

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1973—75)

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

Ministry of Home Affairs

Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Central Grants to Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes..



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COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1973-75)

Shri D. Basumatari—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

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3. Shri Bhagirath Bhanwar
4. Shri B. S. Bhaura
- *5. Shri A. M. Chellachami
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22. Shri Todak Basar
23. Shri Jamnalal Berwa
- **24. Shri N. P. Chaudhari
- **26. Shri Chandramani Lal Chowdhary

*Elected on 7th March, 1975 vice Shri Partap Singh, died.

**Elected to the Committee w.e.f. 9th May, 1974 vice Sarvashri N. P. Chaudhari, Sundarmani Patel and Shrimati Saroj Khaparde, retired from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 2nd April, 1974. •

26. Shri Kalyan Chand
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SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer*

***Elected to the Committee w.e.f. 9th May, 1974 vice Dr. Z. A. Ahmad resigned from the Committee w.e.f. 26th April, 1974.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES (1973-75)**

(STUDY GROUP VI)

(On Action Taken Reports)

1. Shri. D. Basumatari—*Chairman*
2. Shri Shambhu Nath—*Convener*
3. Shri D. Deb
4. Shri Sakti Kumar Sarkar
5. Shri N. P. Chaudhari
6. Shri N. H. Kumbhare
7. Shri B. S. Chowhan
8. Shri G. Y. Krishnan
9. Shri V. Tulsiram
10. Shri Todak Basar
11. Shri M. C. Balan
12. Shri Shyam Lal Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer*
Shri J. R. Kapur—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-eighth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-sixth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs on Central Grants to Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

2. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on the 1st July, 1975.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:

I. Report;

II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government;

III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies;

IV. Recommendation/Observation in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 17 recommendations made by the Committee in the Twenty-sixth Report, 13 recommendations i.e. 76 per cent have been accepted by Government; the Committee do not desire to pursue three recommendations, i.e. 18 per cent of their recommendations in view of Government's replies; one recommendation i.e. 6 per cent, in respect of which the reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration.

NEW DELHI;

July, 5, 1975

Asadha 14, 1897 (S).

D. BASUMATARI,
Chairman,

*Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes*

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-sixth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Central Grants to Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on the 7th May, 1974 and the Ministry of Home Affairs were requested to furnish Government's replies to the recommendations contained in that Report within three months of the date of presentation of the Report to the Houses of Parliament. The Committee are unhappy that the Ministry of Home Affairs took nearly one year to furnish their replies on the recommendations contained in that Report.

1.2. In para 8.17 of their Twenty-sixth Report, the Committee recommended that the Government should prepare some guidelines for the benefit of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of formulation of their schemes and properly channelising their activities so that optimum benefit was derived from the money spent for this purpose. The Voluntary Organisations should also be advised to seek the cooperation and help of the Social Welfare Departments of the States concerned for better implementation of their schemes.

1.3. In their reply dated the 11th June, 1975, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated :—

“The proposals of the Voluntary Organisations are examined in the Ministry of Home Affairs before they are sanctioned. Discussions are held with representatives of the organisations at this time, and during these discussions guidelines are given. It may not be desirable to lay down formal guidelines, as Voluntary Organisations must be encouraged to develop their own special character and expertise. The Voluntary Organisations will be informed to seek the help and co-operation of the Social Welfare and other concerned departments of the State Governments to ensure better Implementation of their schemes.”

1.4. The Committee are not convinced with the reply furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs that laying down of proper guidelines by the Government for the benefit of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of formulation of their schemes and properly channelising their activities would come in the way of the Voluntary Organisations developing their own special character or expertise. The object of the broad guidelines to be laid down for the Voluntary Organisation is to ensure proper channelising of their activities with a view to obtain optimum results from the efforts of the Voluntary Organisations. The Committee would, therefore, like to reiterate this part of their recommendation.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1 Para No. 1.5)

The Committee agree that voluntary efforts, besides Governmental activities, are essential for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee also note the objectives for which grants-in-aid are given by the Government of India to the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee would like the Government to make an assessment of the impact made on the removal of untouchability through the employment of *Pracharaks* and *Bhajan Mandalies*. The Committee suggest that assistance to the affected Scheduled Caste persons and pursuing with the Police authorities the stricter enforcement of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, should also be one of the objectives of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the removal of untouchability.

Reply of the Government

Government agree with the suggestion made about making an assessment of the impact made on removal of untouchability through the employment of *Pracharaks* and *Bhajan Mandalies* by non-official organisations. It is proposed to take up some sample service on the subject in due course. Government also agree with the suggestion that provision of appropriate assistance to Scheduled Caste persons and follow-up liaison with police authorities should also be one of the objectives of the voluntary organisations engaged in removal of untouchability. It is proposed to impress upon voluntary organisations receiving assistance from Government of India the merits of this approach and request them to cooperate.

[Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V dated the 11th June, 1975].

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2 Para No. 1.6)

Another objective which the Voluntary Organisation should have is to help Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe persons in getting employment. In this context, the Committee would like to point out that in numerous cases, when the Committee have examined the various Departments and Public Undertakings, the Committee have been inferred that copies of recruitment notifications/advertisements are forwarded to the recognised Voluntary Organisations to sponsor Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe

candidates for employment but the response from such Organisations is either nil or extremely poor. The Committee would like the Government to impress on the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants-in-aid for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to play an effective and positive role in this respect.

Reply of Government

Government agree with the suggestion and intend to write to all the voluntary organisations concerned requesting them to take necessary action.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975].

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3 Para No. 2.6)

The Committee desire that such Voluntary Organisations as are prepared to work in border areas or in interior/remote and difficult areas, where there is a large concentration of Scheduled Tribes/Castes, should be given preference in the allocation of grants.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted in principle.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated 11th June, 1975].

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6 Para 3.12)

Besides including a chapter on the working of the Voluntary Organisations in their Annual Reports made available to Members of Parliament during the General Budget discussions, the Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to bring out a pamphlet or brochure publicising the objectives for, and terms and conditions on, which grants-in-aid can be availed of by Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Such a pamphlet or brochure may also describe the procedure for making applications for grants-in-aid, inspections, achievements etc. for guidance of all concerned.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8 Para No. 4.17)

The Committee recommend that with a view to avoid complaints of delay in making payment of grants to the Voluntary Organisations, the Ministry of Home Affairs should endeavour to release the first instalment of the grants-in-aid by the 31st May and the second instalment by the 30th September of each year on getting the relevant information and documents from the concerned Voluntary Organisations so that the schemes launched by them are not hampered. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to simplify the procedure and forms in this connection to cut down the delays to the minimum necessary for the purpose.

Reply of Government

In order that voluntary organisations are not handicapped in the execution of their schemes, the existing procedure for making disbursement, submission of accounts, etc., is being reviewed in depth in consultation with some major voluntary organisations.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9 Para No. 4.18)

The Committee are glad to find that one of the conditions on which grants-in-aid are given to Voluntary Organisations is that the Organisations will agree to make reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the posts under them on the lines of the reservations provided in service under the Central Government for these communities. The Committee, however, regret to point out that this condition is by and large observed by the Voluntary Organisations in its breach. For instance, the committee appointed by the Delhi Administration to enquire into the happenings of the Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, New Delhi, which is run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh, an Organisation receiving grants from the Government, has pointed out that there was not a single Scheduled Caste teacher in this Vidyalaya and among the other employees also there were very few Scheduled Castes. The Committee, would, therefore, like the Government to ensure that this condition prescribed by them for making grants for Voluntary Organisations is fulfilled by each and every such Organisation.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted.

The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees under the Voluntary Organisations receiving grant-in-aid directly from the Ministry

of Home Affairs during the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 are as follows:—

Year	Total No. of employees.	No. of SC & ST employees.	Percentage of SC & ST employees total employees.
1973-74	837	394	45.8
1974-75	801	385	48.0

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10 Para No. 4.19)

The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to impress upon the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants from the Government of India to have on their managing committees and among their workers representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11 Para No. 5.3)

The Committee are sorry to note that only two Voluntary Organisations, namely, the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi and the Hind Sweepers Sevak Samaj, New Delhi, are given grants by the Ministry of Home Affairs for improvement in the living and working conditions of the scavengers and sweepers. The scavengers and sweepers are the lowliest of the low. The Committee need hardly emphasise that greater importance should be given to the improvement of the miserable conditions in which the scavengers and sweepers live and work. The Committee recommend that more and more Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to undertake this work and, if necessary, more liberal grants, with less rigid terms and conditions, may be given for this purpose.

Reply of Government

It is agreed that more and more organisations should be encouraged to undertake activities for the improvement of the living and working conditions of scavengers and sweepers and this recommendation will be kept in view while processing applications for grants-in-aid.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12 Para No. 6.5)

The Committee realise that in these days of hard times it is rather difficult for private Voluntary Organisations to raise funds by donations received from philanthropists. It is precisely for this reason that the Committee have recommended in para 4.16 of the Report that the allocation for grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Fifth Five Year Plan should be substantially increased.

Reply of Government

Government have noted the recommendation.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13 Para No. 6.6)

In view of the above position, the Committee appreciate the efforts of the Voluntary Organisations mentioned in para 6.4 of the Report which raised funds from private sources for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee would like all Voluntary Organisations to emulate this example and make special and consistent efforts to enlist financial help from the general public to maximum possible extent for their welfare schemes.

Reply of Government

The observations of the Committee will be brought to the notice of all Voluntary Organisations receiving grant-in-aid from this Ministry.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14 Para No. 7.5)

The Committee note that all the tribal areas of the country are not served by the Voluntary Organisations. The Committee need not emphasise that the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes deserve special attention. The Scheduled Tribes are generally at the lowest level of literacy. Their lands have been encroached upon by non-tribals. They are also subjected to other forms of exploitation. In the opinion of the Committee, the Voluntary Organisations can play an important role in bringing about an improvement in the affairs of the tribals. The Committee desire that more Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to undertake social and educational work in areas having concentration of Scheduled Tribes. Government should also impress upon the Voluntary Organisations to take special interest in educating the Scheduled Tribes regarding the laws and regulations made for their benefit and help in getting them financial and legal assistance.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is noted.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15 Para No. 8.15)

The Committee note that the Voluntary Organisations have not so far devoted sufficient attention to the economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Home Affairs should advise the Voluntary Organisations to explore the possibilities of development of handicrafts and village industries for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They should also start training-cum-production centres and the training programmes should be linked up with the production activity. This will facilitate the trainees to acquire the manual skill in a particular craft, and also knowledge of the methods of business organisation in the respective trade.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is noted.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16 Para. No. 8.16)

The Committee feel that the Voluntary Organisations can play a very useful role in organising cooperatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the fields of arts and crafts, small scale industries and agricultural activities. Formation of cooperatives will help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to get the required raw materials, credit and marketing facilities with less difficulty. Voluntary Organisations can also help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in availing of the legal aid, provision for which is made by several State Governments for the benefit of these communities.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is noted.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975.]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para. 2.7)

The Committee suggest that while selecting Voluntary Organisations for grants, the Ministry of Home Affairs should also consult the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Voluntary Organisations, whose work has been commendable, for example, the Ramakrishna Mission, to cite as an instance, should be persuaded to enlarge the scope and area of their activities for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and greater allocations made for grants to them. Voluntary Organisations, whose work has not been found satisfactory, either by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or by the Director General of Backward Classes Welfare should be removed from the list of Organisations entitled to such grants.

Reply of Government

Government have no objection in principle in either consulting the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while selecting voluntary organisation for making grants or excluding any organisation from future grants, should the work of such organisation be found unsatisfactory by the Commissioner. The views of the Commissioner, however, are being obtained on the two suggestions, requesting him to clearly indicate whether he would be prepared to (i) advise the Government on the selection of organisations for grants and (ii) report on the working of such organisation.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975]

Comments of the Committee

The views of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the matter, when received by Government, may be intimated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 3.11)

The Committee need hardly emphasise that in order to assess the proper working of the Voluntary Organisations, it is essential that the

schemes undertaken by them for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be thoroughly inspected by the Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee are sorry to note that the Zonal Directors/Deputy Directors of the Directorate General of Backward Classes Welfare have not been able to inspect each year all the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants from the Government of India. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Home Affairs should tighten their inspection machinery so that the working of each and every Voluntary Organisations receiving grant-in-aid is thoroughly inspected every year. This will have a proper check on the implementation of approved schemes by the Voluntary Organisations.

Reply of Government

To ensure that the grantees comply with the terms and conditions of the grant-in-aid and that the sanctioned schemes are run on proper lines, the Director General, Backward Classes Welfare or his nominee has been appointed as Government nominee on the managing committees of the grantee organisations. The schemes run by the grantee organisations are also inspected by the Officers in the organisation of the Director General, Backward Classes Welfare and the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Instructions have been issued to all the Zonal Directors, Backward Classes Welfare that the Voluntary Organisations receiving grant-in-aid from this Ministry for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes should be inspected by them once or twice in a year.

During the year 1974, the Bharatiya Ghumantu Jan Sewak Sangh, the Servants of India Society, the Bhartiya Depresed Classes League, the Hind Sweepers' Sewak Samaj, the Cheshire Home Eastern Regional Council, and the Ramakrishna Mission Ashram schemes at Narendrapur, Puri, Ranchi and the Ramakrishna Sewa Kendra, Morabadi, were inspected.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para. No. 4.16)

The Committee note that during the First, Second and the Third Five Year Plans, Rs. 22.63 lakhs, Rs. 87 lakhs and Rs. 1.05 crores, respectively, were given to the Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, out of Rs. 2 crores allocated for this purpose, only Rs. 1.69 crores was actually made available to the Voluntary Organ-

isations. For the Fifth Five Year Plan, Rs. 4 crores is allocated for distribution to the Voluntary Organisations. Looking to the gigantic task and the extent of Voluntary effort needed to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee regret to note that from the very beginning insignificant amounts have been allocated for payment to Voluntary Organisations for their activities. The Committee are of the opinion that with the steep rise in the costs of everything the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose during the Fifth Five Year Plan is very meagre and the Voluntary Organisation will not be able to do full justice to the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee strongly urge the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Planning Commission to reconsider the matter and substantially increase the allocation for grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The allocation of more funds will also enable the Ministry of Home Affairs to give grants to such of the deserving Voluntary Organisations which could not get grants in the past.

Reply of Government

During the year 1974-75, an amount of Rs. 43.99 lakhs was incurred as grant in aid to Voluntary Organisations. The provision made for 1975-76 is Rs. 60 lakhs. The matter is being further reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the
11th June, 1975]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLY OF GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRES REITERATION

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para. No. 8.17)

The Committee would like the Government to prepare some guidelines for the benefit of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of formulation of their schemes and properly channelising their activities so that optimum benefit is derived from the money spent for this purpose. The Voluntary Organisation should also be advised to seek the cooperation and help of the Social Welfare Department of the States concerned for better implementation of their schemes.

Reply of Government

The proposals of the voluntary organisations are examined in the Ministry of Home Affairs before they are sanctioned. Discussions are held with representatives of the organisations at this time, and during these discussions guidelines are given. It may not be desirable to lay down formal guidelines, as voluntary organisations must be encouraged to develop their own special character and expertise. The voluntary organisations will be informed to seek the help and co-operation of the Social Welfare and other concerned departments of the State Governments to ensure better implementation of their schemes.

[Ministry of Home Affairs. O.M. No. 5/1/74-SCT-V, dated the 11th June, 1975]

Comments of the Committee

Please see Chapter I (Para. 1.4).

NEW DELHI;

July 5, 1975.

Asadha 14, 1897 (Saka).

D. BASUMATARI,
Chairman,

*Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.*

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction)

Analysis of the Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Sixth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I. Total number of recommendations	17
II. Recommendations which have been accepted by Government (Vide recommendations at Sl. Nos. 1 (1·5), 2 (1·6), 3 (2·6), 6 (3·12), 8 (4·17), 9 (4·18), 10 (4·19), 11 (5·3), 12 (6·5), 13 (6·6), 14 (7·5), 15 (8·15) and 16 (8·16).	
Number	13
Percentage to total	76%
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (Vide recommendations at Sl. Nos. 5 (3·11), 7 (4·16) and 4 (2·7))	
Number	3
Percentage to total	18%
IV. Recommendations in respect of which reply to Government has not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration (Vide recommendation at Sl. No. 17 (8·17))	
Number	1
Percentage to total	6%