

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2012 - 2013)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2012/Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.12.2012

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2012



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2012/Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2012-2013)**

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
6. Smt. Rama Devi
7. Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal
8. Shri Mohan Jena
9. Shri Dinesh Kashyap
10. Shri Kirodi Lal Meena
11. Kumari Meenakshi Natarajan
12. Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab R.
13. Smt. Sushila Saroj
14. Shri N. Dharam Singh
15. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
16. Dr. Naramalli Sivaprasad
17. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
18. Shri Kabir Suman
19. Vacant
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
24. Shri Rishang Keishing
25. Shri Mangala Kisan
26. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
27. Prof. Mrinal Miri
28. Shri Jesudasu Seelam
29. Shri Mohammad Shafi
30. Shri Shivpratap Singh
31. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
2. Shri Kusal Sarkar - Additional Director
3. Smt. Neena Juneja - Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-first Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

2. The Twenty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2012. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 17.9.2012. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17.12.2012.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

4. For facility of reference observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI:
17 December, 2012
26 Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

HEMANAND BISWAL
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, 2012-13 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.2 The Twenty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2012. It contained 23 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorised as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Paragraph Nos. 2.3, 3.28, 3.29, 3.33, 3.34, 4.30, 4.31, 5.12, 5.13, 6.22, 6.23, 6.25 and 7.11.

(Total 13 - Chapter II)

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:

- Nil -

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which need to be reiterated in Chapter I:

Paragraph Nos. 3.30, 3.31, 3.32, 4.29, 6.24 and 6.26.

(Total 6 - Chapter IV)

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature:

Paragraph Nos. 3.35, 4.32, 4.33 and 5.11

(Total 4 - Chapter V)

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

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

A. Low allocation of funds in the development of OBCs

Recommendation (S. No. 4, Para No. 3.30)

1.5 The Committee had found that the Ministry had sought an allocation of Rs. 12,500.00 crore from the Planning Commission during the year 2012-13 however an allocation of only Rs. 5915.00 crore was made. The main areas where there had been a slashing of funds was in the Other Backward Classes Development i.e. from Rs. 3525.00 crore to Rs. 900.00 crore. The Secretary informed the Committee during evidence that the schemes in the OBC sector have unfortunately not got the requisite funds and the Ministry is therefore requesting States to restrict their expenditure unless they could meet any additional requirement out of their own resources. Keeping in mind the financial performance of the Ministry in the XI Plan period, against an allocation of Rs. 16776.00 crore the expenditure for the five years has been Rs. 16171.48 crore, the Committee desired the Ministry to vigorously pursue with Planning Commission to increase allocation of funds especially in schemes for OBC sector.

1.6 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

"The Ministry is constantly pursuing the Planning Commission for allocation of more funds for the OBC sector at the highest level viz. Minister (SJ&E) vide his letter dated 27.7.2012 addressed to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, has

requested to increase the budgetary allocation under Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship schemes for OBC students as due to budgetary constraints, it has not been possible to provide scholarships to all the eligible students under these schemes. It is also proposed to revise the scholarship rates and income ceiling under the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, as it has not been revised ever since its inception in 1998-99. Planning Commission has accordingly been requested to take urgent action for allocation of minimum additional funds of Rs 1400 crore for Post-matric Scholarship and Rs 1950 crore for Pre-matric Scholarship Schemes for OBCs during the current year and also similar allocation for the remaining period of the 12th Plan (2012-17)".

1.7 Expressing unhappiness at reduced budgetary outlay of Rs. 5915 crores for 2012-13 by the Planning Commission against a demand of Rs. 12500 crores from the Ministry, which resulted in slashing of funds for many schemes especially for schemes for OBC development wherein Rs. 900 crores was allocated against a demand of Rs. 3525 crores, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to pursue with Planning Commission to increase allocations during the year. The Ministry in the action taken reply have informed the Committee that Ministry is constantly pursuing with the Planning Commission for allocation of more funds for OBC sector at highest level. In a letter to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission the Minister (SJ&E) has requested to take urgent action for allocation of minimum additional funds of Rs. 1400 crores for Post-matric and Rs. 1950 crores for Pre-matric Scholarship Schemes for OBC during the current year and also similar allocation for the remaining period of Twelfth Plan.

The Committee are constrained to note that despite the matter regarding higher allocation for OBC sector, having been taken up by the Ministry with the Planning Commission at Minister's level, there is no positive response of the Planning Commission on the request of the Ministry. Since reduced allocation will deprive the eligible OBC students from getting scholarships, the Committee would demand that the Planning Commission may make additional allocations as requested by the Ministry without any delay.

B. Clearance for new proposals of the Ministry and consolidation of previous programmes/schemes

Recommendations (S. No. 5, Para No. 3.31)

1.8 The Committee were informed that the Planning Commission constituted four Working Groups in April, 2011 for formulation of the XII Five Year Plan (2012-17) of the Ministry i.e. Improvement of Scheduled Castes, empowerment of persons with disabilities, Social Welfare/Social Defence and Empowerment of Backward Classes, EBCS Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and De-notified Tribes. These groups submitted their Reports to the Planning Commission in October, 2011. The 12th Five Year Plan outlay recommended by the Working Groups is Rs. 9.55 lakh crore. The Working Groups have recommended rationalization/consolidation of existing schemes/programmes for their effective implementation, which includes consolidation of SC related schemes of the Ministry into a composite Centrally Sponsored Scheme called 'National Programme for Empowerment of Scheduled Castes', consolidation of most disability related schemes of the Ministry into a composite Centrally Sponsored National Programme called 'National Programme for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NPEPWD)'. The Working Groups have also suggested that some educational/scholarship schemes being implemented for Scheduled Castes be extended to OBCs and PwDs. The Committee were of the view that as these are good proposals and the Planning Commission should give adequate funding to the Ministry so that concrete steps can be taken to improve the working of schemes and to benefit maximally the target groups. The Committee were told that Rs. 1048.00 crore have been allocated in the year 2012-13 for new schemes of the Ministry. However, the new schemes were to take off although 'in Principle' approval has been obtained for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PwDs. A Concept Note on National Overseas Scholarships for OBC has been sent to the Planning Commission for 'in

Principle' approval. The Committee strongly recommended that the Ministry pursue with the Planning Commission for clearance of the proposals so that the new schemes of the Ministry for which Rs. 1048.00 crore has been earmarked in the year 2012-13 can take off in a time bound manner.

1.9 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“As regards the status of the new schemes proposed for 2012-13, the Pre-matric Scheme for SC Students studying in Class IX and X has already been launched with effect from 1.7.2012, and the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PwDs is under consideration of Standing Finance Committee, the meeting of which is scheduled to be held in September, 2012. The ‘in principle’ approval for the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for OBC students, is being pursued with Planning Commission. Other new schemes proposed for 2012-13 are still at the conceptual stage and being examined in the Ministry”.

1.10 The Committee had desired that the Ministry pursue with the Planning Commission for clearance of the proposals for new schemes of the Ministry for which Rs. 1048.00 crore has been earmarked in the year 2012-2013 so that these schemes during the year could take off. The Ministry in their Action Taken Replies giving the status of the new schemes have stated that the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students studying in Class IX and X has already been launched on 1.7.2012. Also, the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PwDs is under consideration of Standing Finance Committee. Approval of the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for OBC Students is being pursued with the Planning Commission. In regard to other new schemes, the Ministry have stated that they are at conceptual stage and are being examined by the Ministry.

The Committee are dismayed that important new schemes especially for students with disabilities and for OBCs like Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship scheme for PwDs, National Fellowship scheme for OBCs have still not got final approval. The Committee are also unhappy that other new schemes are still at conceptual stage despite the fact that money was allocated for them in the Plan outlay, 2012-13. Expressing disappointment at the delay, the Committee desire that the Ministry to pursue vigorously with Planning Commission for early approval of the schemes so that they are launched at the earliest. Further, new schemes being examined in the Ministry be expedited and placed before the Planning Commission for the approval. Also, the Ministry have not thrown any light on any further developments in regard to the rationalization/consolidation of existing schemes/programmes for their effective implementation, that were recommended by the working group constituted by the Planning Commission in April, 2011 for formulation of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) of the Ministry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the latest developments in this regard.

C. Unutilized funds for NE Region

Recommendation (S. No. 6, Para No. 3.32)

1.11 The Committee have found that the lump sum allocation for the NE region and Sikkim was Rs. 213.50 crore which was revised to Rs. 190.80 crore, the expenditure has been shown as Rs. 117.22 crore. Further an enhanced allocation of Rs. 248.00 crore has been made in the year 2012-13. Although the Ministry was making efforts by holding meetings with officers of Social Welfare Department and representatives of NGOs in the region besides giving publicity to their schemes, the financial performance in the year 2011-12 was not good as no money was spent in North Eastern region and Sikkim under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, ALIMCO, National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation, Employment of Physically Challenged etc. The Committee therefore, recommended that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments in the North-Eastern Region to send viable proposals for implementing the various schemes and also exhort NGOs, working for disadvantaged section, to take benefit of the schemes. The Committee also recommended that TV and Radio programmes on the various schemes run by the Ministry should be made and telecast in the regional languages so that people can avail the benefit of the schemes run by the Ministry.

1.12 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“The reasons for the low or nil expenditure under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, ALIMCO, National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation, Employment of Physically Challenged are given below:

- (i) As for the Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC candidates, it is submitted that it is a Central Sector Scheme which is implemented through the University Grants Commission (UGC). There is no state-wise release of funds. The total number of fellowships to be awarded under the scheme to the Scheduled Caste students every year is 2000. The numbers of fellowships have been distributed state-wise based on percentage of SC population in that State. The funds are released to UGC as per their demand. The funds utilized under the Scheme also include funds

used for candidates selected from NE states. There is no separate demarcation for NE States.

(ii) In case of NHFDC, it is informed that at the beginning of the current year, NHFDC conveys the notional allocation of funds to the SCAs, in proportion to the disabled population of the state/UT and considering disbursement in preceding three years. All SCAs are also advised to draw 50% of the notional allocation as advance to expedite the implementation of NHFDC schemes in the states. However, majority of SCAs in North East do not come forward to draw the allocated funds from NHFDC despite repeated persuasions by NHFDC. During 2011-12, SCAs from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura did not avail funds against their notional allocations. Many State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) of North Eastern States are not providing adequate Block Government Guarantee (BGG) in time, which makes it extremely difficult for NHFDC to release funds to these SCAs.

(iii) ALIMCO could not organize the ADIP and ADIP-SSA Camps in a number of NE States due to non-response from the concerned State Governments. Besides, wherever camps were organized, turnout of persons with disabilities particularly when assessment and distribution camps are held separately is extremely poor owing to problems in commuting due to geographical distances and difficult terrain.

The following steps have been taken to improve utilization of funds in the NE region:

(i) In order to provide publicity, various schemes implemented by the Ministry have been put on its website. Further, a radio programme namely 'Sanwanti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen' is being broadcast in all regional languages of the NE States through All India Radio.

(ii) The Ministry has also been seeking help of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and the North Eastern Council, to impress upon the NE States for sending complete proposals on adequate scale under the various schemes implemented in the region by this Ministry.

(iii) To boost the expenditure in the region and to identify the problems being faced by the State Governments in utilizing the funds, we have been organizing the meetings with Social Welfare Secretaries & other officers of Social Welfare Departments of NER States as well as representatives of non-Government organizations in the region for the last three years.

Besides above, in view of the special problems being faced by the North-eastern States and to give focused attention to their issues at the highest level, States' Social Welfare Conference for NE States was convened in May, 2012 wherein the schemes/programmes with low expenditure in NE States were discussed and the

participating States requested to take necessary action for expediting the proposals under these schemes during the current year”.

1.13 The Committee were unhappy at the low utilization of funds in the important schemes in the North-East Region which includes important schemes such as Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC). The Committee had also desired that Radio and T.V. programmes on the various schemes of the Ministry should be made in regional languages so as to generate awareness on the schemes of the Ministry. The Ministry have informed the Committee in their Action Taken Reply that many State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) of North Eastern States are not providing adequate Block Government Guarantee (BGG) in time, which made it extremely difficult for NHFDC to release funds. Further, in case of scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) turnout of persons with disabilities was extremely poor owing to problems in commuting due to geographical distances and difficult terrain. The Ministry have stated that to improve the utilization of funds they have taken certain steps which include impressing on State Governments to send viable proposal.

The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry. The Committee feel that impediments as stated by the Ministry above in implementing the schemes can be tackled effectively by taking pro-active steps in co-ordination with the State Governments so that proposals complete in all aspects reach NHFDC in time. Wide publicity can also be given to organization of ADIP camps to make them a success in North Eastern region. The Committee, once again reiterate that pointed efforts should be made to popularize the schemes of the Ministry in the North Eastern region particularly through regional languages on Doordarshan. Also, the Ministry should make continuous efforts to persuade State Governments and State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) in North Eastern States to send complete and viable

proposals in time so as to utilize funds kept for important schemes especially in disability areas to benefit the needy people in these States.

D. Allocation of funds under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)

Recommendation (S.No.10, Para No. 4.29)

1.14 The Committee had noted that the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) is an umbrella strategy to ensure earmarking of funds for development of Scheduled Castes in proportion to their population by the Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. The Committee had been told that out of an outlay for 2011-12 of Rs. 3.36 lakh crore, an amount of Rs. 0.31 lakh crore (9.4%) was earmarked by 25 Ministries/Departments as against the stipulated amount of Rs. 0.54 lakh crore (16.2%). The defaulting Ministries/Departments in terms of earmarking funds as per guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission were the Department of Rural Development (Rs. 14000.00 crore) Ministries of Panchayati Raj (17.81 crore), Ministry of Science and Technology (58.73 crore) and Rs. 3.82 in case of Ministry of DONER. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Planning Commission at the highest level so that important Ministries of Government i.e. especially the Ministry of Rural Development which plays a vital role in the development of Scheduled Castes allocates funds in proportion to the laid down guidelines under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan.

1.15 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

"The matter was taken up again by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment vide his d.o. letters dated 24.03.2011 with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Minister, Rural Development. The matter was followed up with them, thereafter, on regular basis. The issue of shortfall in allocation of funds under SCSP was also taken up by Minister (SJ&E) with Prime Minister vide letter dated 01.4.2011 with the request to suitably advise the Planning Commission on the issue".

1.16 The Committee have noted that the Central Ministries/Departments are not earmarking funds for development of SCs under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) as per the guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission and have therefore recommended to take up the matter with Planning Commission at the highest level so that important Ministries of Government i.e. especially the Ministry of Rural Development which is the largest defaulter with a shortfall of Rs. 14000 crore, allocate funds in proportion to the laid down guidelines under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan. The Ministry in their reply have stated that the matter has been taken up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Minister of Rural Development and also with Prime Minister with the request to suitably advice the Planning Commission on the issue.

The Committee are unhappy to note that though the matter has been taken up by the Ministry at the highest level, there is no assurance of any corrective action from the Planning Commission against the defaulting Ministries. Taking a serious view of the casual approach of the Government on development of SCs, the Committee recommend the Government to seriously look into the matter and ensure that the Ministries allocate funds for development of SCs in proportion to the laid down guidelines under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP).

E. Restructuring of the ADIP Scheme

Recommendation (S. No. 20, Para No. 6.24)

1.17 The Committee were given to understand that the monitoring teams have found that Grants-in-Aid were not being properly used for implementation of ADIP scheme and they have given suggestions like physical verification of beneficiaries of each implementing agency, issue of inventory card with full address and contact number of beneficiaries, computerization of the list of beneficiaries etc. The Committee recommended that in the revision of the scheme, Stringent Monitoring Mechanisms should be adopted so that the Aids and Appliances are given to the genuine beneficiaries. The Committee also recommended that the Ministry should try to rope in Central Government and State Government Hospitals in the important disability related schemes so that it reaches the masses. Also the officers of the Health Department, as suggested by the Ministry, should be authorized to do fast track checking of aids and appliances given under the scheme.

1.18 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“The ADIP Scheme is under revision with regard to the income ceiling for the eligible beneficiaries, ceiling of the cost of assistive devices and also for streamlining the provisions in the Scheme. The suggestions of the Committee are noted and shall be considered at the time of the revision of the Scheme”.

1.19 The Committee were informed that monitoring teams have found that Grants-in-Aid were not being properly used for implementation of ADIP scheme. The Committee had desired that in the revision of the scheme, stringent monitoring mechanisms should be adopted so that Aids and Appliances are given to the genuine beneficiaries. The Committee had also desired that they should rope in Central Governments and State Government hospital in the important disability related schemes. The Ministry have however stated in their Action Taken Reply that ADIP scheme is under revision with regard to the income ceiling for the eligible beneficiaries, ceiling of the cost of assistive devices and also for streamlining the provisions in the Scheme. The Ministry has further informed that the suggestions of the Committee are noted and shall be considered at the time of the revision of the Scheme.

The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry. Notwithstanding proposed revision of ADIP scheme, the Committee desire that urgent action be taken on the suggestions of monitoring teams regarding computerization of list of beneficiaries and their physical verification by implementing agencies, which will go a long way in ensuring proper utilization of grants-in-aid for the scheme. The Committee also desire that Central and State Government agencies should be preferred for distribution of aids and appliances.

F. Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC)

Recommendation (S. No. 22, Para No. 6.26)

1.20 The Committee noted that the Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi, a Non-Governmental Organization provides comprehensive rehabilitation management services to patients with spinal injuries and related ailments. Rs. 2.00 crore was made available to the centre during 2011-12 and expenditure was only 50% i.e. Rs. 1.00 crore. The Government has approved the support to 30 free beds for treatment of poor patients. The Ministry is reimbursing the cost of 25 free beds and cost of 5 beds is being borne by the Centre. During 2011-12, cost of free bed was Rs. 5,780/- per bed per day. Since the ISIC is a specialized centre catering to patients with spinal cord injuries, the Committee recommended that the Ministry should generate awareness so that poor people can actually use the facilities available with the ISIC and there is full occupancy of the free beds. Also, rather than surrendering the funds, free OPD facilities could also be provided so that more patients can avail the much needed medical expertise available with the Indian Spinal Injury Centre.

1.21 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“The Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC), New Delhi, a Non-Governmental Organization, provides comprehensive rehabilitation management services to patients with spinal cord injuries and related ailments. These include intervention in the form of reconstructive surgery, stabilization operations, physical rehabilitation, psycho-social rehabilitation, and vocational rehabilitation services. As against the BE of Rs 2 crore, the ISIC was released only Rs one crore during 2011-12, as there are some issues relating to laying of Annual Reports of ISIC in Parliament and audit observations pertaining to 2007-08 and 2008-09. However, amount released was fully utilized by the ISIC during the year. Efforts are made to reimburse the expenditure on 25 free beds to the maximum extent. As per bills submitted by ISIC, free beds are almost occupied at all times”.

1.22 The Committee had been informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment were reimbursing the cost of 25 free beds Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), New Delhi and during the year 2011-12, cost of free bad was Rs. 5,780/- per day. The Committee had desired in their recommendation that the Ministry should generate awareness so that poor people could actually use the facilities available with the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) and there was full occupancy of the free beds and also some free OPD facilities be provided to the poor patients. The Ministry have informed in their Action Taken Reply that as against the BE of Rs. 2 crore, only 1 crore was released during 2011-12 as there were some issues relating to laying of Annual Reports of ISIC in Parliament and audit observations pertaining to the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 and also that efforts were being made to reimburse the expenditure on 25 free beds to the maximum extent.

The Committee are not convinced by the reply of the Government. Having been informed that expenditure of free beds worked out in 2011-12 to be Rs. 5,780/- per day, the Committee find the release of Rs. 1 crore for 25 free beds appeared to be far too less to cater to the needs as per the requirement. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry take up the issue of free beds with ISIC insisting that vacancy and occupancy of the free beds should be clearly displayed and efforts should be made to reimburse the actual expenditure of the beneficiaries using the facilities in ISIC. Also, the Committee reiterate that publicity should be given so that poor people can avail the facilities available with the ISIC and also some free OPD facilities be provided to poor patients. The Committee also desire that the Annual Reports of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) should also be laid in Parliament at the earliest.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (S. No. 1, Para No. 2.3)

2.1 The Committee are unhappy with implementation aspect of the Recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants, 2011-12 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as only 11 out of 21 recommendations have been implemented. The Committee advise expeditious implementation of the remaining recommendations already accepted by the Government.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The details of 21 recommendations given in the Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment are as follows:

Sl. No.	Category of recommendation	Number	Paragraph no of the recommendation in 15 th Report of the Committee
1.	Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government	11	2.3, 3.25, 3.28, 3.29, 3.32, 4.20, 4.37, 5.6, 6.9, 6.10, 7.18
2.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government	2	3.27, 3.31
3.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which need to be reiterated	4	3.24, 3.26, 6.11, 7.9
4	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim nature	4	3.30, 4.12, 4.13, 4.28
	Total	21	

Action taken by the Government in respect of the recommendations mentioned at Sl. No. 3 & 4 is indicated in the **Annexure I**.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No. 2, Para No. 3.28)

2.3 The Committee note that against a plan allocation of BE Rs. 5375.00 crore in the year 2011-12 the RE was reduced to Rs. 5123.00 crore and the Actual Expenditure was Rs. 5006.40 crore. The Budgetary provision for the year 2012-13 has been kept at Rs. 5915.00 crore. The main reasons for lower expenditure of the Ministry in the plan schemes has been the delay by Planning Commission in according first 'in principle' approval and also full Planning Commission approval to the new Pre-matric scholarship for SCs and Non-receipt of sufficient proposals from State Governments/ Voluntary Organizations especially from those located in North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. The Committee are unhappy at the non approval of the new Pre-matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes for which Rs. 200 crore was allocated last year and this year also a provision has been made of Rs. 824 crore. The Committee desire that the Ministry pursue with the Planning Commission for early approval of the scheme and its implementation in this year itself.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The issue of obtaining approval of the Full Planning Commission was vigorously pursued by this Ministry. Consequently, the approval of the Full Planning Commission was communicated vide Commission's O.M. dated 16.04.2012. Thereafter, the draft note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was sent to the Ministry of Finance on 30.04.2012 for seeking approval of the Finance Minister. Approval of the Finance Minister

was conveyed vide Ministry of Finance O.M. dated 17.05.2012. The final Note was sent to Cabinet Secretariat on 05.06.2012 for consideration of CCEA. CCEA approved the proposal, in its meeting held on 14.06.2012, to launch a new 'Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students studying in Classes IX & X' with effect from 01.07.2012

The Guidelines of the Scheme were circulated to the State Governments/UT administrations on 26-6-2012 (Copy of the Circular is enclosed at **Annexure II**) with a request to give wide publicity to the Scheme and send proposals under the Scheme for obtaining Central assistance from this Ministry.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No. 3, Para No. 3.29)

2.5 The Committee further note that the RE was comparatively lower than the BE in two key areas of the Ministry i.e. (i) Disability Division where BE was 480.00, the RE was curtailed to Rs. 334.70 crore and Actual Expenditure was Rs. 292.02 crore and (ii) Social Defence Division where BE was Rs. 122.00 crore which was revised to Rs. 91.25 crore and expenditure was Rs. 85.73 crore. The Committee feel that the challenge of the Ministry is to improve both the physical and financial performance in these key areas of development. The Committee desire that the Ministry make efforts to revamp the schemes in the disability sector in the first year of 12th Plan period itself so as to give maximum benefit to the sections of population for which they have been envisaged. The Ministry should tightly monitor the implementing agencies and NGOs responsible for implementation of the schemes. The Ministry also needs to play a proactive role in helping the Implementing agencies to make complete and viable proposals so that they get appropriate funds for implementing the schemes. Social Defence sector also requires

a boost with the construction of Old Age Homes and other well being measures as old persons make up a sizable portion of the population.

Reply of the Government

2.6 *Revamping the Disability Sector*

The Government of India vide its Order dated 12th May, 2012, created a new Department of Disability Affairs within the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. With setting up of this new Department exclusively for disability issues, we now hope to be able to more effectively address issues confronting persons with disabilities

The Working Group on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities constituted by the Planning Commission to formulate the XII Plan strategy for the disability sector has recommended to view the PwDs as a valuable human resource in nation building, with a large untapped potential, and policies and programmes, to be reoriented to tap this resource rather than merely being a provisioning exercise. The Working Group identified the priority areas for action in the disability sector viz. accessibility; reasonable accommodation; education, health and housing; skill training and economic empowerment; awareness generation; and independent living and equal participation in community life. The Working Group also suggested that for the effective management and improved delivery under various central sector schemes in the disability sector, all the existing schemes should be consolidated into a composite Centrally Sponsored National Programme called “National Programme for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities”. The action on these recommendations would, however, be initiated as and when the XII Plan document is finalized by the Planning Commission.

Capacity Building of NGOs

National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres under this Ministry have been assigned specific territorial responsibilities for monitoring the implementation of the disability related schemes including distribution of Aids and Appliances. The guidelines have been issued to them to undertake capacity building of NGOs located in their territorial jurisdictions in a much bigger way.

New Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens with integrated Multi-facility Centres

With a view to assist State Governments in the discharge of their statutory responsibility under Section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens with integrated Multi-facility Centres of varying capacity (25, 60 and 120) to cover all the 640 districts in the XII FYP is proposed to be implemented from 2013-14. The Ministry has been requesting the Planning Commission for the last 2 years to accord its 'in principle' approval to the scheme, but Planning Commission, due to one reason or the other did not grant the approval during the 11th Plan period and asked the Ministry to place the demand before the Working Group on Social Welfare constituted by it for formulating the 12th Plan for the sector. Based on the recommendation of the Working Group, Ministry has again taken up the proposal with the Planning Commission for granting its 'in principle' vide Minister's letter dated 23.8.2012 addressed to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

Monitoring of Schemes

The initiatives taken by the Ministry for monitoring the progress of implementation of various schemes especially those implemented through NGOs include the following : -

- (i) For the effective monitoring of the all the schemes, Ministry has designated Bureau Heads and Divisional Heads as Nodal Officers for various regions and States/UTs. During the field visits of Officers of this Ministry to States/UTs discussions are held in order to identify constraints and to take corrective measures.
- (ii) Financial and physical performance is reviewed by the Secretary (SJ&E) with Bureau Heads on fortnightly/weekly basis to ensure that the allocations provided for the schemes of the Ministry are fully utilized and to monitor all important activities.
- (iii) Selected high priority schemes are monitored at the level of Minister (SJ&E) regularly.
- (iv) Ministry also organizes Biannual Conference of State Social Welfare Ministers and the Annual Conference of State Welfare Secretaries wherein, *inter alia*, all the schemes of the Ministry are reviewed. States/UTs have also been advised to strengthen their monitoring mechanism.
- (v) The Ministry also sponsors evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies to check whether their benefits reach the target groups.
- (vi) To have a close watch by people's representatives especially MPs on the working of NGOs receiving funds under its various schemes, Ministry vide its Order dated 13.2.2012 has decided to endorse a copy of the sanction letters of Grant in aid released to NGO(s), to the concerned MPs, in whose constituency the particular NGO is working, for his information and appropriate action. The modalities for implementation of this Order from 2012-13 are being worked out.
- (vii) For effective monitoring the progress and utilization of funds under its major schemes, a proposal for constitution of Vigilance-cum-Monitoring Committees at the State and district levels is under active consideration of the Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission. These Committees would be expected to keep a regular watch on the implementation of the Programmes as per the prescribed procedures and guidelines. These Committees would, *inter alia*, include Members of Parliament, State Legislatures and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- (viii) Other initiatives taken by the Ministry for effective implementation of the Schemes include the following:
 - The Ministry has set up a Monitoring Committee for monitoring implementation of Aids and Appliances and other disability related schemes in all States/UTs.
 - Fresh/subsequent releases of grants to State Governments/NGOs during a year are made only on receipt of audited Utilization

- Certificates in respect of previous grants sanctioned which have become due.
- State Governments/UT Administrations are also advised to monitor the schemes/programmes implemented through NGOs

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No. 7, Para No. 3.33)

2.7 The Committee find that the Ministry has been running a self employment scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) since January, 2007 to rehabilitate all the remaining manual scavengers and their dependents. The Ministry have informed that in pursuance of the resolutions of National Advisory Council after discussion with various Ministries, a task force was constituted on 10.2.2011 to recommend detailed modalities for undertaking a fresh survey of Manual Scavengers, which submitted its report on 6.5.2011. Accordingly a scheme of Survey of Manual Scavengers and Dependents under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been approved by the Government in December, 2011. The Ministry has also prepared a draft Bill titled "The Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2011". The Committee regret that even after 64 years of independence, the manual scavenging is still practiced in many parts of the country and it is very shameful for the civil society. Therefore, the Committee while appreciating the efforts of Ministry, emphasize that Manual Scavenging should be abolished from the country at the earliest. The Ministry should expedite the process of survey and Rehabilitation of all Manual Scavengers and also take up early enactment of the proposed Bill.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Ministry is making all out efforts for expediting the process of survey of manual scavengers and early enactment of the proposed Bill titled "The Prohibition of Employment

as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012'. The present status on the two issues is given below :

Conducting Fresh Survey

In pursuance of the resolution of the National Advisory Council (NAC) of October, 2010, and recommendations of a Consultation Meeting organized by this Ministry jointly with Ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Urban Development in January, 2011, a Task Force was constituted by the M/o SJ&E, on 10.2.2011, to recommend detailed modalities for undertaking a fresh survey of manual scavengers and their dependents who are yet to be rehabilitated. The Task Force submitted its report on 6.5.11.

The modalities for the proposed survey, as recommended by the Task Force were slightly modified in the Ministry in the light of NAC's further recommendations dated 25.5.11. These modalities were approved by the Government on 14.7.2011, and accordingly, a Scheme for Survey of Manual Scavengers and their Dependents, after appraisal by Standing Finance Committee in its meeting held on 11.10.11, was approved by the Government on 2nd December, 2011.

Thereafter, 'Expressions of Interest' (EoI) were invited from 8 reputed intuitions, and also by publishing an advertisement in a national daily and on the website of this Ministry, for appointment of a National Level Technical Agency (NTA) for the country-wide survey of manual scavengers, in December, 2011. In response to the above EoI notice, 16 institutions expressed their interest in the proposal. The Committee constituted for evaluation of the proposals, shortlisted 3 institutions for inviting technical and financial proposals, by 8.2.2012. However, finally only one of the three institutions submitted its techno-financial proposal, which also was not found to fulfil the minimum prescribed technical benchmark and was therefore recommended to be rejected by the above

committee. As no suitable agency could be identified for taking up the work of the National Technical Agency (NTA) for the Survey, the Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, was requested on 17.2.2012, that his Ministry may agree to function as the NTA for the Survey. Thereafter 3 rounds of discussions were held between the Secretary, SJ&E, and Secretary MoSPI, on this issue, on 21.2.2012, 27.2.2012 & 28.3.2012. During discussion in the above meetings, the following two important developments were highlighted which had not been taken into account by the Task Force constituted earlier, under the Economic Advisor of M/o SJ&E, for working out the methodology for the Survey:-

- i) The Registrar General of India (RGI) released 'House Listing and Housing Census 2011' data on 13.3.2012, which, inter-alia, included national and state-wise data on various types of latrines including the categories mentioned below:
 - a) Latrines from which night-soil is disposed into open drain; and
 - b) Service latrines in which night-soil is :
 - (i) Removed by humans; and
 - (ii) Serviced by animals.
- ii) Data on manual scavengers in rural areas is being canvassed as part of the Socio Economic and Caste Census, 2011 (SECC), which is at an advanced stage. Thus the rural SECC data would yield information on persons engaged in manual scavenging in rural areas.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is doing the SECC survey for urban areas. However, its schedule does not provide for collection of information on households having persons engaged in manual scavenging or any other information in this respect. It merely captures information about sanitation workers and sweepers.

Secretary, MOSPI, advised in the above meetings that, now that the Census, 2011, data on insanitary latrines is available and SECC data would become available in the near future, the methodology for Survey of manual scavengers must take these into account, and build upon them, rather than start from scratch, as the recommendations of the Task Force set up earlier by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had envisaged.

In view of the above, a Committee was constituted on 4.4.2012 with a mandate to make fresh recommendations regarding modalities for conducting survey of manual scavengers taking into account the data becoming available from Census, 2011, and SECC. The Committee was chaired by Secretary, MoSPI with Secretary, SJ&E as its co-chair, and consists of RGI, Officers from NSSO, CSO, HUPA, MoD, and representatives from NGOs- Safai Karmachari Andolan, Garima Abhiyan and Sulabh International.

The idea was to use the Census 2011 and SECC data as an entry point for conducting the survey, in a smart, fast and practical manner focusing on the most potential pockets. The Committee has submitted its report on 19.6.2012. The recommendations of the Committee have since been accepted by the Ministry and further steps for finalizing the modalities for the Survey are being taken up by the Ministry.

New Legislation

The proposal to introduce “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012’ in Parliament was approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 23.8.2012. The Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session on 03.9.2012.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No. 8, Para No. 3.34)

2.9 The Committee have been informed that to abolish the practice of untouchability and curb the incidence of crimes and atrocities against Scheduled Castes efforts are being made by the Ministry for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 with the help of 30 Special Courts. A central assistance of Rs. 72.05 crore has been released against an allocation of Rs. 70.00 crore in 2011-12, and the minimum scale of relief to atrocity victims has been enhanced by 150% vide gazette notification dated 23.12.2011. The Committee feel that funds under the scheme should not be a constraint and the victims should be adequately compensated and as also some funds should be utilized for rehabilitation of the atrocity victims i.e. for providing jobs or assistance for self employment.

Reply of the Government

2.10 Consequent upon increase in quantum of relief, vide the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (Amendment) Rules, 2011, under Ministry's Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, budgetary allocation under the Scheme has been increased to Rs. 100 crore in 2012-13 from Rs. 70 crore in 2011-12.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.11, Para No. 4.30)

2.11 The Committee also find a very substantial hike in the BE (2012-13) under the Special Central Assistance in Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) i.e. Rs. 1200.00 crore

from the Actual expenditure of 2011-12 which was Rs. 656.40 crore. The Committee has been informed that the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCA TO SCSP) was last revised in 1998 under which the subsidy amount of Rs. 10,000/- per beneficiary was adopted. The working group on 'Empowerment of Scheduled Castes for formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) has recommended that maximum subsidy under the scheme should be enhanced to Rs. 50,000/- per family and should be regularly revised in future. Also the Planning Commission has taken up evaluation of the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and the study has been awarded to National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad. The report of which is still awaited. After evaluation studies of the scheme, the same is to be reviewed in 12th Plan. The Committee desire that Ministry should impress upon the Planning Commission for early revision of the scheme so that funds earmarked under 2012-13 i.e. Rs. 1200.00 crore can be utilized effectively for the development of the Scheduled Castes.

Reply of the Government

2.12 An evaluation study on “Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)” has been awarded by Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO), Planning Commission to National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. The draft report of NIRD has been received and is under consideration. Based on the recommendations of the Evaluation Study, revision of the Scheme covering, inter alia, enhancement in subsidy being given to BPL families under the Scheme is also under the consideration of the Ministry.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.12, Para No. 4.31)

2.13 The Committee are given to understand that many of the States are also not allocating funds in proportion to the guidelines in their Annual Plan to SCSP outlay. The Committee take serious view of this and desire that the same may be conveyed by the Ministry to the Planning Commission as the approval of State Plans and approval of the Central Assistance for State Plans vests with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission needs to make some efforts to enforce compliance of its guidelines for implementation of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The matter of shortfall in SCSP earmarking by 12 States/UTs has been taken up with the Chief Ministers of the concerned States/UTs and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission by the Minister (SJ&E) vide his D.O. letter dated 12.03.2012 and 09.03.2012, respectively, requesting them to ensure that such shortfall does not recur in their Annual Plans, 2012-13.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.16, Para No. 5.12)

2.15 The Committee feel that the Pre-Matric scholarship scheme for OBCs is an important scheme for the education of OBCs. However the Committee feel that income ceiling under the scheme i.e. Rs. 44,500/- per annum is very low and therefore, the number of students who can avail the benefit remains restricted. The Committee recommend for enhancement of the income ceiling under the Pre-matric scholarship for OBCs so that more students can be covered under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.16 Based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up for formulating the XII Plan for OBCs/DNTs etc, the Ministry has also initiated the action for revising the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme. The Scheme is being revised to enhance the income limits, scholarship rates and also to change the funding pattern to 100% from the existing 50:50 between the Centre and States. The demand for additional allocation of Rs.1950 crore under the Scheme has already been projected to Planning Commission for the current year (2012-13) and similar projections are also made to the Commisison for the year, 2013-14.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.17, Para No. 5.13)

2.17 The Committee are dismayed to note that despite the revision of the scheme of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls i.e. w.e.f 2010-11 the expenditure under the scheme has been only Rs. 16.07 crore during 2011-12 against an allocation of Rs. 45.00 crore. The number of Hostels sanctioned was 33. The reasons for less expenditure vis-à-vis allocation has been as informed by the Ministry are mainly due to non-receipt of proposals from the States/UTs. The Committee desire that the Ministry take up the matter in review meetings with the State Governments/UT Administrations so that the scheme can be successfully implemented and Hostel facilities for OBC Boys/Girls can be made available especially to enable them to pursue Secondary and Higher education.

Reply of the Government

2.18 For the effective monitoring of the all the schemes, Ministry has designated Bureau Heads and Divisional Heads as Nodal Officers for various regions and States/UTs. During

the field visits of Officers of this Ministry to States/UTs discussions are held in order to identify constraints and to take corrective measures.

Ministry also organizes Biannual Conference of State Social Welfare Ministers and the Annual Conference of State Welfare Secretaries wherein, *inter alia*, all the schemes of the Ministry are reviewed. The annual review Meeting with State Social Welfare Secretaries were convened in October-November, 2010, which was followed by a States Social welfare Ministers' Conference convened in June, 2011. In view of the special problems being faced by the North-eastern States and to give focused attention to their issues at the highest level, States' Social Welfare Conference for NE States was convened in May, 2012. In all these meetings, all the schemes including the Scheme of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls especially in those states where the expenditure has been abysmally low were discussed and the concerned States were advised to take corrective actions.

States/UTs have also been advised to strengthen their own monitoring mechanism for the schemes/programmes of this Ministry.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No. 18, Para No. 6.22)

2.19 The Committee are happy to note that some achievements have been made in the Disability sector which include setting up of Indian Sign Language, Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), two new Composite Regional Centres established at Ahmedabad and Kozhikode, 33 new DDRCs, online Braille Library launched on 4.1.2012, proposal of creation of a separate Department for Disability Affairs in the Ministry for more intensive attention to Disability issues. However, as per the allocation of funds and the expenditure of the Ministry in the Disability Division expenditure of only Rs. 292.02 crore has been

incurred against an allocation of Rs. 480.00 crore. The reasons enumerated by the Ministry include inadequate number of proposals of NGOs and States/UTs, lesser investment in NHFDCs share capital, and unsatisfactory response of States to SIPDA scheme. The Committee desire that the Ministry take up these issues with the State Governments/UTs/NGOs and other implementing agencies so that they are able to utilize the funds properly in the financial year i.e. BE (2012-13) which is Rs. 500.00 crore.

Reply of the Government

2.20 To ensure better utilization of plan outlays allocated under disability sector schemes, Ministry has communicated the notional allocations to States/UTs as per the details given below:

S. No.	Scheme	Date of Communication of Notional allocation to States/UTs	Date by Which the proposals required to be Submitted
1	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	14 th May, 2012	30.6.2012
2	ADIP Scheme	23.5.2012	25.7.2012
3	SIPDA*	21.8.2012	15.9.2012
	* The Ministry is also in the process of requesting the Ministry of HRD and other Central Government institutions to avail the central assistance for making their buildings disabled friendly and send the proposals to the Ministry accordingly.		

Ministry also organizes Biannual Conference of State Social Welfare Ministers and the Annual Conference of State Welfare Secretaries wherein, *inter alia*, all the schemes of the Ministry are reviewed. The Annual Review Meeting with State Social Welfare Secretaries including the NE States are proposed to be convened in September-November, 2012 to discuss the constraints being faced by them in implementation of the

Schemes and for suggesting corrective actions. In view of the special problems being faced by the North-eastern States and to give focused attention to their issues at the highest level, States' Social Welfare Conference for NE States was convened in May, 2012. In all these meetings, all the schemes including the Schemes related to disability sector were discussed and the concerned States were advised to take the corrective actions.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.19, Para No. 6.23)

2.21 The Committee have found that the expenditure under the scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting Aids and Appliances (ADIP) has been less, although BE for 2011-12 was Rs. 100.00 crore, the RE under the scheme was kept at Rs. 80.00 crore and actual expenditure was Rs. 75.00 crore. The reason for less expenditure under the scheme during 2010-11 and 2011-12 has been non-receipt of adequate complete proposals from the implementing agencies in time. The Ministry have also informed that the scheme is to be revised in respect of income ceiling for eligible beneficiaries and ceiling of the cost of assistance devices during the Twelfth Plan. Efforts are being made for seeking the approval of CCEA for the revised scheme. The Committee recommend the Ministry to pursue for an early revision of the scheme so as to increase the income ceiling for eligibility of the beneficiary and also the appropriate increase in the ceiling of cost of Assistance Device as per the inflation and consumer price index.

Reply of the Government

2.22 The ADIP Scheme is under revision with regard to the income ceiling for the eligible beneficiaries, ceiling of the cost of assistive devices and also for streamlining the

provisions in the Scheme. A Draft EFC Note was circulated to various concerned Ministries/ Departments for comments. The comments have been received and the final EFC Note is under consideration.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.21, Para No. 6.25)

2.23 The Committee note that the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme is an important scheme of the Ministry in which grant-in-aid is sanctioned to the voluntary organizations for encouraging voluntary action, creating conducive environment for disabled to ensure equal opportunities and social justice to the disabled persons and their families. The BE under the scheme was Rs. 120.00 crore in 2011-12 however the Actual Expenditure was 86.16. The Committee note the there has been less expenditure under the scheme for the last three years. The reasons explained by the Ministry are late receipt of proposals from NGOs, incomplete and inadequate number of proposals received from States and UTs etc. The Committee find that the number of beneficiaries in 2011-12 had gone down in the States of Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh as against 2010-11. The Ministry propose to review the cost norms of the scheme in the XII Plan. As this scheme is supposed to reach the masses at ground level, the Committee recommend that the scheme should be revised at the earliest and also efforts should be made to increase the number of beneficiaries under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.24 The Ministry has set up a committee for recommending changes in the present norms of DDRS scheme. The Committee, besides Officers of the Central/State governments and the National Institutes, has representatives of eminent NGOs working in

the field of disability. The Committee is expected to give its report with recommendations by 30.9.2012.

All the State Governments, including the States of Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Oddisha and Uttar Pradesh have been informed about the notional allocation made under the scheme for the year 2012-13 vide letters dated 14th & 15th May, 2012. They have been requested to send proposals for release of grant-in-aid in respect of 'ongoing' cases as well as 'new' cases cleared by the screening committee of the Ministry in the year 2011-12 expeditiously so that claims of a maximum number of organisations could be processed for released of grant- in- aid during the year, resulting in an increase in the number of beneficiaries.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S.No.23, Para No. 7.11)

2.25 The Committee are dismayed to note that the performance of the Ministry has not been so good in the Social Defence Division. Out of a Budget Estimate of Rs. 122.00 crore, the actual expenditure was only 85.75 crore. The Committee are dismayed at the fact that project for construction of Old Age Homes could not take off in the Eleventh Plan period despite the repeated efforts of the Ministry. The Twelfth Plan Working Group on Social Welfare, constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended introduction of the scheme. However, Planning Commission's approval is still pending. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Planning Commission for early approval and work out the modalities of the scheme, so that the same can be launched in the first year of the Twelfth Plan period.

Reply of the Government

2.26 It is submitted that under Social Defence, budgetary estimates for Information and Mass Education Cell (Rs 25 crore) and for Research and Evaluation Studies (Rs 1 crore) are also included, thus making the total BE under Social Defence to Rs 122 crore. The details of Plan outlay allocated for Social Defence Bureau of the Ministry for the year 2011-12 vis-a-vis actual expenditure is as follows:

Amount in Rs Crore						
SD Bureau		2011-12				2012-13
		BE	RE	Expenditure	Exp as % to RE	
1	DP Div.	46.00	34.00	35.33	113.97	45.00
2	Ageing Div.	40.00	25.00	19.99	79.96	40.00
3	NISD	10.00	7.00	5.00	71.42	10.00
	Total	96.00	66.00	60.32	91.39	95.00

It may therefore be seen that Social Defence Bureau has actually utilised 91.39 per cent of revised plan outlay allocated for the year 2011-12. Efforts are being made to achieve higher level of utilisation in the current year.

With a view to assist State Governments in the discharge of their statutory responsibility under Section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens with integrated Multi-facility Centres of varying capacity (25, 60 and 120) to cover all the 640 districts in the XII FYP is proposed to be implemented from 2013-14. It is, however, submitted that the Ministry had consistently requested the Planning Commission during the XI Plan (2007-2012) to accord its 'in principle' approval to the scheme, but Planning Commission, due to one reason or the

other did not grant the approval during the 11th Plan period and asked the Ministry to place the demand before the Working Group on Social Welfare constituted by it for formulating the 12th Plan for the sector. Based on the recommendation of the Working Group, Minister (SJ&E) has taken up the proposal again with the Planning Commission vide his letter dated 23.8.2012 for granting its 'in principle' for the implementation of the proposed scheme from the year, 2013-14.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

CHAPTER – III

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

- NIL -

CHAPTER – IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHAPTER - I

Recommendation (S.No.4, Para No. 3.30)

4.1 The Committee find that the Ministry had sought an allocation of Rs. 12,500.00 crore from the Planning Commission during the year 2012-13 however an allocation of only Rs. 5915.00 crore was made. The main areas where there had been a slashing of funds was in the Other Backward Classes Development i.e. from Rs. 3525.00 crore to Rs. 900.00 crore. The Secretary informed the Committee during evidence that the schemes in the OBC sector have unfortunately not got the requisite funds and the Ministry is therefore requesting States to restrict their expenditure unless they could meet any additional requirement out of their own resources. Keeping in mind the financial performance of the Ministry in the XI Plan period, against an allocation of Rs. 16776.00 crore the expenditure for the five years has been Rs. 16171.48 crore, the Committee desire the Ministry to vigorously pursue with Planning Commission to increase allocation of funds especially in schemes for OBC sector.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The Ministry is constantly pursuing the Planning Commission for allocation of more funds for the OBC sector at the highest level viz. Minister (SJ&E) vide his letter dated 27.7.2012 addressed to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, has requested to increase the budgetary allocation under Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship schemes for OBC students as due to budgetary constraints, it has not been possible to provide scholarships to all the eligible students under these schemes. It is also proposed to revise

the scholarship rates and income ceiling under the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, as it has not been revised ever since its inception in 1998-99. Planning Commission has accordingly been requested to take urgent action for allocation of minimum additional funds of Rs 1400 crore for Post-matric Scholarship and Rs 1950 crore for Pre-matric Scholarship Schemes for OBCs during the current year and also similar allocation for the remaining period of the 12th Plan (2012-17)

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.7 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (S. No. 5, Para No. 3.31)

4.3 The Committee have been informed that the Planning Commission constituted four Working Groups in April, 2011 for formulation of the XII Five Year Plan (2012-17) of the Ministry i.e. Improvement of Scheduled Castes, empowerment of persons with disabilities, Social Welfare/Social Defence and Empowerment of Backward Classes, EBCS Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and De-notified Tribes. These groups submitted their Reports to the Planning Commission in October, 2011. The 12th Five Year Plan outlay recommended by the Working Groups is Rs. 9.55 lakh crore. The Working Groups have recommended rationalization/consolidation of existing schemes/programmes for their effective implementation, which includes consolidation of SC related schemes of the Ministry into a composite Centrally Sponsored Scheme called 'National Programme for Empowerment of Scheduled Castes', consolidation of most disability related schemes of the Ministry into a composite Centrally Sponsored National Programme called 'National

Programme for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NPEPWD)'. The Working Groups have also suggested that some educational/scholarship schemes being implemented for Scheduled Castes be extended to OBCs and PwDs. The Committee are of the view that as these are good proposals and the Planning Commission should give adequate funding to the Ministry so that concrete steps can be taken to improve the working of schemes and to benefit maximally the target groups. The Committee have also been told that Rs. 1048.00 crore have been allocated in the year 2012-13 for new schemes of the Ministry. However, the new schemes are yet to take off although 'in Principle' approval has been obtained for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PwDs. A Concept Note on National Overseas Scholarships for OBC has been sent to the Planning Commission for 'in Principle' approval. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry pursue with the Planning Commission for clearance of the proposals so that the new schemes of the Ministry for which Rs. 1048.00 crore has been earmarked in the year 2012-13 can take off in a time bound manner.

Reply of the Government

4.4 As regards the status of the new schemes proposed for 2012-13, the Pre-matric Scheme for SC Students studying in Class IX and X has already been launched with effect from 1.7.2012, and the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PwDs is under consideration of Standing Finance Committee, the meeting of which is scheduled to be held in September, 2012. The 'in principle' approval for the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for OBC students, is being pursued with Planning Commission. Other new schemes proposed for 2012-13 are still at the conceptual stage and being examined in the Ministry.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (S. No. 6, Para No. 3.32)

4.5 The Committee find that the lump sum allocation for the NE region and Sikkim was Rs. 213.50 crore which was revised to Rs. 190.80 crore, the expenditure has been shown as Rs. 117.22 crore. Further an enhanced allocation of Rs. 248.00 crore has been made in the year 2012-13. The Committee find that although the Ministry is making efforts by holding meetings with officers of Social Welfare Department and representatives of NGOs in the region besides giving publicity to their schemes, the financial performance in the year 2011-12 was not good as no money was spent in North Eastern region and Sikkim under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, ALIMCO, National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation, Employment of Physically Challenged etc. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments in the North-Eastern Region to send viable proposals for implementing the various schemes and also exhort NGOs working for disadvantaged section to take benefit of the schemes. The Committee also recommend that TV and Radio programmes on the various schemes run by the Ministry should be made and telecast in the regional languages so that people can avail the benefit of the schemes run by the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

4.6 The reasons for the low or nil expenditure under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, ALIMCO, National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation, Employment of Physically Challenged are given below:

- (i) As for the Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC candidates, it is submitted that it is a Central Sector Scheme which is implemented through the University Grants Commission (UGC). There is no state-wise release of

funds. The total number of fellowships to be awarded under the scheme to the Scheduled Caste students every year is 2000. The numbers of fellowships have been distributed state-wise based on percentage of SC population in that State. The funds are released to UGC as per their demand. The funds utilized under the Scheme also include funds used for candidates selected from NE states. There is no separate demarcation for NE States.

- (ii) In case of NHFDC, it is informed that at the beginning of the current year, NHFDC conveys the notional allocation of funds to the SCAs, in proportion to the disabled population of the state/UT and considering disbursement in preceding three years. All SCAs are also advised to draw 50% of the notional allocation as advance to expedite the implementation of NHFDC schemes in the states. However, majority of SCAs in North East do not come forward to draw the allocated funds from NHFDC despite repeated persuasions by NHFDC. During 2011-12, SCAs from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura did not avail funds against their notional allocations. Many State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) of North Eastern States are not providing adequate Block Government Guarantee (BGG) in time, which makes it extremely difficult for NHFDC to release funds to these SCAs.
- (iii) ALIMCO could not organize the ADIP and ADIP-SSA Camps in a number of NE States due to non-response from the concerned State Governments. Besides, wherever camps were organized, turnout of persons with disabilities particularly when assessment and distribution camps are held separately is extremely poor owing to problems in commuting due to geographical distances and difficult terrain.

The following steps have been taken to improve utilization of funds in the NE region:

- (i) In order to provide publicity, various schemes implemented by the Ministry have been put on its website. Further, a radio programme namely 'Sanwanti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen' is being broadcast in all regional languages of the NE States through All India Radio.
- (ii) The Ministry has also been seeking help of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and the North Eastern Council, to impress upon the NE States for sending complete proposals on adequate scale under the various schemes implemented in the region by this Ministry.
- (iii) To boost the expenditure in the region and to identify the problems being faced by the State Governments in utilizing the funds, we have been organizing the meetings with Social Welfare Secretaries & other officers of Social Welfare Departments of NER States as well as representatives of non-Government organizations in the region for the last three years.

Besides above, in view of the special problems being faced by the North-eastern States and to give focused attention to their issues at the highest level, States' Social

Welfare Conference for NE States was convened in May, 2012 wherein the schemes/programmes with low expenditure in NE States were discussed and the participating States requested to take necessary action for expediting the proposals under these schemes during the current year.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (S. No.10, Para No. 4.29)

4.7 The Committee note that the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) is an umbrella strategy to ensure earmarking of funds for development of Scheduled Castes in proportion to their population by the Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. The Committee have been told that out of an outlay for 2011-12 of Rs. 3.36 lakh crore, an amount of Rs. 0.31 lakh crore (9.4%) was earmarked by 25 Ministries/Departments as against the stipulated amount of Rs. 0.54 lakh crore (16.2%). The defaulting Ministries/Departments in terms of earmarking funds as per guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission were the Department of Rural Development (Rs. 14000.00 crore) Ministries of Panchayati Raj (17.81 crore), Ministry of Science and Technology (58.73 crore) and Rs. 3.82 in case of Ministry of DONER. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Planning Commission at the highest level so that important Ministries of Government i.e. especially the Ministry of Rural Development which plays a vital role in the development of Scheduled Castes allocates funds in proportion to the laid down guidelines under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan.

Reply of the Government

4.8 The matter was taken up again by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment vide his d.o. letters dated 24.03.2011 with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Minister, Rural Development. The matter was followed up with them, thereafter, on regular basis. The issue of shortfall in allocation of funds under SCSP was also taken up by Minister (SJ&E) with Prime Minister vide letter dated 01.4.2011 with the request to suitably advise the Planning Commission on the issue.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (S. No.20, Para No. 6.24)

4.9 The Committee are given to understand that monitoring teams have found that Grants-in-Aid are not being properly used for implementation of ADIP scheme and they have given suggestions like physical verification of beneficiaries of each implementing agency, issue of inventory card with full address and contact number of beneficiaries, computerization of the list of beneficiaries etc. The Committee recommend that in the revision of the scheme, Stringent Monitoring Mechanisms should be adopted so that the Aids and Appliances are given to the genuine beneficiaries. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should try to rope in Central Government and State Government Hospitals in the important disability related schemes so that it reaches the masses. Also the officers of the Health Department, as suggested by the Ministry, should be authorized to do fast track checking of aids and appliances given under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

4.10 The ADIP Scheme is under revision with regard to the income ceiling for the eligible beneficiaries, ceiling of the cost of assistive devices and also for streamlining the provisions in the Scheme. The suggestions of the Committee are noted and shall be considered at the time of the revision of the Scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.19 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (S. No. 22, Para No. 6.26)

4.11 The Committee note that the Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi, a Non-Governmental Organization provides comprehensive rehabilitation management services to patients with spinal injuries and related ailments. Rs. 2.00 crore was made available to the centre during 2011-12 and expenditure was only 50% i.e. Rs. 1.00 crore. The Government has approved the support to 30 free beds for treatment of poor patients. The Ministry is reimbursing the cost of 25 free beds and cost of 5 beds is being borne by the Centre. During 2011-12, cost of free bed was Rs. 5,780/- per bed per day. Since the ISIC is a specialized centre catering to patients with spinal cord injuries, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should generate awareness so that poor people can actually use the facilities available with the ISIC and there is full occupancy of the free beds. Also, rather than surrendering the funds, free OPD facilities can also be provided so that more patients can avail the much needed medical expertise available with the Indian Spinal Injury Centre.

Reply of the Government

4.12 The Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC), New Delhi, a Non-Governmental Organization, provides comprehensive rehabilitation management services to patients with spinal cord injuries and related ailments. These include intervention in the form of reconstructive surgery, stabilization operations, physical rehabilitation, psycho-social rehabilitation, and vocational rehabilitation services. As against the BE of Rs 2 crore, the ISIC was released only Rs one crore during 2011-12, as there are some issues relating to laying of Annual Reports of ISIC in Parliament and audit observations pertaining to 2007-08 and 2008-09. However, amount released was fully utilized by the ISIC during the year. Efforts are made to reimburse the expenditure on 25 free beds to the maximum extent. As per bills submitted by ISIC, free beds are almost occupied at all times.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.22 of Chapter – I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

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

Recommendation (S. No. 9, Para No. 3.35)

5.1 The Committee feel that Monitoring of the various schemes of the Ministry at all levels i.e. Central, State and district levels is very much required for keeping a track on the flow of funds and the beneficiaries of the various schemes so that it reaches the masses for whom the schemes are envisaged. The Ministry have informed that Rs. 8.00 crore has been provided in a new scheme/programme for monitoring the schemes of the Ministry through State and District level Vigilance Monitoring Committees. The Committee hope that Ministry will take up the matter with the Planning Commission to obtain approval of the same as soon as possible so that Vigilance Monitoring Committees are made functional at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

5.2 For details about existing mechanism of monitoring of the schemes in the Ministry, please see reply given to the Recommendation at S No 3, Para 3.29. The Ministry is regularly pursuing the matter with Planning Commission for obtaining the 'in principle' approval of the proposed new scheme for setting up of State and District level Vigilance Monitoring Committees.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.13, Para No. 4.32)

5.3 The Committee are dismayed to note that the expenditure for Girls Hostels and Boys Hostels under the Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana has been very low. As against a BE of Rs. 95.00 crore in Girls Hostels, expenditure is only Rs. 38.31 crore and for Boys Hostels against a BE of Rs. 50.00 crore actual expenditure has been Rs. 27.60 crore, the main reasons for under utilization has been due to non-receipt of complete proposals from State Governments/UT Administrations/Universities. The Committee are given to understand that no evaluation study has been commissioned after the revision of the scheme took place w.e.f. 01.01.2008 and evaluation of the scheme is to be done in the 12th Plan period. The Committee recommend that since the scheme in its previous form is not able to achieve its physical and Financial targets there is an urgent need to revamp the scheme with more involvement of the State Education Departments for execution of the schemes as more hostel facilities are required in both school and university level for education of the Scheduled Caste population.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The Ministry has conducted an inspection of all the hostels sanctioned under Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana during the 11th Plan period (2012-17) through its team of officers during May-July, 2012. Based on the outcome of these inspections and the recommendations contained in the 12th Plan Document, which is finalized by the Planning Commission, Ministry is contemplating a revision in the Scheme during the 12th Plan period.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.14, Para No. 4.33)

5.5 The Committee note that the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC students for higher studies abroad and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for Scheduled Castes are two important schemes of the Government for pursuing higher education and studies. However there has been no increase in the Budget Estimates of the schemes from 2010-11 onwards and expenditure in the schemes has also been on the lower side. The Committee recommend that the number of slots in these important schemes should be increased so that more number of students can avail the scholarships. The Committee also recommend that wide publicity needs to be given to these two schemes especially in the various universities and colleges so that more students can apply for higher studies under these schemes.

Reply of the Government

5.6 The number of fresh fellowships to be awarded under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students has been increased from 1333 to 2000 each year with effect from academic session 2010-11. Simultaneously, the rates of fellowship under the scheme have also been enhanced from 1.4.2010. Further increase in fellowship under the scheme will be considered during the XII Plan period (2012-17) subject to enhanced allocation of funds by the Planning Commission to the Ministry.

This Scheme is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) and funds are released to it on the basis of demand made by the Commission every year. UGC had unspent balance of previous grant of 2010-11, which has been adjusted during 2011-12. This resulted in release of less funds during 2011-12. The Budget provision under the Scheme during 2012-13 has been kept on the basis of actual expenditure incurred under the Scheme during previous years(s). The requirement of additional funds,

in excess of budget provision, if any, can be met through Re-appropriation of Savings under other Schemes.

The Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC etc. candidates is implemented through the Ministry of External Affairs and its Indian Missions abroad. During each financial year, the funds are placed at the disposal of the Ministry of External Affairs and that Ministry utilizes the amount as per requirements received from Indian Missions. As per the provisions of the Scheme, the selected candidates have to join any foreign University within a period of 3 years. The less expenditure is mainly due to the reason that not all the selected candidates take admission abroad for availing this scholarship.

Following steps are taken by the Ministry for wide publicity of “National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SCs etc. candidates”(NOS) and “Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students” (RGNF):-

- (a) Details of the Schemes are available on the website of the Ministry;
- (b) Advertisements inviting applications under NOS Scheme are published in Employment News and other leading national and regional dailies;
- (c) University Grants Commission (UGC) widely publicizes the scholarships under RGNF through their website and leading newspapers;
- (d) The Schemes are also publicized through the weekly radio programme of the Ministry names “Sanwanti Jayein Jeevan ki Raahein”.

The suggestion of the Committee for increasing the number of fellowships under these schemes will be considered during the XII Plan period (2012-17) subject to enhanced allocation of funds by the Planning Commission to the Ministry.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

Recommendation (S. No.15, Para No. 5.11)

5.7 Under the scheme of Post-Matric scholarship for OBC students, in the year 2012-13 the Budget Estimates have been enhanced from the year 2011-12 by only about Rs. 90.00 crore. In 2011-12, out of an allocation of Rs. 535 crore expenditure was Rs. 527.99 crore. The scheme has been revised w.e.f. 1.7.2011 in terms of maintenance allowance and income ceiling. Since the scheme has been revised recently more funds would be required for the scheme, the Committee therefore, recommend for enhancement of funds so that more OBC students can avail the benefit under the scholarship scheme.

Reply of the Government

5.8 Based on the demand for the additional funds by the State Governments under Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Schemes for OBCs, the Ministry has already taken up the matter for enhancement in allocations under these schemes (Rs.1400 crore for Post-matric Scholarship Scheme and Rs. 1950 crore for Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme) at the highest level with the Planning Commission for the current year, 2012-13 and similar allocations during the remaining years of the XII Plan (2012-17).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-8/2012/(PS)/PREM dated 17th September, 2012).

NEW DELHI:

17 December, 2012
26 Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

HEMANAND BISWAL

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

ANNEXURE - I

Statement showing the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants for the year 2011-12 of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

S. No	Para No.	Recommendation	Status of Implementation
1	3.24	<p>The Committee note that against the plan allocation of Rs. 4524.04 crore (BE) which was reduced to Rs. 4300 crore, at RE stage, the Ministry has achieved an expenditure of Rs. 4185.93 crore. The Committee find that two important divisions of the Ministry i.e. the Disability Division and the Social Defence Division could not utilize full funds allocated to them (utilization of Rs. 314.19 crore out of Rs. 450.01 crore and 76.12 crore out of Rs. 222.01 crore respectively). Also there was a saving due to non-receipt of sufficient proposals from State Governments/ voluntary organizations located in the North Eastern region. The budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2011-12 has been enhanced to Rs. 5375 crore and the Committee are given to understand that the additionality of fund requirement in 2011-12 is mainly for post-matric scholarship for SCs and OBCs and a new scheme on pre-matric scholarship for SCs. The Committee while expressing their unhappiness over the Ministry's not-so-satisfactory performance in various schemes due to which there was underutilization and surrender of funds during the year 2010-2011 recommend</p>	<p>The Ministry is continuously making efforts to further improve its utilization of Plan outlay especially in the Disability and Social Defence sectors. As a step in that direction, sanctioning powers delegated to Joint Secretary/Special Secretary/Secretary of the Ministry were doubled in November, 2011. These powers are further revised upwards especially at the level of Minister of State in August, 2012.</p> <p>The expenditure under Plan Schemes during 2011-12 was Rs. 5006.39 crore against the Plan RE of Rs. 5123.00 crore which was 97.72% of RE. Main reasons for a shortfall in Plan Schemes were (i) Delay by Planning Commission in according first 'in principle' approval and then full Planning Commission approval to the new Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs, and (ii) Non receipt of sufficient proposals from the State Governments/Voluntary Organizations especially from those located in NE Region including Sikkim. With the creation of a new Department of Disability Affairs in the Ministry, it is expected that with the focused attention, the level of utilization of fund will increase adequately.</p> <p>In view of the suggestion of the Committee, it has been decided by the Ministry, to endorse a copy of the sanction letters of Grant in aid released to NGO(s), to the concerned MPs, in whose constituency the particular NGO is working, vide letter no.1-9/2011/(PS)/PREM dated 13.2.2012</p>

		<p>that the Ministry should make maximum efforts to utilize the entire funds allocated to them for the year 2011-12. Adequate precautionary steps in way of review of utilization of funds at suitable intervals, tight monitoring of various schemes and persuading the States to send the proposals well in advance etc. should be undertaken so as to avoid surrender of funds. The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry should focus itself in key areas like Disability sector and Social Defence sector where the financial and physical performance has been slow in the past. The Ministry while allocating funds to various NGOs should also intimate about the same to concerned MPs in whose constituency the NGO is working so that they can also monitor the implementation of the scheme and utilization of funds.</p>	
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2	3.26	<p>The Committee note that the scheme for Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to SCs has been revised with effect from 1st July, 2010 which has raised the parental income ceiling for eligibility from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 2.00 lakh and also there is a proposal to increase the income ceiling and scholarship rates under the scheme of Post-matric scholarship for OBCs. The Committee desire that parental income ceiling for availing the scholarships in both the schemes of Post-matric Scholarship for SCs and Post-matric Scholarship for OBCs should be revised upwardly to Rs. 3.00 lakh so that more students can avail the scholarships.</p>	<p>Parental income ceiling under the scheme of PMS for OBCs has been revised from Rs.44,500/- to Rs.1.0 lakh p.a. w.e.f. 1.7.2011. Further revision of the Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for SC & OBC students would be undertaken in the XII Plan.</p>
3	3.30	<p>The Committee observe that a large number of utilization certificates are outstanding in respect of grants released to the States upto March, 2008. The No. of UCs outstanding as on 31.12.2009 stood at 11708 and the amount involved was Rs. 835.27 crore. Despite the best efforts of the Ministry in monitoring the receipt of the utilization certificates, this remains a major problem area for the Ministry. The Ministry have informed that no further grants are released by the Ministry to the voluntary organizations/implementing agencies without obtaining and accepting the UCs of the grants released in the previous year. The Committee are dismayed to note that during 2010-11, funds to many States/UT could not be released due to non-receipt of UCs under various schemes of the Ministry like Pre-matric scholarship scheme for OBCs, Post-matric scholarship for</p>	<p>The requirement of obtaining due Utilization Certificates from implementing agencies is a pre-requisite under General Financial Rules (GFRs) of the Government of India, for release of further grants-in-aid/ financial assistance to implementing agencies. All the implementing Agencies are periodically requested to send pending Utilization Certificates for previous releases. Further grant is considered for release after receiving satisfactory report on utilization of funds released in the past. The matter is regularly pursued with states, so that the interests of the target groups are not adversely affected. The requirement of obtaining UCs under GFRs cannot, however, be dispensed with.</p> <p>This matter was taken up in the three regional review meetings with the State Governments held in 2010-11, and reiterated in the State Social Welfare Ministers' Conference held in 17-18 June, 2011. It will be further discussed in the ensuing Regional Meetings with the State Secretaries of Welfare/Social Justice during 2012. The Ministry will continue to closely monitor the pendency of utilization of certificates, and take appropriate action for its reduction.</p>

		<p>OBCs, construction of Hostels for OBCs, SCA to SCSP etc. However, in the opinion of the Committee, when the Ministry do not release funds to the States/UTs ultimately it is the disadvantaged section who suffer because they are the target groups and the funds under various schemes are meant for their betterment. Therefore, the Committee would like the Ministry to take a more pragmatic and judicious approach in the matter of withholding the release of funds to States. The steps taken in the matter should be more persuasive in nature rather than stringent, specially in the scholarship schemes which directly affect the educational development of SC/OBC students. As for the pendency of UCs, the Committee recommend that special drives should be undertaken State-wise to obtain utilization certificates as this is also a method of evaluation of the proper/utilization of funds available under the scheme.</p>	
4	4.12	<p>The Committee note that the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is an umbrella strategy to ensure earmarking of funds for development of Scheduled Castes in proportion to their population by the Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. The Ministry provide Special Central Assistance (SCA) to States as an additive to their own Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). At present 27 States/UTs having sizable SC population are implementing Scheduled Castes Sub Plan. The allocation made is based on the percentage of SC population as per 2001 census. The Committee are unhappy to</p>	<p>I. Allocation of Population-proportionate Fund by States under SCSP.</p> <p>The outlays earmarked by the concerned States/UTs under SCSP vis-à-vis proportion of SCs in respective States' population from 2007-08 to 2010-11 is enclosed at Annexure- The Statement at the Annexure brings out that, in the year 2010-11, of the 27 States/UTs which need to earmark outlay under SCSP:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 15 States/UTs did so to the required extent or more, (ii) in the case of 6 States/UTs, the shortfall was less than 15%, and (iii) in the case of 6 States/UTs, the shortfall

<p>note that the percentage of expenditure over the outlay of the SCSP scheme has been hovering at around 14.5% since 2008-09 and not all the States are allocating funds in proportion to their SC population. In some States such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Haryana, Sikkim etc., the percentage of SCSP outlay over plan outlay falls far short of their percentage of SC population. The availability of data on the No. of BPL families who have been assisted is also very limited. Only 2 States have furnished the figures for the number of BPL families who were assisted and who crossed the poverty line in the year 2007-08. The Committee have taken a serious note of this and desire that they should be informed why the data could not be collected and furnished by the other States. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with States not allocating funds in proportion to SC population and persuade them to allocate funds as per the laid down norms. Attempts should also be made to collect data on BPL families who have crossed the poverty line after getting assistance under SCSP.</p>	<p>was more than 15%</p> <p>In this regard the Chief Minister's of the Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Delhi and Pudducherry were requested vide d.o. letter dated 12.3. 2012 to take suitable corrective action to ensure that such shortfall, do not happen in 2012-13.</p> <p>II. <u>Data on Beneficiaries of SCA to SCSP who have crossed the Poverty Line</u></p> <p>The Ministry is constantly pursuing concerned States/UTs to furnish data on the number of beneficiaries of the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, who have crossed the poverty line. The list of States which have furnished the data on BPL beneficiaries under SCA to SCSP for the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is enclosed at Annexure-IV, the abstract of which is given below:</p> <table><tr><th>The year of extending assistance</th><th>No. of States, UTs (out of a total of 27 concerned States/UTs) from which information regarding number of beneficiaries who were able to cross the poverty line, has been received</th></tr><tr><td>2005-06</td><td>22*</td></tr><tr><td>2006-07</td><td>16***</td></tr><tr><td>2007-08</td><td>14#</td></tr><tr><td>2008-09</td><td>9**</td></tr><tr><td>2009-10</td><td>4@</td></tr></table> <p>* Partial information from 5 States,** Partial information from 3 States.***Partial information given by 4 States. # Partial information given by 4 States. @ Partial information given by 1 State</p> <p>The matter is being regularly pursued with defaulting States at various levels, including through letters from the Union Minister, SJ&E, to the Chief Ministers.</p>	The year of extending assistance	No. of States, UTs (out of a total of 27 concerned States/UTs) from which information regarding number of beneficiaries who were able to cross the poverty line, has been received	2005-06	22*	2006-07	16***	2007-08	14#	2008-09	9**	2009-10	4@
The year of extending assistance	No. of States, UTs (out of a total of 27 concerned States/UTs) from which information regarding number of beneficiaries who were able to cross the poverty line, has been received												
2005-06	22*												
2006-07	16***												
2007-08	14#												
2008-09	9**												
2009-10	4@												

			<p>The Ministry had also requested the Programme Evaluation Organization, Planning Commission, to conduct a national level evaluation of the flagship programmes of the Ministry, including Scheme of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP). The Programme Evaluation Organization has informed that the evaluation of the SCA to SCSP scheme has been entrusted to the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. NIRD has submitted the draft Report on the Evaluation Study to the Planning Commission, which is under examination.</p>
5	4.13	<p>Regarding the funds under SCA to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan the Committee have been informed that the matter has been continuously taken up by the Minister (Social Justice and Empowerment) with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and also the Finance Minister for enhanced allocation. The budgetary allocation for the scheme has also been enhanced from Rs. 600 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 775 crore in 2011-12 i.e. an enhancement of Rs. 175 crore. The Committee note that the main objective of the plan is to give thrust to the development programmes for SCs with reference to their occupational pattern and the need for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited resources. Under the scheme, the State Governments have been given the flexibility to use the funds for subsidy against loan to the SC BPL persons for self employment and training and development of infrastructure. The scheme is proposed to be revised in the 12th plan by enhancing the maximum amount of subsidy admissible under the scheme from the present Rs. 10,000/- per beneficiary and also</p>	<p>Recommendations of the Committee will be kept in mind while revising the Scheme of SCA to SCSP in the 12th Plan.</p>

		<p>to make villages having 40% or more SC population eligible for infrastructure development programmes rather than 50% SC population villages. The Committee feel that there are loopholes in the implementation of the scheme as data on the No. of families who have crossed the poverty line is very vague. The Committee recommend that the scheme be revamped in the 12th plan period by enforcing strict guidelines on the State Governments for implementation of the scheme. Certain benchmarks and guidelines need to be fixed for selecting the beneficiary as also some definite feedback mechanism also needs to be fixed as to how the scheme has elevated the BPL families in the States. The Committee also recommend that there should be a reassessment of the SC population villages eligible for infrastructure development programmes and the ceiling of 40% population for eligibility should also be reviewed.</p>	
6	4.28	<p>The Committee note that the primary objective of the scheme is to provide hostel facilities to SC Boys and Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities with broader vision of retention and reduction of their dropout rate in educational institutes. The State Governments/UTs and the Central and State universities/Institutions are eligible for central assistance for construction of hostels or expansion of hostel facilities while NGOs and deemed universities get grants only for expansion. The actual expenditure under both heads of boys hostels and girls hostels has</p>	<p>The matter of accelerating progress under BJRCY is being regularly pursued with the concerned States/UTs during the annual conference of States' Social Welfare Secretaries. The position was also reviewed in the Social Welfare Ministers' Conference held in June, 2011. Keeping in view the special problems of the NE States, the position was also reviewed separately in States' Social Welfare Ministers' Conference of NE States in May, 2012.</p> <p>Besides, the Ministry has initiated the process of reviewing the status of construction of 524 hostels sanctioned during the Eleventh Plan period (2007-12) through the seven duly constituted teams under its Joint Secretary level officers. Based on the Reports submitted by Teams, matter is being taken</p>

		<p>been comparatively less than the allocation made in 2010-11 (against allocation of Rs. 80.00 for girls hostels only Rs. 43.91 crore could be utilized and against allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore for boys hostel only Rs. 34.28 crore was utilized). During the last two years against 53 girls hostels and 61 boys hostels sanctioned the number of hostels completed is 'Nil'. Even if the two year gestation period for completion of hostels is taken into account, the achievement during the year 2008-09 has not been satisfactory since out of 64 and 45 hostels sanctioned respectively for girls and boys only one and four hostels respectively could be completed. The Committee take serious note of this and desire that since funds under the scheme are not a constraint, the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments to take expeditious action to ensure that hostel accommodation for SC boys and girls is developed at the earliest as per target date.</p> <p>The Committee further feel that rates of subsistence allowance given to the hosteller/students staying in hostels is far too less even after its revision on 31-12-2010. The Committee recommend that these rates should be suitably revised upwardly especially to meet the needs of the students who are staying far away from their houses in hostel accommodation for pursuing their education.</p>	<p>up at the highest level of the concerned State Governments where the position is not reported to be satisfactory.</p> <p>The recommendation of the Committee regarding further revision of subsistence allowance for hostellers would be considered at the time of next revision of the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for SC students during the 12th Plan period.</p>
7	6.11	<p>Further the Committee note that the setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) is</p>	<p>Setting up of DDRCs involves a number of steps, including identification of suitable implementing agency possessing requisite expertise, at the District level, which is to be done by the concerned State Government, and as such, appointment of a</p>

		<p>one of the areas where funds have been earmarked under the scheme of SIPDA. In pursuance with the Finance Minister's Budget speech (2010-11), 50 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and 2 Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) were proposed to be set up during the year, however against the above target only 21 DDRCs could be sanctioned. Apart from non-receipt of proposals from State Governments non-availability of rent free accommodation have been cited as problems for DDRCs. Also, the District Management Team headed by the District Collector finds it difficult to identify the implementing agency suitable for such work as also non-availability of skilled manpower. The Committee are given to understand that some of the guidelines for assistance to DDRCs have been revised to address the above problems. However, the Committee feel that the Ministry need to find a solution to other major concerns like finding implementing agencies and skilled manpower for setting up DDRCs. The Committee recommend that a specific team/task force should be appointed for the purpose so that it can help to resolve the local issues and the requisite number of DDRCs as per target are set up and made functional with all infrastructure and manpower facilities covering maximum number of districts in the States.</p>	<p>task force at the Central level may not serve the desired purpose. However, the concerned State Governments are regularly pursued to expeditiously send their complete proposals. A focused attention was drawn on this issue during the States' Social Welfare Ministers' Conference held in June, 2011. Keeping in view the special problems being faced in the North-eastern region, a States' Social Welfare Ministers' Conference of NE States was also organized in May, 2012 wherein, the issues being faced by these states in setting up the new DDRCs were specifically discussed and the Ministry requested them to rectify the deficiencies in their proposals, as advised, at the earliest.</p> <p>During 2010-11 and 2011-12, funds were released for setting up 21 and 12 DDRC respectively. During the current year, funds have been released to set up a new DDRC at Sivanagar in Assam. Thus, so far, 34 new DDRCs have set up by the Ministry across the 12 States. The matter has been taken up, for setting up DDRC in unserved districts, with other States from whom the proposals are still awaited or whose proposals are deficient in many aspects.</p>
8	7.9	<p>The Committee observe that the Ministry has been running Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons since 1992 under which grants-</p>	<p>(i) Integrated Programme for Older Persons</p> <p>The scheme was revised in 2008 to include new projects like maintenance of Respite Care Homes and Continuous Care Homes, running of Multi</p>

	<p>in-aid is given to Non-Government organizations for running of Old Age Homes (OAH), Day Care Centres (DCC) and Mobile Medicare Units (MMU). The scheme was revised in 2008 to include new projects like maintenance of Respite Care Homes and Continuous Care Homes, running of Multi Service Centres for older persons, running of Day Care Centres for Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia patients, physiotherapy clinics for older persons, training of care givers etc. However, the Committee observe that despite the revision of the scheme widening its scope, only 50% of the funds released could be utilized during the year 2010-11, the reason being non-receipt of adequate number of proposals, incomplete proposals and late proposals. The Committee desire that matters concerning the older persons need to be given proper attention in India as Governments in other countries of the world have taken a step forward to provide basic facilities to older persons as the responsibility of the State and implementation of programmes concerning older persons in States should be addressed with utmost priority. The Committee are dismayed to note that an important scheme of the Ministry i.e. the scheme of Construction of Old Age Homes for Senior Citizens could not be launched during 2010-11, even though an allocation of Rs. 100 crore had been made specifically for the purpose during 2010-11. It is more disheartening to note that the scheme has been pushed to further uncertainty as no funds have been kept for the scheme during 2011-12. With the</p>	<p>Service Centres for older persons, running of Day Care Centres for Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia patients, physiotherapy clinics for older persons, training of care givers etc. However, the pace of expenditure under the Scheme has not improved much, though concerted efforts are being made by the Ministry to get adequate number of project proposals from the State Governments. Financial norms prescribed under the Scheme have not attracted enough number of NGOs to submit proposals for financial assistance under it. Therefore, keeping in view the rise in cost of the living index, revision in the financial norms under the scheme are under consideration of the Government at present.</p> <p>(ii) Centrally sponsored Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens:</p> <p>Sub section (i) of Section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 reads as follows:-</p> <p><i>"The State Government may establish and maintain such number of old age homes at accessible places, as it may deem necessary, in a phased manner, beginning with at least one in each district to accommodate in such homes a minimum of one hundred fifty senior citizens who are indigent"</i></p> <p>To assist State Governments in the discharge of the above statutory responsibility, the Ministry had initially formulated a Centrally-sponsored Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens for construction of old age homes for indigent senior citizens in 300 districts of the country during the XI Plan, at a cost of Rs 635 crore so as to cover at least 50% of the districts in the country during the XI Plan. The Ministry's XI Plan, however, had a provision of only Rs. 60 crore for this new Scheme. On the advice of the Planning Commission the scheme was then recast to fit within the allocation of Rs. 60 crore with a physical target of only 100 old age homes in the 11th Plan, and a reduced pattern of central assistance. Although the Ministry did so as per the advice given by the Planning Commission, when the revised scheme was sent for the Commission's approval, it conveyed vide its letter dated 30th July, 2009, that the scheme has not been</p>
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	<p>Rs. 100 crore allocation during the year 2010-11, the Ministry should have taken up the matter with Planning Commission for launching of the scheme at least on a pilot basis with smaller targets. Under Section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 the care of older persons and senior citizens is the primary responsibility of the Government and hence their basic needs can be catered to a great extent by construction of Old Age Homes in each district. Therefore, the Committee desire early and expeditious action in the matter. Now that the preparations for 12th plan allocations are under way, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will appropriately take up the matter with the Planning Commission and work on a viable proposal to be launched during the 12th plan.</p>	<p>approved on the ground that a token approach for setting up old age homes would not serve any purpose and the position would be reviewed during mid-term appraisal of the Eleventh Plan. Accordingly, the Ministry took up the matter with the Planning Commission during the Mid-term appraisal of the XI Plan discussion.</p> <p>Pursuant to a substantial increase in the Ministry's overall Plan outlay in 2010-11, Rs.100 crore was allowed for the above Scheme in that year's budget. Assuming that the same amount of Rs. 100 crore would be allocated for 2011-12 a fresh proposal to cover 200 old age homes in the remaining two years of the XI Plan, was sent for the approval of the Planning Commission on 9.8.2010. The Commission however again rejected the proposal saying that it would be conducting a zero base budgeting exercise in the terminal year of XI plan and advised this Ministry to take up the proposal before the XII Five Year Plan Working Group.</p> <p>The XII Plan Working Group on Social Welfare, constituted by the Planning Commission, has also recommended introduction of the above scheme during the XII Five year Plan, and its Report is under consideration of the Planning Commission.</p> <p>An outlay of Rs 80 crore has been kept for the Scheme in 2012-13 so as to initiate the process afresh for launching the scheme during 12th Plan period, if it is included in the 12th Plan document as recommended by the Working Group. The implementation of the Scheme of construction of Old Age Homes will depend on the approval of the Planning Commission. The Ministry is pursuing the matter with Planning Commission vigorously.</p>
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SCSP Outlay/Expenditure during Eleventh Plan 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11

Sl. No.	State/U.T	% of SC Population (2001 Census)	Annual Plan 2007-08			Percent-age to Col.5 to 4	Annual Plan 2008-09			Percent-age to Col.9 to 8	Annual Plan 2009-10				Annual Plan 2010-11		
			Total State Plan Outlay	SCSP Outlay	SCSP Expndr.		Total State Plan Outlay	SCSP Outlay	SCSP Expndr.		Total State Plan Outlay	SCSP Outlay	SCSP Expndr.	Percent-age to Col.13 to 12	Total State Plan Outlay	SCSP Outlay	Percent-age to Col.17 to 16
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.20	30500.00	4355.90	NR	14.28	44000.00	7630.42	NR	17.34	33496.75	5243.17	5455.84	15.65	36800.00	6131.39	16.66
2	Assam	6.90	3800.00	81.09	49.88	2.13	5011.51	100.72	84.38	2.01	6000.00	115.67	100.70	1.93	7645.00	140.27	1.83
3	Bihar	15.70	10200.00	2131.21	NR	20.89	13500.00	2428.26	2131.21	17.99	16000.00	2721.02	2721.02	17.01	20000.00	3375.12	16.88
4	Chattisgarh	11.60	7413.72	2722.31	800.78	36.72	9600.00	1103.68	568.59	11.50	10947.76	1271.66	1206.89	11.62	12277.83	1612.13	13.13
5	Goa	1.80	1430.00	26.95	11.66	1.88	1737.65	19.42	8.47	1.12	2240.00	16.15	15.50	0.72	2710.00	24.51	0.90
6	Gujarat	7.10	16000.00	1134.40	NR	7.09	21000.00	1200.00	408.27	5.71	23500.00	1294.94	822.65	5.51	30000.00	1363.46	4.54
7	Haryana	16.40	5300.00	1023.00	939.23	19.30	6650.00	1433.27	1385.28	21.55	10000.00	1493.21	1385.28	14.93	18260.00	2148.30	11.77
8	Himachal Pradesh	24.70	2100.00	231.00	170.36	11.00	2400.00	594.00	594.00	24.75	2700.00	668.00	594.00	24.74	3000.00	742.00	24.73
9	Jammu & Kashmir	7.60	4850.00	368.60	NR	7.60	4500.00	-	NR	0	5500.00	319.73	NR	5.81	6000.00	455.65	7.59
10	Jharkhand	11.80	6676.00	729.96	536.67	10.93	8015.00	1012.75	648.37	12.64	8200.00	852.86	852.86	10.40	9240.00	956.94	10.36
11	Karnataka	16.20	17782.58	2916.00	1972.28	16.40	26188.83	3232.00	2575.68	12.34	29500.00	4779.00	2916.59	16.20	31050.00	3866.60	12.45
12	Kerala	9.80	6950.00	681.80	545.73	9.81	7700.00	746.63	650.63	9.70	8920.00	875.12	848.57	9.81	10025.00	983.45	9.81
13	Madhya Pradesh	15.20	12011.00	1832.60	1709.58	15.26	14182.61	2209.81	1832.58	15.58	16174.17	2499.60	2000.91	15.45	19000.00	2918.00	15.36
14	Maharashtra	10.20	20200.00	2060.00	488.43	10.20	25000.00	2332.80	1890.66	9.33	35958.94	2651.99	1285.28	7.38	33934.53	3461.00	10.20
15	Manipur	2.60	1374.31	33.04	23.81	2.40	1660.00	48.30	33.24	2.91	2000.00	58.06	50.71	2.90	2600.00	62.40	2.40
16	Orissa	16.50	5105.00	843.96	787.79	16.53	7500.00	1239.75	1123.63	16.53	9500.00	1563.03	1410.72	16.45	11000.00	1817.90	16.53
17	Punjab	28.90	5111.00	1330.00	749.73	26.02	6210.00	1792.00	1235.87	28.86	8600.00	2488.31	2124.19	28.93	9150.00	2640.00	28.85
18	Rajasthan	17.20	11950.00	1787.77	1998.95	14.96	14020.00	2179.31	2352.35	15.54	17322.00	2735.49	2735.49	15.79	24000.00	3896.10	16.23
19	Sikkim	5.02	691.14	34.70	15.33	5.02	852.00	42.60	24.53	5.00	1045.00	NA	24.53	0	1175.00	30.77	2.62
20	Tamil Nadu	19.00	14000.00	1649.85	2903.62	11.78	16000.00	2379.20	3453.35	14.87	17500.00	2721.22	2618.56	15.55	20068.00	3827.84	19.07
21	Tripura	17.40	1220.00	205.22	NR	16.82	1450.00	242.19	183.19	16.70	1680.00	280.11	280.11	16.67	1860.00	308.25	16.57
22	Uttar Pradesh	21.10	25000.00	5307.00	4340.78	21.23	35000.00	7403.00	6789.41	21.15	39000.00	8275.00	8057.54	21.22	42000.00	8881.00	21.15
23	Uttaranchal	17.90	4378.63	749.82	350.19	17.12	4775.00	854.73	300.67	17.90	5800.81	1044.15	332.52	18.00	6800.00	1224.00	18.00

24	West Bengal	23.00	9150.00	2328.83	2328.00	25.45	11602.38	2677.83	1929.97	23.08	14150.00	3258.37	3258.37	23.03	17985.00	4142.40	23.03
25	Chandigarh	17.50	269.91	46.72	31.58	17.31	304.65	45.91	40.55	15.07	319.22	55.92	NR	17.52	450.91	79.15	17.55
26	Delhi	16.90	9000.00	1525.13	1534.05	16.95	10000.00	1694.15	1725.00	16.94	10000.00	1782.39	2094.30	17.82	11400.00	1901.56	16.68
27	Puducherry*	16.20	1455.00	150.15	149.73	10.32	1750.00	2.83	152.72	0.16	2250.00	176.83	176.83	7.86	2500.00	354.96	14.20
	ALL INDIA	16.20	233918.29	36287.01	22438.16	15.51	300609.63	44645.56	32122.60	14.85	338304.65	49241.00	43369.96	14.56	390931.27	57345.15	14.67

Source: State Plan approval letters and SCSP documents of the State Govts.

* Include TSP allocation

NA: Not Available.

NR: Not
Reported.

APPENDIX II TO ANNEXURE I

States/UTs-wise BPL families assisted and crossed the poverty line during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10											
S. No.	States	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		No. of BPL families assisted	No. of assisted families who crossed the poverty line	No. of BPL families assisted	No. of assisted families who crossed the poverty line	No. of BPL families assisted	No. of assisted families who crossed the poverty line	No. of BPL families assisted	No. of assisted families who crossed the poverty line	No. of BPL families assisted	No. of assisted families who crossed the poverty line
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	96213	21496	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
2	Assam	34595	96	6752	1130	9957	1554	10323	811	17954	480
3	Bihar	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				
4	Chhattisgarh	1082	915	1181	1040	1457	1157				
5	Gujarat	5260	2363	6187	2961	11989	5888	8303	4668		
6	Goa	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				
7	Haryana	15664	13229	15896	13512	16327	NA	12589		13537	
8	Himachal Pradesh	25590	56	23414	37	21145	22	95772	24943	27560	NR
9	Jammu & Kashmir	526	526	NR	NR	NR	NR				
10	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				
11	Karnataka	13985	13985	NR	NR	NR	NR				

12	Kerala	499	38	3239	2199	14298	10008				
13	Madhya Pradesh	7444	4914	8273	4130	9211	4516	8393	4417		
14	Maharashtra	23357	15645	NR	NR	NR	NR				
15	Manipur	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				
16	Odisha	9151	N.A.	NR	NR	NR	NR				
17	Punjab	6435	2767	8250	3712	NR	NR				
18	Rajasthan	2645	1908	2470	1623	NR	NR				
19	Sikkim	120	N.A.	98	N.A.	NR	NR				
20	Tamil Nadu	168492	67397	229020	91608	80302	45611				
21	Tripura	1991	211	1066	118	2877	281	1798	215	2170	235
22	Uttar Pradesh	67016	36857	82040	61530	111084	77836	82084	62088		
23	Uttarakhand	5282	NR	3776	NR	1503	NR				
24	West Bengal	15443	8030	NR	NR	34858	17976				
25	Chandigarh	N.A.	65	99	70	121	115	108	100	155	127
26	Delhi	253	N.A.	77	NA	366	NA	339	339		
27	Pudducherry	774	N.A.	NR	NR	NR	NR				
	Total	501817	190498	391838	183670	315495	164964	219709	97581	61376	842
N.R: Not reported.											
N.A: Not available											



IMMEDIATE

भारत सरकार
सामाजिक न्याय और
अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
शास्त्री भवन
नई दिल्ली-110 115

Sanjeev Kumar
Tele: 23383853

संयुक्त सचिव
Joint Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT
SHASTRI BHAWAN
NEW DELHI -110115

D.O. No. 11011/02/2008-SCD-V

22 June, 2012

Dear, Sir

As you are aware, presently there is a Centrally Sponsored Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) students at the Post Matric Level (i.e. class XI onwards), but there is no corresponding scholarship scheme for the Pre-Matric students.

2. The Government has now decided to introduce a new Centrally sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to Scheduled Castes studying in Classes IX & X, with effect from 01.07.2012. The objective of the Scheme is to support parents of SC children for education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized. A copy of the Guidelines of the Scheme is given at Annex-I. Major features of the Scheme are as follows:-

2.1. For being eligible under this Scheme, the student should

- (i) belong to Scheduled Caste and her/ his Parent/Guardian's income should not exceed Rs. 2 lakh per annum.
- (ii) should not be getting any other Centrally-funded Pre-Matric Scholarship.
- (iii) should be a regular, full time student studying in a Government School or in a School recognized by Govt. or a Central/State Board of Secondary Education.

Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, she / he would not get scholarship for that class for a second (or subsequent) year.

2.2. The value of scholarship includes the following for the duration of the course:-

(i) scholarship and other grants:-

Item	Day Scholars	Hostellers
Scholarship (Rs. p.m.) (for 10 months)	150	350
Books and Ad hoc Grant (Rs. p.a.)	750	1000

- (ii) additional allowance for students with disabilities studying in private un-aided recognized Schools.

Contd...2/-

2.3. The Scheme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme and will be implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which will receive 100% central assistance from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme, over and above their Committed Liability. The level of Committed Liability of a State Government/Union Territory Administration for a year will be equivalent to the level of actual expenditure incurred by them under the Scheme during the terminal year of the previous Five Year Plan Period, and will be required to be borne by them by making provision in their own budget.

3. Many States/UTs are presently implementing Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme of some kind for SC students, from their own resources. If a State Govt. is already giving pre-matric scholarship to SC students of classes IX-X, it will have to either:

- i) continue to provide scholarship at that rate, over and above the Scholarship under the proposed CSS,
- or
- ii) if it chooses to reduce its own expenditure on its Scheme, utilize the saving so effected only on other educational programmes for SCs.

4. State Governments/UT Administrations will be expected to submit their complete proposals for CA under the Scheme by second quarter of each financial year which would be released to them, subject to fulfillment of all the conditions. Next year's claim will have to be accompanied with a Utilization Certificate along with Audited Statements for the previous year's Central Assistance. Unspent or unaccounted balance, if any, from the previous year's grant will be adjusted, while releasing the next year's grant.

5. State Governments/UT administrations are requested to give wide publicity to the provisions of the new Pre-Matric Scheme for SCs and take suitable steps to implement the same with effect from 01.07.2012.

It is also requested to send a complete proposal for availing Central assistance under the Scheme during 2012-13 on the proforma given at **Annex-II**, so as to reach the undersigned (by name), by 31st July, 2012, to enable the Ministry to release admissible Central assistance at the earliest.

write depend

Yours Sincerely,

Sanjeev Kumar
(Sanjeev Kumar)

Encls: As above

Shri Sadakant,
Principal Secretary,
Social Welfare Department,
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
State Secretariat, Lucknow
Fax 0522-2239421 2237191

**CENTRALLY-SPONSORED
SCHEME OF
PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP
FOR
SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS**

GUIDELINES



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
JULY, 2012**

**CENTRALLY-SPONSORED SCHEME OF PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP
FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS STUDYING IN CLASSES IX & X
(EFFECTIVE FROM 01-07-2012)**

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SCHEME OF PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS STUDYING IN CLASSES IX & X

(EFFECTIVE FROM 01-07-2012)

1. BACKGROUND

Article 46 of Part IV ("Directive Principles of State Policy") of the Constitution enjoins upon the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Article 38(2) of the same Part also enjoins upon the State to minimize inequities in income and to endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

2. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the scheme are:

- (a) To support parents of SC children for education of their wards **studying in classes IX and X** so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized, and
- (b) To improve participation of SC children in classes IX and X of the pre-matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the post-matric stage of education.

3. SCOPE

Scholarship under the Scheme will be available for studies in India only and will be awarded by the Government of the State/Union Territory to which the applicant belongs i.e. where he is domiciled.

4. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

- (i) Student should belong to Scheduled Caste.
- (ii) His/ her Parent/Guardian's income should not exceed Rs. 2 lakh per annum.
- (iii) She / he should not be getting any other Centrally-funded Pre-Matric Scholarship.
- (iv) She/ he should be a regular, full time student studying in a Government School or in a School recognized by Govt. or a Central/State Board of Secondary Education.

- (v) Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, she / he would not get scholarship for that class for a second (or subsequent) year.

5. ANNUAL PARENTAL/GUARDIAN'S INCOME

Scholarships will be paid to the students whose parents/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakh only) per annum.

NOTE 1: So long as either of the parents is alive, only income of the parents, as the case may be, from all sources has to be taken into account only and of no other member even though they may be earning. In the form of income declaration, income is to be declared on this basis. Only in the case where both the parents have died, the income of the guardian who is supporting the student in his/her studies has to be taken. Such students whose parent's income is affected due to unfortunate death of one of earning parents and resultantly comes within the income ceiling prescribed under the scheme, shall become eligible for scholarship, subject to their fulfilling other conditions of eligibility, from the month in which such sad incidence takes place. Applications for scholarships from such students can be considered even after lapse of last date of receipt of applications, on compassionate grounds.

NOTE 2: House rent allowance received by the parents of a student shall be exempted from the computation of 'income' if the same has been permitted to be exempted for the purpose of Income tax.

NOTE 3: Income certificate is required to be taken once only i.e. at the time of admission to courses which are continuing for more than one year.

6. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The value of scholarship includes the following for complete duration of the course:-

- (i) scholarship and other grant,
- (ii) additional allowance for students with disabilities studying in private un-aided recognized Schools.

The details are as follows:

Rates of scholarship and other grant will be as follows:

Item	Day Scholars	Hostellers
Scholarship (Rs. p.m.) (for 10 months)	150	350
Books and Ad hoc Grant (Rs. p.a.)	750	1000

(ii) Additional Allowances for SC students with disabilities studying in private unaided Schools

Under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme of 'Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage' (IEDSS) implemented by the M/o HRD, assistance @Rs.3000/- p.a. is already being given under its "Student Oriented Component" to students with disabilities studying at the Secondary stage in Govt., local body and Govt. aided schools. However, students in un-aided schools are not covered under IEDSS. Therefore, SC students with disabilities, studying in classes IX & X in private un-aided recognized schools, will be eligible for allowances under this Scheme, as follows:

Allowances for students with disabilities studying in Private un-aided Schools	Amount (In Rs.)
(i) <u>Monthly Reader Allowance for Blind students</u>	160
(ii) <u>Monthly Transport Allowance for students with disabilities</u> (as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995), if such students do not reside in the hostel which is within the premises of the Educational Institution.	160
(iii) <u>Monthly Escort Allowance for Severely Disabled</u> (i.e. with 80% or higher disability) Day Scholars/Students with low extremity disability	160
(iv) <u>Monthly Helper Allowance</u> admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped student residing in the hostel of an Educational Institution who may need the assistance of a helper.	160
(v) <u>Monthly Coaching Allowance to Mentally Retarded and Mentally ill Students</u>	240

Note: The disability as defined under the Persons with disabilities (equal opportunities, Protection of rights and full participation Act, 1995) Act has to be certified by competent medical authority of the State Govt./UT Administration

7. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

(i) All eligible Scheduled Caste candidates will be given scholarships as prescribed in this Scheme.

(ii) Candidates belonging to one State but studying in another State will be awarded scholarships by the State to which they belong and will submit their applications to the competent authority in that State.

8. DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARDS

- (i) The scholarship will be payable for 10 months in an academic year.
- (ii) The award once made will continue subject to good conduct and regularity in attendance. It will be renewed for Class X after the student passes Class IX.

9. PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

(i) Scholarship is payable from 1st April or from the month of admission, whichever is later, to the month in which the examinations are completed, at the end of the academic year (including scholarship during holidays), provided that if the scholar secures admission after the 20th day of a month, the amount will be paid from the month following the month of admission.

(ii) In case of renewal of scholarship, it will be paid from the month following the month upto which scholarship was paid in the previous year.

(iii) The Government of the State/Union Territory Administration, to which they belong, in accordance with the procedure laid down by them in this regard, will pay the scholarship money to the selected students.

10. CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF THE AWARD

(i) The scholarship is dependent on the satisfactory progress and conduct of the student. If it is reported by the Head of the Institution/School at any time that a student has by reasons of his/her own act of default failed to make satisfactory progress or has been guilty of misconduct such as resorting to or participating in strikes, irregularity in attendance without the permission of the authorities concerned etc., the authority sanctioning the scholarship may either cancel the scholarships or stop or withhold further payment for such period as it may think fit.

(ii) If a student is found to have obtained a scholarship by false statements, his/her scholarship will be cancelled forthwith and the amount of the scholarship paid will be recovered, at the discretion of the concerned State Government/ UT Administration. The student concerned will be blacklisted and debarred for scholarship in any scheme forever.

(iii) A student is liable to refund the scholarship amount at the discretion of the State Government/ UT Administration, if during the course of the year, the studies for which the scholarship has been awarded, is discontinued by him/her.

11. PUBLICITY OF THE SCHEME & INVITING APPLICATIONS

11.1 The Scheme will be implemented through State Governments/U.T. Administrations. All the State Governments/UT Administrations will, at the appropriate time, suitably publicise the Scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in local language, in the leading newspapers of the State and through their respective websites and other media outfits. The applicant should submit the completed application to the prescribed authority, as mentioned below

before the last date prescribed for receipt of applications.

11.2 State Govt. would prescribe a suitable application form in the local language and place it on its websites. School authorities will get these forms filled by the eligible students and send them to Block / District level authorities. State Governments/UT Administrations will delegate powers to sanction scholarships under the scheme to appropriate District / Block level authorities/ Heads of Institution, as appropriate.

12. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

(i) An application for scholarship should comprise:

- (a) One copy of the application for scholarship in the prescribed form (separate application forms as have been prescribed for 'fresh' and renewal scholarship by concerned States/UTs).
- (b) One copy of the passport size photograph with signatures of the student thereon (for fresh scholarship).
- (c) A certificate (in original) of Caste duly signed by an authorized Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar.
- (d) An income declaration by the self-employed parents/guardians, stating definite income from all sources by way of an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper. Employed parents/guardians are required to obtain income certificate from their employer and for any additional income from other sources, they would furnish declaration by way of an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper.
- (e) A receipt in acknowledgement of the scholarship in the previous year on the form attached to the application only duly counter-signed by the Head of the Institution/School concerned, if the applicant was in receipt of a scholarship under this scheme in the preceding year.

(ii) Application complete in all respects, shall be submitted to the Head of the Institution/School, being attended or last attended by the candidates and shall be forwarded by the Head of Institution, after scrutiny and with his recommendation, to the sanctioning authority, mentioned in para 11.2.

13. MODE OF DISBURSAL OF SCHOLARSHIP

In order to ensure timely and correct payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries, State Governments/UT administrations should ensure payment of scholarship through their accounts in post offices/banks. All State Govts/UT Administrations will implement a computerized management system of scholarships, including 'e-payment' system.

14. PATTERN AND CONDITIONS OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE(CA)

14.1 The Scheme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme and implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which will receive 100% central assistance from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme, over and above their Committed Liability. The level of Committed Liability of a State Government/Union Territory Administration for a year will be equivalent to the level of actual expenditure incurred by them under the Scheme during the terminal year of the previous Five Year Plan Period, and will be required to be borne by them by making provision in their own budget.

14.2 Many States/UTs are presently implementing Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme of some kind for SC students, from their own resources. If a State Govt. is already giving pre-matric scholarship to SC students of classes IX-X, it will have to either:

i) continue to provide scholarship at that rate, over and above the Scholarship under the proposed CSS,

or

ii) if it chooses to reduce its own expenditure on its Scheme, utilize the saving so effected only on other educational programmes for SCs.

14.3 Upto 1.5 % of total Central expenditure towards Scholarship, would, be utilized on administrative expenditure, Management, Monitoring & Evaluation etc. The funds would be utilized for this purpose, by the Central Govt. or it would be released to States/UTs, over and above the Scholarship amount, on the basis of proposals received from them in this regard. However, no new posts would be created under this component.

15. TRANSFER OF COMMITTED LIABILITY TO STATES/UTs

As per the existing practice, committed liability in such Schemes gets transferred to the States/UTs during the first year of the succeeding plan period. Since this Scheme has been introduced during the first year of XII Plan i.e. 2012-13, committed liability would be transferred, for the first time, to State Govts/UT Admns at the end of XII Five Year Plan i.e. w.e.f. 1.4.2017.

16. PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMING AND RELEASE OF CA

16.1 CA will be released to the States/UTs, in two installments. First installment of CA would be released on ad-hoc basis, as far as possible, during the second quarter of the year (April- June) subject to satisfactory utilization of Central assistance, released in the past, if any. State Governments/UT Administrations will be expected to submit their complete proposals for CA under the Scheme by 30th September each year which would be released to them, subject to fulfillment of all the conditions, by 31st December. Next year's claim will have to be accompanied with a Utilization Certificate along with Audited Statements for the previous year's CA. Unspent or unaccounted for balance, if any, from the previous year's grant will be adjusted, while releasing the next year's grant.

16.2 State Governments/ UT Administrations will be expected to ensure timely and regular disbursement of scholarships to students through Bank /Post office accounts, preferably on monthly basis. Pending release of CA, the scholarships would be expected to be paid out of the State Budget, against which reimbursement can be claimed. In no case the disbursement of the scholarship to students should be held up due to any delay in the release of CA.

17. MONITORING

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implementing the scheme will:

- i) furnish data of beneficiaries and expenditure under the scheme, to Government of India, regularly in the Quarterly Progress Reports whose proforma would be separately prescribed. Financial assistance given under the scheme shall not be utilized for any other purpose.
- ii) make beneficiaries database which may be integrated with UIDAI by (a) embedding Aadhaar numbers (UID numbers) in it, (b) using the UIDAI enabled bank account (UEBA) for crediting the scholarships and (c) using the UIDAI authentication services for beneficiary identification.
- iii) ensure that an institution-wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for award of scholarships is displayed on the web-site of NIC at District level.
- iv) designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress students' scholarship-related grievances.

18. CHANGE IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE SCHEME

The provisions of this Scheme can be changed at anytime at the discretion of the Government of India.

Annexure-I

Format for sending proposal for getting Central Assistance (CA) under the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students studying in Classes IX & X for the year 2012-13

Details of the existing Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students, if any, being implemented by the State Govt./UT

1. Whether, the State Govt. is already implementing a Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students
2. If yes, the Class-wise details of Scholarship rates/other allowances being paid under the Scheme.

3. Actual physical coverage under existing Scheme of State Govt./UT during 2011-12:

Class wise Number of Hostellers

	I-V	VI-VIII	IX-X	I-X
Male				
Female				
Total				

Class wise Number of Day-scholars

	I-V	VI-VIII	IX-X	I-X
Male				
Female				
Total				

4. If the State Govt. is already giving pre-matric scholarship to SC students of classes IX-X, please specify whether it has decided to:-

- i) continue to provide scholarship at that rate, over and above the Scholarship under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme,

or

- ii) reduce its own expenditure on its Scheme and demonstrably utilize the saving so effected only on other educational programmes for SCs. *

* Please provide the complete details on a separate sheet.

Signature

Name & Designation
of Competent Authority

Annexure-II to Annex-II

Govt. Of _____
Department

No. _____

Dated : _____

To _____

The Secretary,
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,
Govt. of India,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.

[Attn: Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Joint Secretary (SCD)]

Subject : Proposal for Central Assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Pre-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to Schedule Castes studying in Classes IX & X" with effect from 01.07.2012.

Sir,

With reference to D.O. letter No. 11011/02/2008-SCD-V, dated 22.06.2012 of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, on the above subject, I am to convey concurrence of the State Government to implement the above Scheme as per the Guidelines enclosed as **Annex-I** to the above letter.

2. The State Government is presently implementing/not implementing a Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the SC students, studying in Class IX and X. The position is reflected in **Annexure-I**.
3. Our proposal for claiming Central Assistance during 2012-2013 is at **Annexure-II**.
4. It is requested that central assistance under the Scheme may please be released at an early date.

Yours faithfully

(_____)
Principal Secretary/Secretary to the Govt. of _____

Details of proposal for Central Assistance	
No. of Students in Class IX & X studying in recognized Schools	Enrollment 2011-12
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
27	28
29	30
31	32
33	34
35	36
37	38
39	40
41	42
43	44
45	46
47	48
49	50
51	52
53	54
55	56
57	58
59	60
61	62
63	64
65	66
67	68
69	70
71	72
73	74
75	76
77	78
79	80
81	82
83	84
85	86
87	88
89	90
91	92
93	94
95	96
97	98
99	100

Class	Enrollment 2011-12					
	Day Scholars		Hostellers		All Students	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
IX						
X						
Total						

Anticipated enrollment, 2012-13

Anticipated enrollment, 2012-13							
Class	Day Scholars			Hostellers			All Students
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
IX							
X							
Total							

Anticipated enrollment of eligible students, 2012-13

Anticipated enrollment of eligible students, 2012-13							
Class	Day Scholars			Hostellers			All Students
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
IX							
X							
Total							

PART-II

Details of SC students with disabilities , studying in classes IX & X in private un-aided recognized schools, eligible for allowances under this Scheme

Allowances for students with disabilities studying in Private un-aided Schools	No. of students being covered	Monthly allowance (in Rs.)	Total Amount for 10 months (In Rs.)
(i) <u>Monthly Reader Allowance for Blind students</u>		160	
(ii) <u>Monthly Transport Allowance for students with disabilities</u> (as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995), if such students do not reside in the hostel which is within the premises of the Educational Institution.		160	
(iii) <u>Monthly Escort Allowance for Severely Disabled</u> (i.e. with 80% or higher disability) Day Scholars/Students with low extremity disability		160	
(iv) <u>Monthly Helper Allowance</u> admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped student residing in the hostel of an Educational Institution who may need the assistance of a helper.		160	
(v) <u>Monthly Coaching Allowance to Mentally Retarded and Mentally ill Students</u>		240	
TOTAL			

Signature

Name & Designation
of Competent Authority

(Rs. in lakhs)

Anticipated Expenditure during 2012-2013

1.	<u>HOSTELLERS</u>	
(a)	<u>On Scholarships</u>	
(i)	Classes IX to X @ Rs.350/- per month	=
(ii)	Adhoc grant of Rs.1000/- per annum	=
	<u>Total Expenditure on Hostellers</u>	=
2.	<u>DAY SCHOLARS</u>	
(i)	Classes IX to X @ Rs.150/- per month	=
(ii)	Adhoc grant of Rs.750/- per annum	=
	<u>Total Expenditure on Day Scholars</u>	=
3.	Total Expenditure on special allowance to disabled SC students (as calculated in Part-II)	=
4.	Total Anticipated Expenditure on the Scheme for 2012-2013 (1+2+3)	=
5.	Central Assistance due during 2012-13	=

Signature

Name & Designation
of Competent Authority

PART-IV

District-wise details of proposed expenditure and proposed coverage under the Scheme during 2012-13

Sl.No	Name of District	2012-13	
		Proposed expenditure (in Rs.)	Proposed beneficiaries
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	Total		

Certified that the proposed expenditure during 2012-2013, is in accordance with the regulations governing the Scheme.

Signature

Name & Designation
of Competent Authority

Details About Implementation of the Scheme

1. Name of the Department in the State/UT implementing the Scheme:
2. Name, designation and address of the Secretary and Director In charge:
3. Designation of Authority responsible for sanction of scholarship; Head of Education Institution/District level Officer/Directorate.
4. Mode of payment of Scholarship (Cash/Cheque/Bank etc.)

Signature

Name & Designation
of Competent Authority

GFR 19-A
(See Rule 212 (1))
Form of Utilization Certificate

S.No.	Letter No. and Date	Amount (Rs)	
			Certified that out of Rs. Of Grants-in-aid sanctioned during the yearsin favour ofunder this Ministry/Department letter No. given in the margin and Rs.....on account of unspent balance of the previous year, a sum of Rs.....has been utilized for the purpose offor which it was sanctioned and that the balance of Rs.....remaining un utilized at the end of the year has been surrendered to Government (vide No.....dated.....)will be adjusted towards the grants-in-aid payable during the next year.....
	Total		

1. Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the grants-in-aid was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled/are being fulfilled and that I have exercised that following checks to see that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Kinds of checks exercised.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Signature_____

Designation_____

Date_____

Note:- To be submitted from 2013-14 onwards.

ANNEXURE-III

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON MONDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 2012

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1545 hrs. in Room No. 116
(Chairman's Chamber), Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
6. Smt. Rama Devi
7. Shri Kirodi Lal Meena
8. Kumari Meenakshi Natarajan
9. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

MEMBERS RAJYA SABHA

10. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
11. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
12. Shri Jesudasu Seelam
13. Shri Mohammad Shafi
14. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
2. Shri Kusal Sarkar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened for consideration and adoption of the draft Thirtieth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants, 2012-13 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Thirty-first Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants, 2012-13 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Reports with slight modifications/amendments.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalize the draft Reports and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	23	
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.3, 3.28, 3.29, 3.33, 3.34, 4.30, 4.31, 5.12, 5.13, 6.22, 6.23, 6.25 and 7.11).	13	56.52
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies - Nil	0	0
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter –I (Paragraph Nos. 3.30, 3.31, 3.32, 4.29, 6.24 and 6.26).	6	26.09
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos. 3.35, 4.32, 4.33 and 5.11).	4	17.39