

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2015-16)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations
contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants
(2015-16) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs**

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2015/Pausha, 1937 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.12.2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.12.2015



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2015/Pausha, 1937 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-2016)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
5. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
6. Shri Jhina Hikaka
7. Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri
8. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
9. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
10. Smt. K. Maragatham
11. Shri Kariya Munda
12. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
13. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
14. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
15. Dr. Udit Raj
16. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
17. Prof. Sadhu Singh
18. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
19. Smt. Mamta Thakur
20. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
24. Shri Ahamed Hassan
25. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
26. Shri Prabhat Jha
27. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
28. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
29. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
30. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
31. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director
4. Smt. Shashi Bisht - Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2015-16) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-third Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants – 2015-16 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Fourteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2015. The Ministry of Minority Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 10th July, 2015. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17th December, 2015.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 2015
26 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2015-16 pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1.2 The Fourteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2015. It contained Twelve observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

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

(Paragraph Nos. 2.6, 2.14, 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, 2.34, 2.35, 2.45, 2.69 and 2.79)

(Total : 10, Chapter -II)

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

(Paragraph Nos. 2.11)

(Total : 1, Chapter -III)

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration :

(Paragraph Nos. 2.68)

(Total : 1, Chapter -IV)

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

Nil

(Total : Nil, Chapter -V)

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

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

A. SCHEME OF MULTI-SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MsDP)

(Recommendation, Para 2.31)

1.5 Having noted that under restructuring of MsDP (12th Five Year Plan) during 2012-13, four new schemes namely; (i) Scheme for promotion of education in 100 minority concentration towns/cities out of 251 such towns/cities identified as backward. (ii) Village development programme for village not covered by MCB/MCD (iii) Support to district level institution in MCDs. and. (iv) Free cycle of girl students of class IX, were conceptualized to enhance the coverage area of the scheme and to strengthen the district level institutions and as these new schemes were similar to that of MsDP, all of them were merged with the Scheme of Multi-sectoral Development programme as its components and such 66 new minority concentration Towns were included.

The Committee found that, under the restructured MsDP, under Education, 520 units were sanctioned in School buildings out of which 3 units were completed and 29 units are in progress. Similarly, in case of Hostels, out of 449 sanctioned units, only 21 units have been completed and work in 132 units is in progress. Again, in case of

toilets & drinking water in Schools, out of 3130 units sanctioned, 39 units have been completed while work in 464 units work is in progress. Similarly, under Health, 1265 units were sanctioned, out of which 39 units could be completed while work in 221 units, work is underway. Then, under Anganwadi Centre 6970 units were sanctioned, out of which only 746 were completed and work is progressing in 3268 units. While under the Drinking waterproject, 9892 Handpumps were sanctioned, 2621 units completed and in 2388 units work is in progress. Under IAY project 35501 units were sanctioned 1049 units were completed while in 17320 units, work is in progress. Further, other projects like Industrial training Institute -72, Polytechnic institute - 14, Free Bicycle- 10860, Cyber Gram- 170005 and Skill Training- 124985 projects were also taken up under MsDP during 12th Five Year Plan (as on 30.12.2014).

The Committee were dismayed over the fact that States/UTs like West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, etc. have not undertaken some of the important projects which are very important for the poor minority communities. The Committee also found that students who go to towns for higher studies don't have the hostel facilities in those towns, the Committee had desired the Ministry to have a close monitoring on these schemes, besides, timely obtaining of proposals from the States which have not sent their proposals by framing a time schedule to avoid delay in sanctioning of these projects. The Committee had also desired that hostels for minority students who go to towns for higher studies should be built in towns where concentration of the minority is more and not in villages where there are hardly any institution for studies.

Reply of the Government

1.6 Since the inception of the scheme, the Ministry has been requesting the States/UTs for timely submission of projects proposals. After the restructuring of programme, the unit area of implementation has been changed from Minority Concentration District to Minority Concentration Blocks/Towns(MCBs/MCTs) for a more focused approach. The Ministry has been making tremendous efforts for getting project proposals from the State Government. In this regard several correspondences from Minister (MA) to concerned Chief Ministers have also been made. Besides that, letters from senior officers of this Ministry to senior officers of the concerned States have been sent on regular interval. The Empowered Committee in its meetings for project approvals also discuss the matter related with submission of project proposals from the concerned states against their balance allocation. Review meetings to discuss the submission of projects against balance allocation available for MCBs/MCTs are being also held. The States have been requested to submit their viable and complete project proposals to this Ministry for consideration of Empowered Committee by the second quarter of the financial year so that it can be approved in earlier part of financial year.

As regards construction of hostels in towns instead of villages, it is informed that MsDP is an area development initiative to address development deficits of minority concentration areas by creating socio-economic infrastructures and providing basic amenities. After restructuring of MsDP in 2013-14, the programme is being implemented in 66 Minority Concentration Towns(MCTs) also. The proposals of State Government for construction of hostels in these towns would also be considered by the Empowered Committee in the Ministry on priority. In this connection, the Ministry vide

letter dated 29.05.2015 has also requested the concerned State/UTs to furnish project proposals for construction of Hostels in identified Minority Concentration Towns as per requirement.

1.7 The Ministry in their action taken reply have informed that they have been making tremendous efforts for getting project proposals from the State Governments. However, as regards construction of hostels for minority students in towns instead of villages, the Committee find that the Ministry has requested the concerned States/UTs to furnish project proposals for construction of Hostels in identified Minority Concentration Towns as per requirement. The Committee in their original report had expressed their concern over the fact that the States of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand have not undertaken some of the projects which are very important for the poor minority communities. The Ministry in their action taken reply has not mentioned latest position in this regard. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously to all the concerned States/UTs to furnish the proposals for important projects related to the Health, Education, Anganwadi, Drinking water and construction of Hostels in identified Minority Concentration Towns. The progress in this regard may please be apprise the Committee as soon as possible.

B. PRE-MATRIC AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

(Recommendation, Para 2.68)

1.8 The Committee noted that from 2014-15, Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Schemes became Central Sector Schemes with 100% Central funding and implemented through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and for this Pre-matric Scholarships Scheme, Rs. 1129.27 crore was released against RE of Rs. 1130.00 crore for awarding 74.97 lakh scholarships (up to 31.3.2015), while for Post-matric Scholarship scheme, Rs.501.28 crore was released for awarding 9.06 lakh scholarships upto 31.3.2015. Less allocation of funds for the year 2015-16 under these Scheme has been made to balance the requirement of funds for the two new schemes, which have been introduced for 2015-16. The Committee were informed that though larger number of applications are received but all of them are not sanctioned because these schemes are budget based schemes and not demand driven ones.

Considering that both Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarships are important flagship schemes for the minority students and very popular and are in demand too by the minority students as it not only directly affects their future but also empowers them educationally as well as financially. The Committee had recommended that both these schemes should be made demand driven and applications should not be rejected due to paucity of funds/budget. The Committee had also desired that the Ministry take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for augmentation of funds under these schemes, if need be. Further, as less expenditure had been incurred in NE States under these schemes due to receipt of inadequate number of applications, the Committee felt that there was

an urgent need to sensitize these NE States and their minority students to avail the immense benefits of these schemes.

Reply of the Government

1.9 The scholarship programmes of the Ministry have not been approved as demand based programmes but these are budget based. Therefore, there is very little option with the Ministry to meet the requirements of all the applicants. Further, as regards sensitization and publicity of the scholarship schemes, Ministry runs specific multimedia campaign for each scholarship programme namely Pre-matric, Post-matric, Merit-cum Means (MCM) based Scholarship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) on All India Radio (AIR) Network including Regional and North Eastern (NE) channels, Doordarshan Network including Regional and NE channels, Private FM channels and Private TV channels and Digital Cinema all across the country including NE States. In addition, from time to time, Print Advertisements of Scholarship Programmes are also published all over India in Hindi, English, Urdu and Vernacular languages. It is worth mentioning here that the increasing number of applicants for scholarship is an indicator of increasing awareness among the students.

1.10 The Committee were informed that though larger number of applications are received under Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarships schemes but all of them are not sanctioned because these schemes are budget based schemes and not demand driven ones. Therefore, the Committee had recommended that both these schemes should be made demand driven so that applications should not be rejected due to paucity of funds/budget. The Committee had also desired that the Ministry take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for augmentation of funds under these schemes, if need be.

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Ministry in their Action taken reply again repeated that the scholarship programmes of the Ministry have not been approved as demand based programmes but these are budget based. Therefore, there is very little option with the Ministry to meet the requirements of all the applicants. Since both the Schemes are playing important role to motivate minority students for education, the Committee once again reiterate that these schemes should be made demand driven and the Ministry should also take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for augmentation of funds under these schemes, if need be so that applications should not be rejected due to paucity of funds/budget.

C. THE MERIT-CUM MEANS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

(Recommendation, Para 2.69)

1.11 The Committee noted that from 2014-15, 'The Merit-cum Means Scholarship Scheme' also became a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding and implemented through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and 85 institutes for professional and technical courses have been listed for the Scheme. The Committee found that Rs. 381.27 crore has been released against RE of Rs.350.00 crore for awarding 1.38 lakh scholarships (upto 31.3.2015), which the Committee appreciated. The Committee found that during 2012-13 and 2013-14 in 13 States/UTs large number of scholarships were awarded to boy students as sufficient number of eligible girl students were not available.

As education of girl students is as important as educating the boys, the Committee had desired the Ministry to motivate those States where eligible girl students were not available to encourage girls students to avail the benefits of the scholarship. The Committee also urge the Ministry to early finalize the gender-wise details of the scheme for the year 2014-15 which has not so far been done and all this details of gender-wise beneficiaries should also be made available on the website of the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

1.12 In the last three years of the 12th Five Year Plan, the percentage of benefited minority girls under Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme has remained above 30% i.e. 35.23% during 2012-13, 39.16% during 2013-14 and 32.97% during 2014-15.

The gender-wise beneficiaries' data for all the Scholarship Schemes have been posted on the Ministry's website i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. Therefore, it may be seen that the minority girls are already availing their full earmarking of seats i.e. 30%.

1.13 The Committee had observed in their original report that during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 in 13 States/UTs large number of scholarships were awarded to boy students as sufficient number of eligible girl students were not available. The Ministry in their action taken reply has not provided the gender-wise details of the Scheme for the year 2014-15 pertaining to all States/UTs. Therefore, the Committee, once again urge the Ministry of Minority Affairs to motivate all the States to encourage girls students to apply for the scholarships and avail their full quota of 30% seats allocated to them. The Committee also urge the Ministry to apprise the Committee about the States/UTs where large number of Merit-cum-means scholarships were awarded to boy students as sufficient number of eligible girl students were not available during the year 2014-15 and efforts made by the Ministry to sensitize these States for the same.

CHAPTER – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

(Recommendation, Para 2.6)

2.1 The Committee note that out of total budgetary allocation of Rs. 3711.00 crore under Plan Head during the year 2014-15, the actual expenditure was Rs. 3072.71 crore. The reasons attributed for less expenditure were non utilization of funds earmarked for North East States, non-submission of UCs by States/UTs, and delay in acquisition/arrangement of land for area development of minority concentration blocks/towns and long tender procedures for construction activates in States. The Committee also note that the Ministry of Finance has allocated Rs. 3712.78 crore for Annual Plan 2015-16 as against the projection of Rs. 4037.00 crore made by the Ministry. As per Ministry's submission, the reduction in the budgetary allocation could be probably due to budgetary constraints. The Committee find justification in the reduced allocation for 2015-16, keeping the fact in view that the Ministry of Minority Affairs could not utilize the entire allocation given during 2014-15, though they cannot be held responsible directly for non-submission of UCs by States/UTs, arrangement of land for area development of minority concentration blocks/towns and long tender procedures for construction activates in States. At the same time, the Ministry should have forethought all these aspects knowing very well that these are likely hurdles leading to less expenditure and under-utilization of funds meant for these schemes. The Committee desire that there is an urgent need for a robust mechanism in place to monitor commissioning of all such projects besides pursuing the States consistently for timely submission of UCs.

The Committee also desire the Ministry to sensitize all State Governments and UT Administrations for submission of viable and complete proposals positively by the second quarter of the fiscal year including timely submission of UCs.

Reply of the Government

2.2 Under Multi-sectoral Development Programme, there is a robust mechanism for monitoring with an independent monitoring system and monitoring with the involvement of community in addition to monitoring structure of committees at different level. Thus the monitoring of the programme is done through the following channels:

- Monitoring through the Committees constituted at different levels starting from Block Level Committee, District Level Committee, State Level Committee and thereafter Empowered Committee of MsDP.
- Monitoring through an independent agency or the qualified monitors.
- Monitoring through conferences at the national, regional, state or district levels and visits of officials to the project sites.
- Monitoring with the involvement of community through social audit mechanism.

After the restructuring of programme, the Ministry made tremendous efforts for getting project proposals from the State Government. In this regards several correspondences from Minister (MA) to concerned Chief Ministers have been made. Besides that letters from senior officers of this Ministry to senior officers of the concerned States have been sent on regular interval. The Empowered Committee in its meetings with the State Governments to approve their proposals also discuss the

matter related with submission of project proposals from the concerned states against their balance allocation. Review meetings to discuss the submission of projects against balance allocation available for MCBs/MCTs were also held. The States/UTs are also being requested to submit their proposals during official visits of senior officers to those states. To ensure the receipt of viable projects from State Government, the Ministry has also provided a list of projects as per priority of the programme. The States are also being requested to submit their viable and complete project proposals to this Ministry for consideration of Empowered Committee by the second quarter of the financial year.

The Ministry has also made intensive efforts for submission of UCs by the States. As a result, 190 pending UCs worth Rs. 326 cores were liquidated during the year 2014-15. The matter of timely submission of Utilization Certificate by the States/UTs has been pursued at appropriate level time and again. Letters from Hon'ble Minister (MA) to concerned Chief Ministers and senior officers to concerned seniors officers of State Govt./UTs have been sent. Besides that regular review meetings with officials of State Govt./UTs are held. The Empowered Committee for MsDP during its meeting for project proposals approval also monitors the status of pending UCs with the official of State Govt./UTs.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.14)

2.3 The Committee note that the organizational set up of the Ministry, which was created in 2006, is still incomplete with a number of posts lying vacant. The Committee note with concern that out of 98 sanctioned strength as on date only 66 posts have

been filled and 32 posts at various levels are still vacant which is impacting the functioning of the Ministry. While agreeing on the issue of vacancies in the Ministry, the Secretary stated that the recruitment process was done by the DoPT for most cases but they have been able to manage their work by hiring retired persons in critical areas so that the work did not suffer. The Committee urge the Ministry to pursue the matter with DoPT vigorously for filling up of all vacant posts at the earliest. The Committee may be apprised of the response of the DoPT in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report to Parliament.

Reply of the Government

2.4 It is informed that Hon'ble Minister (MA), vide DO letter dated 23.9.2014, had requested the Hon'ble MOS (PP), Department of Personnel and Training to fill up the vacant posts of Under Secretary, Principal Private Secretary, Private Secretary, Section Officers and Assistants in this Ministry, following which one Under Secretary was posted in this Ministry against the vacant post of one Under Secretary. Reply had been received from Hon'ble MoS(PP) vide D.O. letter dated 25.11.2014.

DoPT has been requested again for filling up of the vacant posts of PPS, SO, Assistant, Steno Grade 'C' and Grade 'D' and UDC in this Ministry, vide JS(Admn.)'s DO letter dated 26.5.2015 addressed to JS(E), DoPT.

DoPT has been reminded vide D.O. letter dated 15.06.2015 from Secretary (MA) to Secretary (P).

As regards the six vacant post of Assistants, DoPT vide O.M. dated 14.6.2015 has proposed to post five Assistants to this Ministry on the basis of results of CGLE-2013, upon completion of the ADR-FTP training.

As regards ex-cadre posts, files have been referred to Deptt. of Expenditure for revival of two posts of Assistant Director, four posts of Senior Investigators, one post of Research Officer. The two posts of Senior Research Investigator have been proposed for revival as they have been vacant for more than a year and is under process. For the post of Research Officer, advertisement has been published in Employment News on 20th -26th June, 2015. For two posts of SRI, advertisement has been sent to Employment News for publication. As regards one post of Accountant, framing of Recruitment Rules is under process.

Draft RR were forwarded to DoPT. However, DoPT has requested to submit the same in on-line portal, which is being compiled with.

As regards one post of AD (Urdu) and Senior Translator (Urdu), draft RRs have been sent to DoPT for their approval. As regards one post of Typist (Urdu), draft Recruitment Rules have been prepared and sent to Ministry of Law for concurrence.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.31)

2.5 The Committee note that under restructuring of MsDP (12th Five Year Plan) during 2012-13, four new schemes namely; (i) Scheme for promotion of education in 100 minority concentration towns/cities out of 251 such towns/cities identified as backward.

(ii) Village development programme for village not covered by MCB/MCD (iii) Support to district level institution in MCDs. and. (iv) Free cycle of girl students of class IX, were conceptualized to enhance the coverage area of the scheme and to strengthen the district level institutions. Further, as the objectives of new schemes were similar to that of MsDP, all of them were merged with the Scheme of Multi-sectoral Development programme as its components and such 66 new minority concentration Towns were included.

The Committee find that, under the restructured MsDP, under Education, 520 units were sanctioned in School buildings out of which 3 units were completed and 29 units are in progress. Similarly, in case of Hostels, out of 449 sanctioned units, only 21 units have been completed and work in 132 units is in progress. Again, in case of toilets & drinking water in Schools, out of 3130 units sanctioned, 39 units have been completed while work in 464 units work is in progress. Similarly, under Health, 1265 units were sanctioned, out of which 39 units could be completed while work in 221 units, work is underway. Then, under Anganwadi Centre 6970 units were sanctioned, out of which only 746 were completed and work is progressing in 3268 units. While under the Drinking waterproject, 9892 Handpumps were sanctioned, 2621 units completed and in 2388 units work is in progress. Under IAY project 35501 units were sanctioned 1049 units were completed while in 17320 units, work is in progress. Further, other projects like Industrial training Institute -72, Polytechnic institute - 14, Free Bicycle- 10860, Cyber Gram- 170005 and Skill Training- 124985 projects were also taken up under MsDP during 12th Five Year Plan (as on 30.12.2014).

The Committee are dismayed to note that most of the States/UTs like West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, etc. have not undertaken some of these important projects which are very important for the poor minority communities. The Committee also find that students who go to towns for higher studies don't have the hostel facilities in those towns.

The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to have a close monitoring on these schemes, besides, timely obtaining of proposals from the States which have not sent their proposals by framing a time schedule to avoid delay in sanctioning of these projects. The Committee also desire that hostels for minority students who go to towns for higher studies should be built in towns where concentration of the minority is more and not in villages. Where there are hardly any institutions for studies.

Reply of the Government

2.6 Since the inception of the scheme, the Ministry has been requesting the States/UTs for timely submission of projects proposals. After the restructuring of programme, the unit area of implementation has been changed from Minority Concentration District to Minority Concentration Blocks/Towns(MCBs/MCTs) for a more focused approach. The Ministry has been making tremendous efforts for getting project proposals from the State Government. In this regard several correspondences from Minister (MA) to concerned Chief Ministers have also been made. Besides that, letters from senior officers of this Ministry to senior officers of the concerned States have been sent on regular interval. The Empowered Committee in its meetings for project approvals also discuss the matter related with submission of project proposals from the

concerned states against their balance allocation. Review meetings to discuss the submission of projects against balance allocation available for MCBs/MCTs are being also held. The States have been requested to submit their viable and complete project proposals to this Ministry for consideration of Empowered Committee by the second quarter of the financial year so that it can be approved in earlier part of financial year.

As regards construction of hostels in towns instead of villages, it is informed that MsDP is an area development initiative to address development deficits of minority concentration areas by creating socio-economic infrastructures and providing basic amenities. After restructuring of MsDP in 2013-14, the programme is being implemented in 66 Minority Concentration Towns(MCTs) also. The proposals of State Government for construction of hostels in these towns would also be considered by the Empowered Committee in the Ministry on priority. In this connection, the Ministry vide letter dated 29.05.2015 has also requested the concerned State/UTs to furnish project proposals for construction of Hostels in identified Minority Concentration Towns as per requirement.

Comments of Committee

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

(Recommendation, Para 2.32)

2.7 The Committee note that the Actual Expenditure incurred by the Ministry under MsDP during the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 was Rs. 641.26 crore, Rs. 953.48 crore and Rs.770.89 crore against B.E. of Rs. 999.00 crore, Rs.1250.00 crore and Rs. 1250.00 crore respectively. The Ministry have reasoned that (i) Year 2012-13

was the first year of 12th Five Year Plan, the approvals of the competent authorities for continuance of MsDP during 2012-13 were required which took some time due to which the expenditure upto the month of September 2012 could not reach 50%. Though, sufficient number of proposal were received by October 2012, a cut of Rs. 349.44 crore in the budgetary allocation was made. At the end of the year, the utilization of the fund was 98.72% of the revised estimate; (ii) MsDP was restructured in June 2013 in which the area of implementation increased substantially. It was expected that adequate project proposals from the States/UTs would be received. The expenditure under the programme was 55.14% of the BE till 30.09.2013 and was expected to go up to 70% of BE by December 2013 but a cut was imposed and the RE was Rs. 958.53 crore. The expenditure against the available RE was 99.9%; (iii) The budgetary allocation of MsDP for 2014-15 was Rs. 1250.00 crore. Upto 30.09.2014, an expenditure of Rs. 648.82 crore had been incurred which was 51.91% of BE allocation. Considering the project proposals which were being received, it was expected that by the end of the financial year we would spent the entire BE allocation. During that year, the Ministry got budgetary cut of Rs. 571.00 crore at R.E. stage and out of this a cut of Rs. 479.06 crore was imposed on MsDP due to budgetary constraints. However, the expenditure under MsDP was more than 99% of R.E. during 2014-15.

The Committee note that the budgetary cuts were effected at R.E. stage constantly due to inability of the Ministry to utilize the funds for three quarter of the financial year and non utilization of funds on account of non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from the States. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to

review the pace and trend of expenditure under the Scheme on a quarterly basis so that the cuts at RE stage could be easily avoided and funds utilized optimally.

Reply of the Government

2.8 Since the inception of the scheme, the Ministry has been requesting the States/UTs for timely submission of projects proposals. After the restructuring of programme, the unit area of implementation has been changed from Minority Concentration District to Minority Concentration Blocks/Towns(MCBs/MCTs) for a more focused approach, the Ministry made tremendous efforts for getting project proposals from the State Government. In this regards several correspondences from Minister (MA) to concerned Chief Ministers have been made. Besides that letters from senior officers of this Ministry to senior officers of the concerned States have been sent on regular interval. The Empowered Committee in its meetings for project approval also discuss the matter related with submission of project proposals from the concerned states against their balance allocation. Review meetings to discuss the submission of projects against balance allocation available for MCBs/MCTs were also held. The States/UTs are also being requested to submit their proposals during official visits of senior officers to that concerned States.

It is further submitted that during 2014-15 due to fiscal deficit, budgetary cut was imposed by Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Minority Affairs also suffered the same. Since the budgetary allocation earmarked for scholarship programme(which forms about 49% of BE of the Ministry) are being protected by the Ministry of Finance at RE stage, so the major cut eventually falls on MsDP. During 2015-16, against the budgetary allocation of Rs.1251.64 crore under MsDP, an expenditure of Rs.161.42

crore has already been released upto 30.06.2015. Secretary (MA) reviews the pace of expenditure on monthly basis to ensure optimum utilisation of funds under various schemes including MsDP.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.33)

2.9 The major projects undertaken under the Scheme for Minority Concentration Blocks/Towns (MCBs/MCTs) during the 12th Five Year Plan in all States/UTs include Education, Skill Development, Health, Anganwadi Centres, Drinking water, Pucca Housing and Income Generation Infrastructure. The Committee seriously view the pendency of utilization certificates which was 305,518 & 805 during the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively under MsDP. The Committee feel that the pendency of such large number of UCs is against the norms of General Financial Rules. The Committee desire the Ministry to take concrete steps to reconcile the pending UCs by impressing upon the States persistently for early clearance of UCs to obviate adverse impact of such huge pendency on the MsDP, which ultimately leads to reduction of funds at RE stage.

Reply of the government

2.10 The Ministry has made intensive efforts for submission of UCs by the States. As a result 190 pending Utilisation Certificates worth Rs. 326 cores were liquidated during the financial year 2014-15. To expedite the timely submission of Utilization Certificate by the States/UTs requests from appropriate level have been made on regular basis. Letters from Hon'ble Minister(MA) to concerned Chief Ministers and senior officers to

concerned seniors officers of State Govt./UTs have been sent. Besides that regular review meetings with officials of State Govt./UTs are held. The Empowered Committee for MsDP during its meeting for project plan approvals also monitors the status of pending UCs with the official of State Govt./UTs. The Status of pending UCs has been reviewed recently in the Ministry and accordingly to impress upon the State for early liquidation of pending UC a D.O. from Secretary(MA) to Chief Secretary of all concerned States has been sent on 11.06.2015.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.34)

2.11 The Committee have been informed that Cybergram has been launched as an initiative under MsDP from 2014-15 with an aim to impart digital literacy amongst minority students of class VI to class X and project proposal of worth Rs. 42.554 crores have been approved in respect of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and West Bengal. The total number of sanctioned trainee students is 361257. While welcoming the initiative of the Ministry, the Committee desire that Government should also pursue with other States/UTs for implementing this scheme and also ensure that funds earmarked for 2015-16 are fully and judiciously utilized to imparting digital literacy amongst poor minority students.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The project of cybergram for imparting digital literacy to students of needy madrasas and schools in minority concentration areas has been launched as an

initiative under Multi-sectoral Development Programme. The State Government have already been requested to prepare and submit their projects for needy madrasas and schools under cybergram in accordance with extant guidelines of MsDP and then submit it for the approval of Empowered Committee. However as per recommendation of the Committee, the States/UTs are being pursued to submit their projects under cybergram component of MsDP on merit alongwith their other projects proposals.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.35)

2.13 As regard, uploading of information pertaining to the implementation of Multi-sectoral-Development projects by States/Districts, the Committee were informed that the MsDP has since been restructured and the unit of implementation has been changed to Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs) and Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) and Cities instead of Districts. Accordingly, the old formats were required to be revised for uploading any further information by States/UTs. The Committee regret to note that after completion of three years of the 12th Five Year Plan, the Ministry are yet to revise the old format for uploading any information by States/UTs. The Committee, desire that old formats may be revised without any further delay for uploading the information of the restructured Scheme as early as possible.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The guidelines of the restructured MsDP have made provisions for proper monitoring of implementation of the projects sanctioned under the programme. As per

the guidelines, the State Governments/UTs are expected to submit Quarterly Progress Report in terms of Physical and Financial progress of the projects sanctioned under MsDP to this Ministry. Based on the report of State Governments/UTs, the Ministry maintains the data related with status of the projects. The status is also uploaded on the official website of this Ministry under the caption “Delivery Monitoring Unit”. This Status includes the information about projects sanctioned during 11th Five Year Plan period and current 12th Five Year Plan(i.e. after restructuring of the Scheme).

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.45)

2.15 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have started a skill development Scheme with the brand Name 'Seekho aur Kamao' (Learn & Earn) from 2013-14 through empanelled Fifty (50) selected Project Implementing Agencies for upgrading the skills of the minority youths in various modern / traditional vocations. As per the eligibility criteria envisaged under the Scheme, the trainee should be between 14-35 years of age, however, there is no income ceiling for the trainees. The Committee also note that during 2013-14 and 2014-15, a total number of 20,164 and 20,720 (upto 31.03.2015) minority youths have been given training in broad categorization of trades while the amount released was Rs. 17.00 crore and 34.68 crore respectively to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). The Ministry informed that as per available information out of 19,371 trainees, 14010 have got jobs.

Keeping the popularity of the scheme, the Committee while commending the Ministry, desire that more publicity needs to be given regarding the Scheme so that there are more takers of the scheme and maximum number of minority youths get employed.

The Committee, however, desire the Ministry to explore the feasibility of displaying on their website the details of trainees, the PIAs from where he or she got training, funds released to PIAs and spent by them, organizations where they got placement and the trade in which they were placed.

Reply of the Government

2.16 All the schemes of the Ministry including “Seekho aur Kamao” are publicized by the Ministry through print and electronic media. There are exclusive audio and video spot on “Seekho aur Kamao” which are being broadcast/ telecast on electronic media all over the country including North East. Further, the scheme has also been uploaded on the website of the Ministry. A compendium containing details of all schemes of the Ministry including “Seekho aur Kamao” has been published by the Ministry in English, Hindi and Urdu to ensure that the schemes reach all segments of society. A pocket booklet and an E-book of the schemes of the Ministry also contain details of “Seekho aur Kamao”. Further, pamphlets in Hindi, English and Urdu containing all schemes including “Seekho aur Kamao” of this Ministry are being distributed through Kisaan Channel of Doordarshan. National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) also puts up stalls in various Exhibitions and Melas like SurajkundMela etc. where schemes of the Ministry are publicized.

The Ministry is in advance stage of developing a web application for Management Information System and e-monitoring of “Seekho aur Kamao”. Once the system is in place, all the details of trainings and placements by PIAs will be available online. The portal is likely to be in place by July, 2015.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.69)

2.17 The Committee note that from 2014-15, 'The Merit-cum Means Scholarship Scheme' is also a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding and implemented through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. 85 institutes for professional and technical courses have been listed for the Scheme. The Committee find that Rs. 381.27 crore has been released against RE of Rs.350.00 crore for awarding 1.38 lakh scholarships (upto 31.3.2015), which the Committee appreciate. As 30% of these scholarships are earmarked for girl students, the Committee find that during 2012-13 and 2013-14 in 13 States/UTs large number of scholarships were awarded to boy students as sufficient number of eligible girl students were not available.

As education of girl students is as important as educating the boys, the Committee desire the Ministry to motivate these States to encourage girls students to apply for the scholarships and avail their full quota of 30% seats allocated to them. The Committee also urge the Ministry to early finalize the gender-wise details of the scheme for the year 2014-15 which has not so far been done and all this details of gender-wise beneficiaries should also be made available on the website of the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

2.18 In the last three years of the 12th Five Year Plan, the percentage of benefited minority girls under Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme has remained above 30% i.e. 35.23% during 2012-13, 39.16% during 2013-14 and 32.97% during 2014-15. The gender-wise beneficiaries' data for all the Scholarship Schemes have been posted on the Ministry's website i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. Therefore, it may be seen that the minority girls are already availing their full earmarking of seats i.e. 30%.
(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

Comments of Committee

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

(Recommendation, Para 2.79)

2.19 The Committee note that the Ministry have introduced four new schemes namely, (i) Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD), (ii) Hamari Dharohar, (iii) Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills(MANAS) and (iv) Nai Manzil Scheme.

The Committee desire that all these schemes should monitored and implemented effectively and should also take such steps to see that funds earmarked for 2015-16 are optimally and judiciously utilized.

Reply of the Government

2.20 The advice of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

CHAPTER – III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply

(Recommendation, Para 2.11)

3.1 The Committee are dismayed to note that Socio-religious Census data, 2011 is not yet published even after 10 years. The Committee are also equally dismayed over the casual reply of the Ministry of Minority Affairs that they did not collect information on persons belonging to minority communities below the poverty line and below double the poverty line. Even as regards, the number of minority beneficiaries who have come above double the poverty line as a result of the implementation of the various schemes of the Ministry, the Committee were informed that the erstwhile Planning Commission used to estimate poverty from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure which was carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12 which was not stratified with respect to religious groups of population. As a result, the Planning Commission has not estimated the poverty ratios for minority communities living below poverty line in 2011-12.

The Committee do not comprehend as to how, in the absence of such vital data, the Ministry are able to fix and achieve the targets under their various schemes/policies to benefits the minorities. The Committee desire that Ministry should expeditiously make efforts to collect the latest data on the notified minorities to assess the impact of their efforts on the lives of these minorities. The matter may also be

pursued with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for early finalization of data regarding notified communities or the minorities living below the poverty line and below double the poverty line vis-à-vis their percentage to all India percentage of BPL population. The Committee also desire that this information should be displayed in their website too.

Reply of the Government

3.2 As advised by the Committee, the latest data on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Below Double the Poverty Line (DBPL) w.r.t. notified minority communities vis-à-vis their percentage to all India percentage of BPL population were sought from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (SPI), Ministry of Rural Development (RD), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) and NitiAayog (the erstwhile Planning Commission).

While the Ministry of HUPA and Ministry of SPI are not collecting any information on BPL/DBPL, NITI Aayog has informed that the erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty using the consumption expenditure distribution available from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys. The NSSO does not release any table of the Household Consumption Expenditure results as per religious affiliation of households. Therefore, erstwhile Planning Commission did not estimate the number of persons living below poverty line and below double poverty line for Minority communities separately.

Ministry of Rural Development is collecting BPL data in respect of rural areas. Ministry of Rural Development has launched a Socio Economic and Caste Census in 2011 (SECC 2011) to identify households with specific socio economic characteristics in rural and urban areas of the country. The SECC is being conducted by the States/UTs. In the SECC 2011, matters related to caste, religion, etc are dealt by the Registrar General & Census commissioner (RGCC), India.

Thus, the matter was also taken up with the RGCC. RGCC has intimated that though religion and Caste/Tribes names have been canvassed in the SECC, the decision of the Government is to get all the Caste/Tribes names classified by an Expert Group which has been announced under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Panagariya, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog. As far as religion data is concerned, the Government has no plans of publishing any tables based on this data.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

CHAPTER – IV

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration

(Recommendation, Para 2.68)

4.1 The Committee note that from 2014-15, Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Schemes are Central Sector Schemes with 100% Central funding and implemented through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Committee find that in 2014-15 for Pre-matric Scholarships Scheme, Rs. 1129.27 crore has been released against RE of Rs. 1130.00 crore for awarding 74.97 lakh scholarships (up to 31.3.2015). While for Post-matric Scholarship scheme, Rs.501.28 crore has been released for awarding 9.06 lakh scholarships upto 31.3.2015. Less allocation of funds for the year 2015-16 under these Scheme has been made to balance the requirement of funds for the two new schemes, which have been introduced for 2015-16. The Committee were informed that though larger number of applications are received but all of them are not sanctioned because these schemes are budget based schemes and not demand driven ones.

The Committee are of the considered opinion that both Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarships are important flagship schemes for the minority students and both these schemes are very popular and are in demand too by the minority students as it not only directly affects their future but also empowers them educationally as well as financially. The Committee recommend that both these schemes should be made demand driven and applications should not be rejected due to paucity of funds/budget.

The Committee also desire that the Ministry take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for augmentation of funds under these schemes, if need be. As less expenditure has been incurred in NE States under these schemes due to receipt of inadequate number of applications, the Committee feel that there is an urgent need to sensitize these NE States and their minority students to avail the immense benefits of these schemes.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The scholarship programmes of the Ministry have not been approved as demand based programmes but these are budget based. Therefore, there is very little option with the Ministry to meet the requirements of all the applicants. Further, as regards sensitization and publicity of the scholarship schemes, Ministry runs specific multimedia campaign for each scholarship programme namely Pre-matric, Post-matric, Merit-cum Means (MCM) based Scholarship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) on All India Radio (AIR) Network including Regional and North Eastern (NE) channels, Doordarshan Network including Regional and NE channels, Private FM channels and Private TV channels and Digital Cinema all across the country including NE States. In addition, from time to time, Print Advertisements of Scholarship Programmes are also published all over India in Hindi, English, Urdu and Vernacular languages. It is worth mentioning here that the increasing number of applicants for scholarship is an indicator of increasing awareness among the students.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20014/1/2015-Budget dated 10th July,2015)

Comments of Committee

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

CHAPTER – V

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature

-NIL-

**New Delhi;
17 December, 2015
26 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)**

**RAMESH BAIS,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.**

ANNEXURE - I

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 2015

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
7. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
8. Smt. Mamta Thakur
9. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

10. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
11. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
12. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports of the Committee :-

(i) *****

(ii) *****

(iii) Twenty-third Action Taken Report on Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(iv) *****

(v) *****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any change. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	12	
II.	Observations/Recommendations which (Paragraph Nos. 2.6, 2.14, 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, 2.34, 2.35, 2.45, 2.69 and 2.79)	10	83.34
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies - (Paragraph No. 2.11)	1	8.33
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration - (Paragraph No. 2.68)	1	8.33
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature - Nil	Nil	Nil