concerted efforts of the Ministry, the States have released an amount of around ₹2,113 crore (Central+State share) from the treasury to the SNA account of PMJVK during 2022-23 and the implementing agencies of the States have also deposited the unspent funds in the SNA account. During 2022-23 the States incurred an expenditure of ₹1,722 crore from the SNA account on the ongoing projects under PMJVK and the balance available as on 31.03.2023 was around ₹2,272 crore (Source: SNA01 report dated 22.08.2023 from PFMS). Taking into consideration the unspent balance available with the State Governments, the B.E. for the scheme for the FY 2023-24 has been kept at ₹600 crore only.

For effective implementation of PMJVK and to ensure optimum utilisation of funds, the States/ UTs have been given flexibility to use the funds released under PMJVK. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, now the release of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the individual projects. The amount available in the bank account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) of PMJVK forms a common pool, which can be utilised by the States to complete the ongoing projects. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States regarding utilisation of unspent balance available in the SNA accounts of the scheme”.

7. The Committee had acknowledged in their original Report that the Ministry of Minority Affairs faced challenges in utilizing their budget allocation for 2022-23. These included the implementation of the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system in PFMS, rigorous scrutiny of Project Implementing Agencies, unspent balances in the Scholarship

Schemes, among other factors. The Committee had therefore recommended that the Ministry should persist in providing essential guidance and taking action to ensure that the State/UT Governments establish SNAs expeditiously as it was crucial for implementation and achieving the objectives of the schemes aimed at empowerment of Minority Communities. The Committee note from the action taken replies of the Ministry that all the State/UTs have designated SNAs and dedicated bank accounts of the SNAs have also been opened and made operative under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram(PMJVK). The Committee have been informed that after reconciliation of the physical and financial progress of the scheme with the State/ UT Governments a total of ₹4,687 crore was lying unspent under PMJVK Scheme with various States/UTs. Consequently, this led to a significant reduction in the Revised Estimate for 2022-23 to ₹500 crore from the initially Budgeted Estimate of ₹1,650 crore. This also notably impacted the allocation for FY 2023-24, which has been restricted to ₹600 crore. The Committee have further been informed that for effective implementation of the scheme the existing procedure has been revised and actions initiated by the Ministry to ensure optimum utilisation of funds under PMJVK viz. granting flexibility to State/UTs to use the funds released under PMJVK, formation of a financial common pool for completing the ongoing projects and guidelines regarding utilisation of unspent balance available in the SNA accounts have also been issued to the States. The Committee hope that after making several changes in the procedure for effective implementation of the scheme , all the State/UTs would be able to complete all the pending projects under PMJVK and ensure optimum utilisation of funds available with them in their SNA accounts for 2023-24. The Committee would like to be apprised of State-wise utilisation of funds for the year 2023-24 under PMJVK.

Recommendation (Para No.3.17)

8. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are happy to note that three Scholarship Schemes viz. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme implemented by the Ministry are proposed to be continued up to 2025-26 and that the number of students benefitted from these schemes in 2020-21 and 2021-22 were 60.23 lakh and 65.63 lakh respectively. The Committee believe that education is the most effective way to empower and develop any community, and all efforts should, therefore, be made by the Government in this direction. They trust that the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs with regard to scholarship schemes i.e. revision in annual parental income, rationalization of rates of scholarships, revision in annual State/UT/Community wise allocation of targets and enhancement of earmarking of girl students from 30% to 50% for overall scholarship allocation, would be an important contribution in educating the poorest of the poor students belonging to Minority communities. In order to further enhance the coverage of the beneficiaries, the Committee suggest an intensive awareness exercise and provision of all necessary assistance to the students, in case they face any difficulty in filling of the applications, to minimize the rejection of applications. The Committee would also urge the Ministry to finalise the pending issues, particularly with regard to revision in annual parental income, rationalization of scholarship rate, etc. at the earliest. They would also recommend the Ministry to examine, if the process of filling scholarship application by beneficiaries can be started a little early so that the beneficiaries are able to get scholarship amount well in time.

9. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“Awareness:

Every year, at the time of opening of National Scholarship Portal (NSP), MoMA issues advertisement in National and regional Newspapers. Besides, the SMS/messages are sent through Ministry of Panchayati Raj to all Sarpanches and to all District Collectors through NIC messaging services. SMS/ messages are also sent through NSP to all District Nodal Officers and Renewal Applicants about opening of NSP Portal.

All States/UTs are also advised to give wide publicity about the scholarship schemes through advertisements in the leading local/regional newspapers and local dailies and by using other suitable publicity media well in time to enable the minority students to avail the maximum benefits of scholarship schemes. States/UTs also facilitate filing of applications under 3 Scholarship Schemes through camps at local levels.

Various scheme related information are also displayed on NSP to facilitate applicants e.g. 'check your eligibility', 'student FAQs (English and Hindi)', etc and institutes/schools e.g. 'Institute Operational Manual', 'How To Fill registration Form', 'AISHE/UDISE details', 'FAQs', etc. Operational manual on functionalities of NSP are also displayed prominently on NSP for awareness of all stakeholders. MoMA has also suggested NIC to create an online training module in INO login to increase awareness about the verification of application, etc.

MoMA has also formed a PMU with 5 Technical consultants which will provide hand holding along with the training of stake holders.

Revision of Annual Parental Income:

It is observed that the rates of scholarships under the three scholarship schemes have not been revised since inception. As such, this suggestion has been received from beneficiaries with whom IIT, Delhi interacted, while conducting the evaluation studies of the scholarship schemes. The views of the applicants have been considered and the revision in income criteria has been proposed in the EFC and CCEA Notes of Pradhan Mantri Educational Empowerment Scheme (PMEES). The proposal is under consideration.

Rationalization of Scholarship Rate:

Rationalization of rates of scholarships has been proposed in the EFC Memorandum of PMEES. The rationalization has been proposed by merging various components into a single scholarship amount. Apart from making it simpler for the students and avoid false claims, the rationalization will also help in effective monitoring of the scholarship disbursement.

The timeline for opening of National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for submitting of scholarship applications by the applicants is uniform for all the Ministries/Departments whose Scholarship Schemes are on-boarded on the portal. In general, the portal is opened from July/August for each Academic Year and remains open till October/November for applicants and hence sufficient time is given for submission of applications by the applicants.

10. The Committee in their original Report had urged the Ministry to address the pending issues pertaining to three Scholarship schemes for Minority students such as revision of annual parental income and rationalization of scholarship rates promptly. The Committee had also encouraged the Ministry to explore the possibility of initiating the scholarship application process earlier to ensure beneficiaries receive their scholarship amounts in a timely manner. The Committee note from the Action Taken Replies received from the Ministry, that the proposal for revising annual parental income and rationalization of scholarship rates have been incorporated in the EFC and CCEA Notes of the Pradhan Mantri Educational Empowerment Scheme (PMEEs), and are currently under consideration. Since these issues are long pending and crucial for educational empowerment of Minority students, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Ministry to give serious attention to this matter and expedite the process by establishing clear timelines for implementing these proposals. Furthermore, the Committee suggest that during the period when the Scholarship Portal is active, the Department should extensively promote the Scholarship Schemes through electronic and social media to raise awareness among a larger number of students.

Recommendation (Para No.5.17)

11. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are happy to note that the PMJVK *i.e.* Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, erstwhile called the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, has been approved for continuation up to 2025-26. It is implemented in all the minority-dominated districts of the Country to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities. With regard to allocation for PMJVK, the Committee note that due to unspent balance of ₹2,531.93 crore lying with several State/ UT Governments in their SNA account, the budgetary allocation for 2023-24 has been reduced to ₹600 crore. The Committee have been informed that with the

revised stipulation of appointing SNAs, the State/UT Governments are expected to utilize the funds allocated earlier and furnish the Utilization Certificate of these funds before further allocation of funds is made to them. Since the Committee learn that several States/UTs have defaulted in utilizing the funds allocated under the Scheme, they would like the Ministry to guide the States/ UTs in complying to the revised norms so that the Scheme is not made to suffer. The Committee note that the execution of large number of projects, for example, 70525 projects under Education Sector, 5850 projects under Health Sector, 431 Projects under Skill Sector and 48512 other Projects sanctioned to different States since inception of scheme in 2008-09 is commendable. But, at the same time, 58465 Projects in various States/UTs had to be cancelled/dropped as those could not be started by implementing agencies or became unviable. The Committee hope that the Ministry would now be able to identify such unviable and incomplete projects with the Geo-tagging App, which has been developed, and take appropriate action to ensure completion thereof so that the funds are not left idle. The Committee also hope that the Ministry would take adequate measures to see that all the identified districts are covered under the revised scheme within the stipulated period. The Committee would therefore, recommend that the Ministry may consider laying down indicative timelines for the completion of specific Projects without any delay”.

12. The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“As per the revised guidelines of Ministry of Finance, GoI regarding release of funds to the States, SNA model has been implemented with the objective of adopting "just in time" release of funds to States for implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). Accordingly, release of funds and approval of new projects under PMJVK has been linked to the progress of implementation of projects already approved in the States, pace of expenditure, pending UCs and unspent balance available with the State Governments. All the States/ UTs implementing the PMJVK scheme have designated State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and opened dedicated bank accounts of the SNAs. Funds under PMJVK are being released strictly as per the guidelines of Deptt. of Expenditure.

The data regarding physical and financial progress of the scheme have been reconciled with the State/ UT Governments. As per the expenditure reported by the States/UTs from time to time and the data updated as on 20.08.2023, a total of ₹4,687 crore is lying unspent under PMJVK with the various States/ UTs.

Due to the large unspent balance with the States, during the FY 2022-23, the BE of ₹1,650 crore for the scheme was reduced to ₹500 crore at R.E. stage. The final expenditure was around ₹222 Cr. However, due to the concerted efforts of the Ministry, the States have released an amount of around ₹2,113 crore (Central+State share) from the treasury to the SNA account of PMJVK during 2022-23 and the implementing agencies of the States have also deposited the unspent funds in the SNA account. During 2022-23 the States incurred an expenditure of ₹1,722 crore from the SNA account on the ongoing projects under PMJVK and the balance available as on 31.03.2023 was around ₹2,272 crore (Source: SNA01 report dated 22.08.2023 from PFMS). Taking into consideration the unspent balance available with the State Governments, the B.E. for the scheme for the FY 2023-24 has been kept at ₹600 crore only.

For effective implementation of PMJVK and to ensure optimum utilisation of funds, the States/ UTs have been given flexibility to use the funds released under PMJVK. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, now the release of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the individual projects. The amount available in the bank account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) of PMJVK forms a common pool, which can be utilised by the States to complete the ongoing projects. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States regarding utilisation of unspent balance available in the SNA accounts of the scheme.

With regard to the unviable projects, Ministry is constantly monitoring the progress of the projects approved and has directed the States to drop/ cancel the projects which have not started and become unviable. The States/UTs have also been asked to update the progress on the PMJVK Portal and to expedite geo-tagging of PMJVK assets through the Bhuvan-PMJVK mobile app. Out of 4,83,462 assets to be geo-tagged under PMJVK, a total of 46849 assets have been geo-tagged as on 22.08.2023.

States are being supported to resolve the issues related to geo-tagging and they have been regularly reminded to expedite geotagging. The State of Nagaland and UT of Jammu & Kashmir have geo-tagged all the assets, However, States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Himachal, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha and Tripura have not yet started geo-tagging. The status of geo-tagging by the States is given in Annexure.

The proposals under PMJVK are sent by the States/ UTs with the approval of the State Level Committees. States have been sensitised on the revised guidelines and coverage of all the districts under the scheme. Ministry consider the proposals received from the States/UTs as per the revised PMJVK guidelines. The

revised guidelines gives emphasis on the timely completion of the projects. States/UTs are now required to fix the timelines in advance while submitting the project. The States/UTs are required to ensure that the projects approved by the Ministry under PMJVK are started and completed within the prescribed timelines. Late starting/late implementation of PMJVK projects will make the project liable for cancellation by MoMA. The States/ UTs would update the progress of the projects on the PMJVK Portal, and the project would be monitored as per the timeline given by States/ UTs. Sanctioned projects may be cancelled due to non-compliance by States/ UTs, and the funds released for such projects will be adjusted on other ongoing projects in the States/ Uts”.

13. With regard to the execution of projects under PMJVK erstwhile called the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, the Committee had noted the commendable action of the Ministry in execution of large number of projects under various sectors but at the same time had expressed their concern regarding cancellation of about 58464 projects in various States as those could not be started by the implementing agencies or became unviable. The Committee had also hoped that the Ministry would now be able to identify such unviable and incomplete projects with the Geo-tagging App and take appropriate action to ensure their completion so that the funds are not left idle. The Committee are disappointed to note from action taken reply of the Ministry that only 46,849 assets out of a total of 4,83,462 have been geo-tagged as on 22.8.2023. Furthermore, it is observed that certain States have yet to commence the geo-tagging process for their assets. The Committee are of the considered opinion that in order to enable efficient tracking of Projects under PMJVK, the Ministry should find the causes of delay in geo tagging by different States and ensure that geo tagging is mandatorily done for all the projects expeditiously. The Committee would therefore like to reiterate their earlier recommendation for fixing indicative timelines for the completion of specific projects including that of geo-tagging PMJVK assets as they strongly feel that geo-tagging would enhance transparency and accountability on the part of the States/UTs and its nodal agencies. The Committee would like to be apprised of the status of geo-tagging of PMJVK assets in the final action taken stage.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Para No. 2.11)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had spent ₹3,998.57 crore in 2020-21 and ₹4,325.24 in 2021-22, however, they have been able to spend just ₹668.42 crore in 2022-23 by 13th February, 2023. The Committee understand that the reason for low expenditure in 2022-23 is an unspent balance of ₹2,700 crore with several States/UT Governments in the Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)'. Since the funds could not further be released to these States/UTs under the newly adopted Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system in PFMS unless the unspent balance lying with the State/UT Governments is spent and reconciled by them, it resulted in overall low expenditure for PMJVK. The Committee also find that due to intensive scrutiny of Project Implementing Agencies, the budgetary allocation made under Skilling Scheme has been reduced to ₹100.00 crore from ₹235.00 crore. Another reason given by the Ministry was that 100% expenditure could not be incurred in the Scholarship Scheme since a major part of such funds are spent in the last quarter of an year. The Ministry have, however, committed to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate, by the end of Financial Year 2022-23, which, the Committee are hopeful of. As regards the Budgetary Estimate for 2023-24, the Committee observe that it has been reduced to ₹3,097.00 crore in comparison to the Budgetary Estimate of ₹5,029.00 crore in 2020-21, ₹4,810.77 crore in 2021-22 and ₹5,020.50 crore in 2022-23. They have been informed that in case of expenditure more than allocation, the Ministry of Minority Affairs will seek higher funds in 2023-24 at RE stage. The Committee hope that the Ministry will be able to effectively utilize the funds allocated under various Schemes with the adoption of the new mechanism of SNA system, once the teething troubles are over, as it will increase accountability of States/UTs Governments and ensure financial propriety as well as prudence. They, therefore, recommend that necessary action and guidance may be continued by the Ministry so that SNAs are established by the States/UTs Governments at the earliest and the aims and objectives of the Schemes for empowerment of minority communities are achieved. The Committee trust that the Ministry will not leave any stone unturned to fulfill their commitment given before them to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate in 2022-23. They would also like the Ministry to take adequate steps timely in implementing all the Schemes so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 too are prudently utilized.

Reply of the Government

After introduction of SNA model under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) as per the revised guidelines of D/o Expenditure for release of funds to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, all the States/ UTs implementing the PMJVK scheme have designated State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and opened dedicated bank accounts of the SNAs. Funds under PMJVK are being released strictly as per the guidelines of Deptt. of Expenditure. The data regarding physical and financial progress of the scheme have been reconciled with the State/ UT Governments. As per the expenditure reported by the States/UTs from time to time and the data updated as on 20.08.2023, a total of ₹4687 crore is lying unspent under PMJVK with the various States/ UTs. Due to the large unspent balance with the States, during the FY 2022-23, the BE of ₹1650 crore for the scheme was reduced to ₹500 crore at R.E. stage. The final expenditure was around ₹222 Cr. However, due to the concerted efforts of the Ministry, the States have released an amount of around ₹2113 crore (Central+State share) from the treasury to the SNA account of PMJVK during 2022-23 and the implementing agencies of the States have also deposited the unspent funds in the SNA account. During 2022-23 the States incurred an expenditure of ₹1722 crore from the SNA account on the ongoing projects under PMJVK and the balance available as on 31.03.2023 was around ₹2272 crore (Source: SNA01 report dated 22.08.2023 from PFMS). Taking into consideration the unspent balance available with the State Governments, the B.E. for the scheme for the FY 2023-24 has been kept at Rs.600 crore only. For effective implementation of PMJVK and to ensure optimum utilisation of funds, the States/ UTs have been given flexibility to use the funds released under PMJVK. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, now the release of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the individual projects. The amount available in the bank account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) of PMJVK forms a common pool, which can be utilised by the States to complete the ongoing projects. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States regarding utilisation of unspent balance available in the SNA accounts of the scheme.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

(Recommendation Para No. 3.17)

The Committee are happy to note that three Scholarship Schemes viz. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme implemented by the Ministry are proposed to be continued up to 2025-26 and that the number of students benefitted from these schemes in 2020-21 and 2021-22 were 60.23 lakh and 65.63 lakh respectively. The Committee believe that education is the most effective way to empower and develop any community, and all efforts should, therefore, be made by the Government in this direction. They trust that

the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs with regard to scholarship schemes *i.e.* revision in annual parental income, rationalization of rates of scholarships, revision in annual State/UT/Community wise allocation of targets and enhancement of earmarking of girl students from 30% to 50% for overall scholarship allocation, would be an important contribution in educating the poorest of the poor students belonging to Minority communities. In order to further enhance the coverage of the beneficiaries, the Committee suggest an intensive awareness exercise and provision of all necessary assistance to the students, in case they face any difficulty in filling of the applications, to minimize the rejection of applications. The Committee would also urge the Ministry to finalise the pending issues, particularly with regard to revision in annual parental income, rationalization of scholarship rate, etc. at the earliest. They would also recommend the Ministry to examine, if the process of filling scholarship application by beneficiaries can be started a little early so that the beneficiaries are able to get scholarship amount well in time.

Reply of the Government

Awareness:

Every year, at the time of opening of National Scholarship Portal (NSP), MoMA issues advertisement in National and regional Newspapers. Besides, the SMS/messages are sent through Ministry of Panchayati Raj to all Sarpanches and to all District Collectors through NIC messaging services. SMS/ messages are also sent through NSP to all District Nodal Officers and Renewal Applicants about opening of NSP Portal. All States/UTs are also advised to give wide publicity about the scholarship schemes through advertisements in the leading local/regional newspapers and local dailies and by using other suitable publicity media well in time to enable the minority students to avail the maximum benefits of scholarship schemes. States/UTs also facilitate filing of applications under 3 Scholarship Schemes through camps at local levels.

Various scheme related information are also displayed on NSP to facilitate applicants e.g. 'check your eligibility', 'student FAQs (English and Hindi)', etc and institutes/schools e.g. 'Institute Operational Manual', 'How To Fill registration Form', 'AISHE/UDISE details', 'FAQs', etc. Operational manual on functionalities of NSP are also displayed prominently on NSP for awareness of all stakeholders.

MoMA has also suggested NIC to create an online training module in INO login to increase awareness about the verification of application, etc. MoMA has also formed a PMU with 5 Technical consultants which will provide hand holding along with the training of stake holders.

Revision of Annual Parental Income:

It is observed that the rates of scholarships under the three scholarship schemes have not been revised since inception. As such, this suggestion has been received from

beneficiaries with whom IIT, Delhi interacted, while conducting the evaluation studies of the scholarship schemes. The views of the applicants have been considered and the revision in income criteria has been proposed in the EFC and CCEA Notes of Pradhan Mantri Educational Empowerment Scheme (PMEES). The proposal is under consideration.

Rationalization of Scholarship Rate:

Rationalization of rates of scholarships has been proposed in the EFC Memorandum of PMEES. The rationalization has been proposed by merging various components into a single scholarship amount. Apart from making it simpler for the students and avoid false claims, the rationalization will also help in effective monitoring of the scholarship disbursement. The timeline for opening of National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for submitting of scholarship applications by the applicants is uniform for all the Ministries/Departments whose Scholarship Schemes are on-boarded on the portal. In general, the portal is opened from July/August for each Academic Year and remains open till October/November for applicants and hence sufficient time is given for submission of applications by the applicants.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

(Recommendation Para No.4.10)

The Committee note that that from 2022-23 onwards, the existing five schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs viz. Seekho Aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil, have been converged into Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan, (PM-VIKAS) Scheme to prevent any overlapping of objectives and achieve better synergy across various components. The Committee find that out of Budgetary allocation of ₹330.91 crore for 2022-23, Ministry could spend ₹46.86 crore and that ₹540.00 crore allocation has now been allocated under the Scheme for 2023-24. The Committee foresee that the expenditure with respect to all the sub-Schemes will increase once all the Schemes are fully under PM-VIKAS Scheme. Since the modalities of the integrated Scheme are still being finalized, the Committee expect that all shortcomings observed by the Ministry in the implementation of the erstwhile five schemes in the previous years would be taken care of, so that the need for any further changes is not felt once the merged Scheme is operationalised. The Committee would also urge that the monitoring system devised should be efficient, and effective, based on real-time data. Also a proper mechanism needs to be evolved so that the appointment of Project Implementing Agencies is done meticulously. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to take utmost care in framing the guidelines and SOPs for an effective implementation of PM-VIKAS and take necessary measures for a full-fledged functioning of the scheme so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 are

utilized in achieving the objectives of the scheme. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps taken in this regard by the Ministry in their Action Taken Notes.

Reply of the Government

The guidelines and SoP for implementation of the PM VIKAS scheme is under preparation. For effective implementation of the scheme, all shortcomings observed in the implementation of the erstwhile five schemes in the previous years would be taken care of, so that the need for any further changes is not felt once the merged Scheme is operationalized. The Ministry will devise efficient, and effective monitoring system, based on real-time data and put in place due mechanisms for empanelment of the right Project Implementing Agencies to implement the scheme at ground level. Further as per direction of Cabinet Secretariat, Skill Component of the Scheme will be implemented through Skill India Digital (SID) portal of Ministry of Skill Development and entrepreneurship, to ensure that there is no duplication of beneficiaries and optimum utilization of Government funds.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

(Recommendation Para No.6.8)

A Central Waqf Council is mandated to implement the Quomi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme to disburse funds to State/UT Waqf Boards so that they can streamline record keeping and computerize various functions/process of the Waqf Boards. As the pace of the Scheme is yet to achieve the desired momentum, the Committee opine that there is a need to identify the difficulties faced in execution of the Scheme so that the Budget allocated is fully utilised. The Committee hope that the addition of new components after revision of the Scheme such as deployment of technical expert manpower, GIS mapping of Waqf property, etc. would improve the functioning of Waqf Boards and the budgetary allocation would be utilised effectively. The Committee expect that Central Waqf Council alongwith State Waqf Board will take suitable measures to achieve the objectives. They feel that the guidelines of the scheme should be periodically reviewed and if need is felt, fresh guidelines should be issued by the Ministry to Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards. Such evaluation of the Scheme by the Ministry would help them in making the Scheme more effective and accordingly, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take necessary action in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Based on the Ministry of Finance's guidelines for the release of funds to Central Waqf Council i.e implementing agency for the scheme "Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme" (QWBTS). CNA/SNA model has been implemented for release of funds.

In adopting this procedure, the pace of implementation of QWBTS was a bit slow as ₹5.00 crore only were released during FY 2022-23 against budget allocation 10.00 crore. The Scheme is progressing in terms of digitization of data in Waqf Asset Management System of India (WAMSI). During the year 2022-23, additional digitization in State Waqf Board records has been achieved. Geographical Information System (GIS) data capture for Waqf properties has also been done in WAMSI. During 2022-23, data pertaining to 66,629 Waqf property parts have been added to WAMSI and GIS data pertaining to 1,07,437 Waqf property parts have been captured. New guidelines for implementation of QWBTS were formulated on April, 2021 for the years 2021-22 to 2025-26 and this scheme would be evaluated before framing fresh guidelines in the year 2025-26.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

(Recommendation Para No.7.10)

The Committee are happy to note that the funds under Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana have substantially increased from ₹2.00 crore in 2021-22 and ₹3.00 crore in 2020-21 to ₹7.00 crore in 2023-24. As several such properties are under encroachment and cases are long pending in State Tribunals, the Committee are of the opinion that there is urgent need to expedite such cases to get the Waqf lands free from encroachment, for development to achieve the intended objectives of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to develop appropriate mechanism to achieve the objectives of the Scheme and ensure that the Budget allocated for 2023-24 is fully utilised. The Committee also desire that State Waqf Boards should be made accountable if those are not able to implement the Scheme and avail the facility of interest free loan from the Ministry. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps envisaged by the Ministry at the action taken stage.

Reply of the Government

Guidelines for implementation of “Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana”(SWSVY) have been duly approved by the concerned authorities which provides a comprehensive mechanism for implementation of SWSVY and continuous monitoring and evaluation mechanism are in place to keep track of the progress made and ensure the effectiveness of the scheme. During 2021-22, a total of Rs.1.0 Crore was disbursed in loans to three different projects for development of Waqf properties in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. As CNA/SNA model has been fully adopted, CWC would be able to utilize the Budget allocation of FY 2023-24 effectively.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

(Recommendation Para No.8.12)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been making arrangements for the Haj Pilgrims through the Haj Committee of India or the private Haj Group Organizers in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and other concerned Ministries. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has the responsibility to look after the Pilgrims and to redress the grievances on reaching Jeddah/Medinah airport and during their stay in Saudi Arabia. The Committee find that annual quota of India for Haj has increased from 1,36,000 pilgrims during Haj 2014 to 2,00,000 pilgrims during Haj 2019. Several progressive measures have also been taken by the Ministry in last few years like lifting of restrictions on Muslim women going for Haj without Mehram, digitalization of Haj Process etc. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has taken steps to cut down cost of air travel by framing Haj policy, 2023 which inter-alia stipulates exclusion of items like umbrella, bed sheets, standardized baggage from Haj package, and exclusion of mandatory payment of 2,100SR by each pilgrim. The Committee feel that the discontinuation of discretionary quota and the effort of the Government to receive the full Haj quota of pilgrims will give boost to the Haj pilgrimage. The Committee, at the same time, would like to draw the attention of the Ministry towards the Budgetary allocation and expenditure incurred in previous years for making the arrangement for Haj pilgrims. They are of the opinion that the Budgetary allocation made to facilitate Haj pilgrims should be spent meticulously and efforts made to rationalise the expenditure on this account. The Committee expect to see the procedure further simplified in future in the interest of the pilgrims. In order to further smoothen the process for Haj Pilgrimage, the Committee recommend that a feedback mechanism should be established for Haj Pilgrims to further update the procedure for the pilgrims based on such feedback.

Reply of the Government

A feedback mechanism is already in place for haj Pilgrims (both HGO as well as Hcol pilgrims) and the Ministry has however taken steps to revamp this feedback mechanism on the portal for Haj 2023 so as to ensure that the feedback can be used to improve the Haj operations. The haj Committee of India operates on no profit no loss basis and charges the pilgrims only for the facilities provided to them. Further there have been a number of initiatives for optimum utilization of scarce resources and for the economical and affordable Haj, which includes rationalizing the number of khadims ul Hujjaj, administrative and medical contingent, removing various restrictive provisions in bidding process for charters, removing unnecessary costs from Haj packages etc.

The Ministry has also made an effort to streamline the procedures and bring transparency in the system which includes review & revamping of existing Haj application portal, supervision of process of allocation of quota, real time updation to pilgrims who have applied through pilgrimage through Hcol through SMS about status of seat allocation and waiting list. The cost ensured on sending deputationist to KSA has been brought down by rationalization of number of deputationist being sent abroad. Moreover the procedure for selection of buildings and delegate arrangements for the Haj pilgrims by the Consulate General of India to Saudi Arabia have been made more transparent and compliant with extant rule in force.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

CHAPTER- III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

NIL

CHAPTER-IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION.

(Recommendation Para No.5.17)

The Committee are happy to note that the PMJVK i.e. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, erstwhile called the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, has been approved for continuation up to 2025-26. It is implemented in all the minority-dominated districts of the Country to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities. With regard to allocation for PMJVK, the Committee note that due to unspent balance of ₹2531.93 crore lying with several State/ UT Governments in their SNA account, the budgetary allocation for 2023-24 has been reduced to ₹ 600 crore. The Committee have been informed that with the revised stipulation of appointing SNAs, the State/UT Governments are expected to utilize the funds allocated earlier and furnish the Utilization Certificate of these funds before further allocation of funds is made to them. Since the Committee learn that several States/UTs have defaulted in utilizing the funds allocated under the Scheme, they would like the Ministry to guide the States/ UTs in complying to the revised norms so that the Scheme is not made to suffer. The Committee note that the execution of large number of projects, for example, 70525 projects under Education Sector, 5850 projects under Health Sector, 431 Projects under Skill Sector and 48512 other Projects sanctioned to different States since inception of scheme in 2008-09 is commendable. But, at the same time, 58465 Projects in various States/UTs had to be cancelled/ dropped as those could not be started by implementing agencies or became unviable. The Committee hope that the Ministry would now be able to identify such unviable and incomplete projects with the Geo-tagging App, which has been developed, and take appropriate action to ensure completion thereof so that the funds are not left idle. The Committee also hope that the Ministry would take adequate measures to see that all the identified districts are covered under the revised scheme within the stipulated period. The Committee would therefore, recommend that the Ministry may consider laying down indicative timelines for the completion of specific Projects without any delay.

Reply of the Government

As per the revised guidelines of Ministry of Finance, Gol regarding release of funds to the States, SNA model has been implemented with the objective of adopting "just in time" release of funds to States for implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). Accordingly, release of funds and approval of new projects under PMJVK has been linked to the progress of implementation of projects already approved in the States, pace of

expenditure, pending UCs and unspent balance available with the State Governments. All the States/ UTs implementing the PMJVK scheme have designated State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and opened dedicated bank accounts of the SNAs. Funds under PMJVK are being released strictly as per the guidelines of Deptt. of Expenditure. The data regarding physical and financial progress of the scheme have been reconciled with the State/ UT Governments. As per the expenditure reported by the States/UTs from time to time and the data updated as on 20.08.2023, a total of ₹4687 crore is lying unspent under PMJVK with the various States/ UTs. Due to the large unspent balance with the States, during the FY 2022-23, the BE of ₹1650 crore for the scheme was reduced to ₹500 crore at R.E. stage. The final expenditure was around ₹222 Cr. However, due to the concerted efforts of the Ministry, the States have released an amount of around ₹2113 crore (Central+State share) from the treasury to the SNA account of PMJVK during 2022-23 and the implementing agencies of the States have also deposited the unspent funds in the SNA account. During 2022-23 the States incurred an expenditure of ₹1722 crore from the SNA account on the ongoing projects under PMJVK and the balance available as on 31.03.2023 was around ₹2272 crore (Source: SNA01 report dated 22.08.2023 from PFMS). Taking into consideration the unspent balance available with the State Governments, the B.E. for the scheme for the FY 2023-24 has been kept at ₹600 crore only. For effective implementation of PMJVK and to ensure optimum utilisation of funds, the States/ UTs have been given flexibility to use the funds released under PMJVK. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, now the release of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the individual projects. The amount available in the bank account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) of PMJVK forms a common pool, which can be utilised by the States to complete the ongoing projects. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States regarding utilisation of unspent balance available in the SNA accounts of the scheme. With regard to the unviable projects, Ministry is constantly monitoring the progress of the projects approved and has directed the States to drop/ cancel the projects which have not started and become unviable. The States/UTs have also been asked to update the progress on the PMJVK Portal and to expedite geo-tagging of PMJVK assets through the Bhuvan-PMJVK mobile app. Out of 4,83,462 assets to be geo-tagged under PMJVK, a total of 46849 assets have been geo-tagged as on 22.08.2023. States are being supported to resolve the issues related to geo-tagging and they have been regularly reminded to expedite geotagging. The State of Nagaland and UT of Jammu & Kashmir have geo-tagged all the assets, However, States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Himachal, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha and Tripura have not yet started geo-tagging. The status of geo-tagging by the States is given in Annexure.

The proposals under PMJVK are sent by the States/ UTs with the approval of the State Level Committees. States have been sensitised on the revised guidelines and coverage of all the districts under the scheme. Ministry consider the proposals received from the States/UTs as per the revised PMJVK guidelines. The revised guidelines gives emphasis on the timely completion of the projects. States/UTs are now required to fix the timelines in advance while submitting the project. The States/UTs are required to

ensure that the projects approved by the Ministry under PMJVK are started and completed within the prescribed timelines. Late starting/late implementation of PMJVK projects will make the project liable for cancellation by MoMA. The States/ UTs would update the progress of the projects on the PMJVK Portal, and the project would be monitored as per the timeline given by States/ UTs. Sanctioned projects may be cancelled due to non-compliance by States/ UTs, and the funds released for such projects will be adjusted on other ongoing projects in the States/ UTs.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/01/2023-Budget dated 25.09.2023)

CHAPTER-V

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE.**

NIL

NEW DELHI;

**20th December, 2023
29 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)**

RAMA DEVI

**Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment**

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN THEIR FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)' OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	07	
II. Observations/ Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government- Rec. Para No.2.11, 3.17, 4.10, 6.8, 7.10 & 8.12	06	86%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:- Rec. Para No.NIL	00	00
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:- Rec. Para No. 5.17	01	14%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:- Rec. Para No. NIL	00	00
		100%