

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

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT)**

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2015/Pausha, 1937 (Saka)**

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

**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. Shilpa Kant - 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-fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants - 2015-16 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh 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 The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, 2015-16 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

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

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

**Paragraph Nos. 2.17, 2.20, 2.44, 2.45, 2.51, 2.52, 2.59, 2.60, 2.61, 2.71 and 2.72**

**(Total 11 - Chapter II)**

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

**-Nil-**

**(Chapter III)**

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

**-Nil-**

**(Chapter IV)**

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

**Paragraph No. 2.18, 2.19, 2.27, 2.33 and 2.79**

**(Total 5 - Chapter V)**

**1.3 The Committee desire that action taken replies on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes 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. Under utilization of funds**

**(Recommendation, Para 2.17)**

1.5 The Committee were deeply concerned to note the perennial trend of under-utilization of funds by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Even during 2014-15 also, against BE of Rs. 6165 crore, the RE was Rs. 5400 crore and the AE Rs. 5354.64 crore. The reasons attributed by the Department for under utilization of funds were late submission of project proposals by the State Governments and submission of proposals either with incomplete documents or papers not in sync with the scheme guidelines which result in less expenditure of the budgetary allocation during the initial months and then Finance Ministry imposes cut/ reduction in the allocation in the RE based on the trend of expenditure during the first and second quarter. The Committee desired the Department to persistently impress upon the States to forward the selected proposals positively by the second quarter of the Financial Year so that the reduction / cut at the RE stage by the Ministry of Finance could be prevented and also to formulate new guidelines for the welfare schemes under which proposals from the State Governments could be forwarded for the coming financial year too so that the problem of receiving proposals late could be solved and the funds could be utilized in full.



## **Reply of the Government**

1.6 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:

"During 2014-15, out of the R.E. of Rs.5400.00 Crore, the expenditure of Department was Rs. 5349.20 Crore, which is 99.06%. In the schemes for the welfare of Backward Classes more than 98% outlay was utilized and only less than 2% of outlay was surrendered in 2014-15. This could be possible because of the 10% mandatory allocation for North-Eastern States, which is never fully utilized because only four States out of eight North Eastern States have OBC population and also within these four States i.e Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura, the OBC population is very low. However, Ministry constantly pursues the matter with the four States to forward the utilization certificate and proposals on time through quarterly review meetings, visits of Government of India officials/ Officers to the states. In spite of repeated persuasion with those four States, every year significant amount remains unutilized. Matter has already been taken up with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to relax the 10% mandatory allocation (to 5%) since there is no adequate OBC population in North East. So far, this request of M/o SJE has not been considered. As per the observation of the Standing Committee, in order to fully utilise the allocated funds in full during the current financial year 2015-16, Secretary of this Department took a meeting with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States/UT Administrations from 05<sup>th</sup> May to 07<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 to finalize the action plan 2015-16. They were advised to forward the complete proposals along with Utilization Certificate by the second quarter of the financial year to enable this Department to release the grant at the earliest. State Governments/UT Administrations were also requested to send the proposals during various meetings. From the current financial year 2015-16, efforts are being taken to utilize the full funds at BE stage. The States are requested to send the complete proposal by June of that financial year. Further, in order to overcome the problem of late receipt of proposals from the State Governments, this Ministry has started an online system of submission of applications by the NGOs for Grants-in Aid and online processing of proposals at State and Centre level by different functionaries from the financial year 2014-15. This is expected to make the system more transparent and enable speedy release of grants to the NGOs. Further, the status and sanction of grant will be available online and this will also enable better monitoring. The State Governments have been sensitized to forward the proposals early."

**1.7 The Committee are satisfied to note that during 2014-15, the expenditure of the Department was Rs. 5349.20 crore out of RE of Rs. 5400.00 crore, which is 99.06 per cent of the total funds. Regarding steps taken to overcome the problem of late receipt of proposals from the States, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire the Ministry to set up an alternate and**

more robust system for receipt of proposals that can be processed for the coming financial year.

**B. New Schemes for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)**

**(Recommendation, Para 2.18)**

1.8 The Committee noted that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment submitted demand for Rs. 9367.35 crore for the year 2015- 16 which was reduced to Rs. 6467.00 crore at BE stage due to late receiving of the proposals by the State Governments/UTs. The Committee desired that the efforts of the Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UT Administration should be dove-tailed to enhance pooling of resources for social sector projects and to bring out better utilization of allocated funds with better outputs.

**Reply of the Government**

1.9 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:

"As already stated above in (S. No. 1 Point No. 2.17), all the efforts are being made to utilize the funds fully at the BE stage during the year 2015-16. The present status of the new schemes/programmes initiated by this Department during 2014-15 for the development of the various target groups, are given as under:--

**I. Schemes for the Development of Scheduled Castes.**

The following new Schemes have been initiated:

1. The Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes
2. The Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes

The above schemes are being implemented through the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited, New Delhi, which is the Nodal agency for implementation of both the Schemes. The initial capital of Rs 200.00 crore has been released under each scheme to the IFCI Ltd. for implementation.

## **II. Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the welfare of the Denotified Tribes and Economically Backward Classes.**

The following new Schemes have been initiated:

1. Dr Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs.
2. Nanaji Deshmukh scheme of Construction of hostels for DNT Boys & Girls.
3. Dr Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarships for EBCs.

Three Centrally sponsored schemes namely; Dr Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs, Nanaji Deshmukh scheme of Construction of hostels for DNT Boys & Girls and Dr Ambedkar Post-matric scholarship for EBCs were launched in 2014-15. In the current year, letters have been sent to Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of the UTs to send proposals under the scheme. The Department is pursuing with individual States/UTs to get the proposals early. Also, in a meeting held by Secretary (SJ&E) with Principal Secretaries of States/UTs on 05-07 May, 2015, the States were requested to send proposals soon.

## **III. Central Sector Schemes for the welfare of Other Backward Classes.**

The following schemes also initiated during the year 2014-15:

1. National Fellowship for OBCs (NF-OBC):

This scheme National Fellowship for OBCs is being implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) and it is going to place its demand for 2015-16, after which funds will be transferred to UGC for onward disbursement to beneficiaries.

2. Dr Ambedkar scheme of Interest subsidy on Educational Loan for overseas studies for OBCs and EBCs:

Canara bank is the nodal Bank under CSIS scheme. In a meeting held on 15.05.2015, it was confirmed that the dedicated portal for the scheme will be ready which the member banks will quarterly upload the beneficiary details and their demand of interest subsidy.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have already been requested to send the proposals under the new scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs. In 2014-15, the State of Rajasthan got Rs 50 lakh under this Scheme."

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.19)**

1.10 The Committee had impressed upon the Department to pursue the matter vigorously with those States who had not forwarded proposals under the scheme with the advisory to send the proposals viz., by the end of second quarter of the

financial year. As the mandatory amount of 10 per cent for NE States every year remains unutilised, the Committee desired that the Department should pursue the matter with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to utilize the mandatory provision of 10 per cent provided for the development of North Eastern States.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.11 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:

"Regarding unutilized mandatory amount for North Eastern States, the matter has already been taken up with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to relax the 10% mandatory allocation to 5%, since only four of the North Eastern States have Other Backward Classes population and also in those states the number of Other Backward Classes beneficiaries is low. So far, this request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has not been considered/accepted by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).The status of two schemes initiated for DNTs and EBCs is already mentioned above."

**1.12 Considering the fact that only Rajasthan forwarded the proposals for the Scheme for EBCs as submitted by the Ministry in their earlier reply, the Committee urged the Ministry to take up the matter with all the State Governments for timely submission of proposals under the Schemes for EBCs. The Committee are not happy with reply of the Ministry and reiterate their recommendation that more efforts should be made to motivate all the State Governments for timely submission of proposals under the various Schemes for the welfare of EBCs.**

**1.13 The Committee expressed their concern over under-utilization of mandatory allocation of funds in the North-Eastern States. The Committee note that in this regard the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has not accepted/considered the request of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to relax the 10 per cent mandatory allocation to 5 per cent and**

therefore, reiterate that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should pursue the matter again more vigorously with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to consider the fact that there is no OBC population in four North Eastern States at all and for the purpose of utilization of allocated funds in full, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region must reduce their mandatory allocation for the welfare of DNTs and EBCs. The Committee also wish to know the number of beneficiaries under the new Scheme introduced by the Ministry for DNTs and EBCs.

**C. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SCs**

**(Recommendation, Para 2.33)**

1.14 The Committee were constrained to observe that under Rajiv Gandhi Fellowships for SC Students (RGNF) against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 125 crores in 2012-13, Rs. 100 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 200 crore in 2014-15, RE was drastically cut down to Rs. 25 crore in 2012-13 and again Rs. 25 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 150 crore in 2014-15, yet the actual expenditure was nil in 2012-13, only Rs. 24.50 crore in 2013-14 and Rs.148 crore in the year 2014-15. With such a dismal performance, the claim of the Department that all the 2000 fellowships had been utilized during 2013-14 and 2014-15 was beyond the comprehension of the Committee. Expressing their concern over the drastic cut at the RE stage of such a vital scheme, the Committee urged the Department to strictly monitor the scheme in coordination with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and UGC and ensure that the list of eligible candidates along with other necessary documents and utilization certificates are forwarded to them in time, so that the deserving SC students get the fellowship and funds meant for the scheme are utilized optimally.

## **Reply of the Government**

1.15 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:

"The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students is being reviewed with the University Grants Commission (UGC) for better implementation. Certain details have been called for which are awaited. The variation in outlays spent from year to year is due to non receipt of UCs from the University Grants Commission (UGC)."

**1.16 The Committee are disappointed to note that against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 125 crores in 2012-13, Rs. 100 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 200 crore in 2014-15, RE was drastically cut down to Rs. 25 crore in 2012-13 and again Rs. 25 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 150 crore in 2014-15, yet the actual expenditure was nil in 2012-13, only Rs. 24.50 crore in 2013-14 and Rs.148 crore in the year 2014-15 under Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship Scheme for SC students. Taking note of the above fact, the Committee urged the Department to strictly and closely monitor the Scheme. The Committee express their displeasure over the manner in which the Ministry is implementing such a vital scheme and urge the Ministry to pursue the UGC to review the Scheme expeditiously. As the Ministry has attributed non-receipt of UCs from the UGC as the main reason for variation in outlays from time to time, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry should pursue UGC for ensuring forwarding of UCs by them in time.**

**D. Identification of eligible candidates under the Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**

**(Recommendation, Para 2.61)**

1.17 Having noted that the Scheme is implemented through State Governments and as is evident from the statement denoting State-wise number of beneficiaries under the scheme, which only five States/UTs had implemented, the Committee

recommended that being the nodal agency, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment should strictly monitor and pursue the State Governments to identify the eligible candidates in their States/UTs. The Committee were of the considered opinion that the Department should take effective measures to monitor the scheme effectively and pursue the States to utilize the full funds so that the very purpose of the scheme is not defeated.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.18 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:

"Under the Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards in the year 2014-15 14273 children were provided Scholarships. The total outlay of Rs. 10.00 cr. could not be utilized because the States did not take adequate measures to identify beneficiaries under the Scheme. During the review meeting chaired by Secretary, SJ&E from 5th to 7th May, 2015, it was impressed upon the States that the ambit of the Scheme covers not only the children/wards of manual scavengers but also extends to any person working in any cleaning occupation which is hazardous to health. All efforts are being made to ensure that all the identified beneficiaries of one-time cash assistance under the SRMS Scheme are brought under the purview of this Scheme also."

**1.19 The Committee are disappointed to note that despite their recommendation for pursuing the States for introducing a stringent mechanism for identifying the eligible candidates in the States/UTs, the Ministry has not made any serious efforts in this matter. The Committee deprecate the half-hearted efforts of the Ministry. As the Ministry has admitted that all funds could not be utilized because the States did not take adequate measures to identify beneficiaries under the Scheme, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry pursue the matter again with the States to set up a separate mechanism to identify the eligible children for Pre-Matric Scholarship in urban as well as rural areas so that the allocated funds are utilized in full and more beneficiaries are covered under the Scheme.**

**E. Extension of facilities under CGHS for Older Persons under Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)**

**(Recommendation, Para 2.79)**

1.20 The Committee note that Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) is an important scheme dealing with the issues relating to senior citizens in the society under which financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the project cost is provided to Government/Non-Governmental Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies etc. The Committee are concerned to note that amount allocated under the Scheme at the BE stage was Rs. 50 crore in 2014-15 which was cut down to Rs. 25 crore at RE stage and the Department could utilize only Rs. 10.45 crore. Having noted the fact that there is more than 50 per cent shortfall in expenditure by the Department every year, the reason being recommendations from most of the States/UTs are received in the third or fourth quarter of the financial year, the Committee urge the Department to set up a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure timely receipt of appropriate recommendations from concerned States/UTs. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to examine the extension of some more facilities to older persons by Central / State Governments, including CGHS as well as revising dispensary ceiling there under to provide them desired social and health security.

**Reply of the Government**

1.21 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:

Efforts are being made to set up a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure timely receipt of recommendation from the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. The system of online submission of applications and online processing of these at every stage has resulted in considerable improvement thereby accelerating the pace of disbursement of Grant in aid. In order to improve the disbursement of grants-in-aid to the NGOs, during 2014-15 upto 75% was disbursed as first installment in advance to the NGOs even without obtaining the recommendation of the State Government online.



Wherever the State Government's recommendation is received, the full amount is sanctioned and released. As regards extension of some more facilities to older persons including CGHS etc., the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been requested to examine the same and their reply is awaited."

**1.22 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has taken appropriate and positive actions on the recommendations of the Committee regarding Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP). The Committee also note that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been requested to examine the possibility of extending facilities of CGHS to the older persons. The Committee wish to be apprised of the progress made in this regard specifically for revising 'dispensary ceiling' for the older persons under the Scheme.**

**CHAPTER II**  
**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY**  
**THE GOVERNMENT**

**(Recommendation, Para 2.17)**

2.1 The Committee are deeply concerned to note the perennial trend of under-utilization of funds by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Even during 2014-15 also, against BE of Rs. 6165 crore, the RE was Rs. 5400 crore and the AE Rs. 5354.64 crore. The reasons attributed by the Department for under utilization of funds are late submission of project proposals by the State Governments and submission of proposals either with incomplete documents or papers not in sync with the scheme guidelines which result in less expenditure of the budgetary allocation during the initial months and then Finance Ministry imposes cut / reduction in the allocation in the RE based on the trend of expenditure during the first and second quarter. The Committee desire the Department to persistently impress upon the States to forward the selected proposals positively by the second quarter of the Financial Year so that the reduction / cut at the RE stage by the Ministry of Finance could be prevented. The Committee also desire that the Department may formulate new guidelines for the welfare schemes under which proposals from the State Governments can be forwarded for the coming financial year too so that the problem of receiving proposals late can be solved and the funds could be utilized in full.

**Reply of the Government**

2.2 During 2014-15, out of the R.E. of Rs.5400.00 Crore, the expenditure of Department was Rs. 5349.20 Crore, which is 99.06%. In the schemes for the welfare of Backward Classes more than 98% outlay was utilized and only less than 2% of outlay was surrendered in 2014-15. This could be possible because of the 10%

mandatory allocation for North-Eastern States, which is never fully utilized because only four States out of eight North Eastern States have OBC population and also within these four States i.e Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura, the OBC population is very low. However, Ministry constantly pursues the matter with the four States to forward the utilization certificate and proposals on time through quarterly review meetings, visits of Government of India officials/ Officers to the states. In spite of repeated persuasion with those 2 four States, every year significant amount remains unutilized. Matter has already been taken up with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to relax the 10% mandatory allocation (to 5%) since there is no adequate OBC population in North East. So far, this request of M/o SJE has not been considered.

As per the observation of the Standing Committee, in order to fully utilise the allocated funds in full during the current financial year 2015-16, Secretary of this Department took a meeting with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States/UT Administrations from 05<sup>th</sup> May to 07<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 to finalize the action plan 2015-16. They were advised to forward the complete proposals along with Utilization Certificate by the second quarter of the financial year to enable this Department to release the grant at the earliest. State Governments/UT Administrations were also requested to send the proposals during various meetings. From the current financial year 2015-16, efforts are being taken to utilize the full funds at BE stage. The States are requested to send the complete proposal by June of that financial year.

Further, in order to overcome the problem of late receipt of proposals from the State Governments, this Ministry has started an online system of submission of applications by the NGOs for Grants-in Aid and online processing of proposals at State and Centre level by different functionaries from the financial year 2014-15. This is expected to make the system more transparent and enable speedy release of

grants to the NGOs. Further, the status and sanction of grant will be available online and this will also enable better monitoring. The State Governments have been sensitized to forward the proposals early.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

#### Comments of the Committee

(Please see para no. 1.7 of Chapter I of the Report.)

#### **(Recommendation, Para 2.20)**

2.3 The Committee are constrained to note the pendency of Utilization Certificates which, as on February, 2015, were 9886. Taking note of the fact that receiving of UCs late in the last quarter of the financial year is one of the prime causes for shortfall in expenditure of the allocated funds, the Committee urge the Department to impress upon the States to forward the proposals of NGOs/implementing agencies by the end of second quarter of the financial year positively so that Department's funds are not curtailed at RE stage.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 The State Governments/ UT Administrations are periodically requested to submit UCs and follow up through meetings, Video Conferencing etc for submitting the pending utilization certificates. Since fresh allocation of funds is done only after outstanding UCs are received and admitted, the State Governments/ UT Administrations are sensitized on this matter. This point is noted for compliance.

As regard Non Governmental Organizations cases where UCs are actually pending from NGOs who are not receiving Grant in Aid now, the State Governments/ UT Administrations have been advised to take appropriate action for recovery of the grant-in-aid released, from the NGOs concerned and also to lodge FIR with the

police authorities where NGOs are untraceable. The State Governments have been advised to stop further grants to such Non Governmental Organizations under other schemes of the Central/State Governments. In addition, the Ministry have proposed to blacklist to such organizations on receipt of reports from the State Governments/ UT Administrations.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

**(Recommendation, Para 2.44)**

2.5 The Committee note with concern that in the last three years, the Department has not been able to implement SC components in Pradhan Mantri Aadarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) which is for integrated development of the villages having more than 50 per cent population. The Committee are equally concerned to note the 'nil' expenditure in the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 and only 30 per cent expenditure in 2014-15. The Secretary of the Department forthrightly admitted that there was under utilization of funds under this scheme. Taking serious note of this fact, the Committee recommend that the Department should address the impediments faced by it and, if necessary, brings changes in the operational guidelines of the Scheme. The Committee also impress upon the Department to conduct awareness workshops/seminars in the States, which have majority of SC population and pursue the States to adopt this scheme for development of social and economic infrastructure in the villages.

The Committee observe that in the expanded phase, ten States have been selected but proposals from these States are still awaited. The Committee desire that the Department pursue these States from time to time to ensure timely receipt of proposals. The Committee also recommend the Department to organize field visits

in the selected villages periodically to ensure proper and effective implementation of the Scheme.

### Reply of the Government

- 2.6 1. The total Central Assistance to be released as 'gap filling component' to the 5 PMAGY States of the Pilot Phase was Rs 201 crores (consisting of Rs 200 crores @ Rs 20 lakhs for 1000 villages + administrative expenses of Rs 1 crore @ 5 % of gap filling component {Rs 20 lakhs} for each of the 1000 villages). The same was fully released to the 5 PMAGY States in three lots as follows:

S. No.	States	Central Assistance Release (Rs. In crores)			Total
		2009-10	2010-11 (Month of release)	2011-12 (Month of release)	
1.	Rajasthan	1.4	21.325 (May, 2010)	22.50 (Sept., 2011)	45.225
2.	Bihar	1.3	21.425 (June, 2010)	- do -	45.225
3.	Assam	--	10.10 (June, 2010)	10.00 (Sept. & Nov., 2011)	20.10
4.	Tamil	1.3	21.425 (Sept., 2010)	22.50 (Sept., 2011)	45.225
5.	Himachal	--	22.725 (Feb., 2011)	- do -	45.225
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>201.00</b>

*\*Concurred to implement the Scheme only in February 2011.*

2. Thereafter, the States had to utilize the gap filling component as per the provisions of the Scheme, on activities which were not covered under any existing Scheme of the Central / State governments.

3. In the first meeting of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) on PMAGY, held on 18.11.2011, the then Minister of SJE, also the CO-Chairman of CAC, along with the Minister of Rural Development decided that PMAGY may be considered for transfer to the Ministry of Rural Development, wef the Financial Year 2012-13. The proposal was accepted by the Ministry of Rural

Development and concurred by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. An amount of Rs 1 crores only was kept by the D/o SJE, as a token budget provision for the Scheme for FY 2012-13, which was to be surrendered at RE State. The Ministry of Rural Development was expected, if required, to make provisions for the Scheme in its supplementary demand for the year 2012-13. Ministry of Finance suggested that the transfer of the Scheme should be from the year 2013-14. However, matter was reconsidered in the Department of SJ&E and it was decided to retain the Scheme with the Department. MoF and Planning Commission communicated their acceptance to the proposal vide their letters dated 22.1.13 and 14.2.13 respectively.

4. In 2013-14, and 2014-15, proposal to revise the Scheme, to enhance the amount of Central Assistance and to expand the Scheme to more SC majority villages was put up before the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). The Scheme was finally approved in Jan 2015 for expansion to 1500 villages across 10 States in the country, as follows:

- i. Uttar Pradesh
- ii. West Bengal
- iii. Madhya Pradesh
- iv. Karnataka
- v. Punjab
- vi. Odisha
- vii. Chhattisgarh
- viii. Uttarakhand
- ix. Jharkhand
- x. Assam

5. The newly selected States have been intimated about their selection through DO letters from Secretary, SJ&E and Minister, SJ&E and have been requested to submit their proposals duly indicating their acceptance of the Scheme, with its terms and conditions, at the earliest. The Department is pursuing the matter with selected States to hasten the submission of proposals by them. MSJE has written reminder DO letter dated 14.5.15 to the Chief Ministers of all the other States selected in the extended phase, for forwarding proposal at the earliest. Punjab and MP have conveyed acceptance of the implementation of the Scheme till date. Proposal in the prescribed format has been received from the State of Punjab.

6. In the Financial Year 2014-15, an amount of Rs 100 crore was catered for in the BE, anticipating the approval of expansion of the Scheme. As the Scheme was approved only in Jan 2015, according the guidelines of Department of Expenditure, only 33 %, i.e. Rs 33 crores were available in the Scheme in RE. Out of this, an amount of Rs 30 crores has been released under the Scheme. Only, an amount of Rs 3 crores, pertaining to North-East, has been surrendered, as proposal was not received from Assam.

7. The operational guidelines are in the process of change. The meeting of Central Steering cum Monitoring Committee (CSMS) on PMAGY was held on 21.4.15 to discuss the proposed changes.

8. Field visits have been undertaken in the pilot phase by the officers of the Department, including Secretary, SJ&E, Additional Secretary, SJ&E, JS, SJ&E, etc. Similar visits will be ensured in the expanded phase also.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)



**(Recommendation, Para 2.45)**

2.7 The Committee note that the Department has relied on XIIIth Five Year Plan for further expansion of the scheme of PMAGY, as the available budget is not enough for expansion of the Scheme. The Committee feel that the Department instead of waiting for next 'Five Year Plan' should pursue the Ministry of Finance for enhanced budgetary allocation for the Scheme in the next financial year.

**Reply of the Government**

2.8 Under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), matter was taken up for enhancement of budgetary allocation for further expansion of the Scheme during the aforementioned EFC. Department of Expenditure suggested that the proposed expenditure should be brought within the allocation under the Scheme for XII 5 year Plan. However, as recommended by the Committee, matter would be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for enhancement of budgetary allocation for the Scheme in the next financial year.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

**(Recommendation, Para 2.51)**

2.9 The Committee note that under Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan 100 per cent grant is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan for economic development of SC population in order to bring them above poverty line through self employment training. The Committee are, however, unhappy to note that in 2014-15, the allocation of Rs. 1060 crore in BE was reduced to Rs. 1050 crore and only Rs. 587.03 crore were released by the Department. The similar trend of under utilization of budgetary allocation was evident during previous years also. This shortfall has been assigned to less

proposals received from the States/UTs by the Department. The Committee express their disapproval over the lackadaisical approach of the States/UTs in submitting the documents timely resulting in less release of crucial funds meant for disadvantaged sections of society. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take up the matter with the defaulting States/UTs at highest level and hold frequent meetings with them besides impressing upon them to timely submit the documents, that too latest by the second quarter of the financial year, so that the entire amount allocated for the noble purpose is utilized.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.10 During 2014-15, the Budget under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan was reduced to Rs. 700.00 crore at the RE stage. Subsequently the full RE amount was utilised during the year. The defaulting States/UTs, which were unable to avail their full Notional Allocation during 2014-15, are Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, J&K, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry. During the meeting of the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States/UTs held between 05th May to 07th May, 2015, the Scheme has been discussed exhaustively, so that full Budgeted amount is utilised during the current year.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.52)**

2.11 Taking cognizance of the reducing trend of funds year after year, the Committee desire the Department to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance seriously not to clip the funds of the approved scheme further which are too vital for

the overall development of socially and economically disadvantaged sections of our society.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 The recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. However Department is going to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance vigorously not to clip the funds of the approved scheme for the next financial year 2016-17.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.59)**

2.13 The Committee note that “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013” is a very progressive step in the direction of socio-economic upliftment of the manual scavengers in the country. The Committee, however, are constrained to note that Department was unable to spend even a single penny from the allocated budgetary funds under the scheme during 2014-15 while in the previous years too, less than 50 per cent of the BE was released under the ‘Scheme for Self Employment, Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers’ by the Department. The Secretary too accepted before the Committee that the identification of the manual scavengers has not been carried out in a proper way which has obstructed the proper implementation of the Act.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.14 The Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a demand driven scheme. There was no demand from the State Channelizing Agency for

funds. The main reason was slow pace of survey of manual scavengers by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Though no corpus was released to the National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) during the year 2014-15, an amount of Rs. 10.91 Crore has been disbursed to 2728 identified Manual Scavengers as onetime cash assistance for their rehabilitation upto 30.04.2015. In addition, an amount of Rs.12.16 lakhs has also been sanctioned for the comprehensive rehabilitation of 97 identified manual scavengers in West Bengal. The State Governments/UT Administrations are being pursued regularly to complete the survey of identification of manual scavengers and send proposals for their rehabilitation.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

**(Recommendation, Para 2.60)**

2.15 The Committee express their concern that even though a large number of persons are working as manual scavengers in the country, in urban as well as rural areas, no effective mechanism exist to identify them. The Committee recommend that Department of Social Justice and Empowerment being the nodal agency for implementation of the Act, should set up a mechanism, in coordination with the State Governments/UTs, to work at the grass root level to identify the manual scavengers as it is only after identification, the liberation and rehabilitation could be done for their socio-economic development. The Committee also desire to know the work done by the Department in the field of 'identification' in all the affected States during 2015-16. The Committee desire that the Department should pursue the States/UTs to carry out proper identification in the rural areas, as except Uttar Pradesh, no other State has made efforts for identification of manual scavengers in rural areas.

## **Reply of the Government**

2.16 The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment initiated action vide Secretary's D.O. letter dated 22.02.2013 to the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs to carry out survey of manual scavengers in 3546 Statutory Towns for which detailed guidelines were also circulated to them. Thereafter the matter was regularly pursued with the State Governments/UT Administrations through letters, visit by the Senior Officers and meeting with the States/UTs. Application software has been developed with the technical assistance from National Informatics Centre (NIC) for real time monitoring of the progress of survey of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers in urban and rural areas of States/UTs. As regards Survey of Manual Scavengers in rural areas Ministry of Rural Development included identification of manual scavengers as one of the items in the socio-economic castes census undertaken by it.

“Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” mandates survey of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers. The progress of survey is regularly monitored through quarterly progress reports, and correspondence with the State Govts./UT Administrations at various levels including the d.o. letters from the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment to the Chief Ministers. The Central Monitoring Committee has also reviewed the progress of implementation of various provisions of the MS Act including survey of manual scavengers in its meetings held on 28.01.2014, 21.08.2014 and 29-6-2015. A conference of State Ministers/Senior Officers in charge of the Departments of SC Welfare, Urban Development and Panchayati Raj was held 18.02.2015 to review the progress of implementation of MS Act, 2013. The

need for comprehensive and time bound survey of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers was reiterated in this conference.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.61)**

2.17 Having noted that the Scheme is implemented through State Governments and as is evident from the statement denoting State-wise number of beneficiaries under the scheme, which only five States/UTs have implemented so far, the Committee recommend that being the nodal agency, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment should strictly monitor and pursue the State Governments to identify the eligible candidates in their States/UTs. The Committee are dismayed to note that against same BE and RE of Rs. 10 crore, the Department has been able to utilize only RS. 0.18 crore under this scheme as it reflect upon the seriousness of the Department and States/UTs towards the scheme. The Committee are of the considered opinion that the Department should take effective measures to monitor the scheme effectively and pursue the States to utilize the full funds so that the very purpose of the scheme is not defeated.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.18 Under the Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards in the year 2014-15 14273 children were provided Scholarships. The total outlay of Rs. 10.00 cr. could not be utilized because the States did not take adequate measures to identify beneficiaries under the Scheme. During the review meeting chaired by Secretary, SJ&E from 5th to 7th May, 2015, it was impressed upon the States that the ambit of the Scheme covers not only the children/wards of manual scavengers but also

extends to any person working in any cleaning occupation which is hazardous to health. All efforts are being made to ensure that all the identified beneficiaries of one-time cash assistance under the SRMS Scheme are brought under the purview of this Scheme also.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

#### Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 1.19 of Chapter I of the Report.)

#### **(Recommendation, Para 2.71)**

2.19 The Committee note that the Backward Class Division of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment runs the scholarship schemes for Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes and Students of Denotified Tribes. Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC Students is one of them which aims at promoting higher education by providing financial support to OBC students studying at Post Matric/Post Secondary Levels including Ph.D. Degree. The Committee note that the rates of scholarship provided to the students for the day scholars as well as for hostellers are not at all sufficient and justified as per the current consumer price index. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the rates of scholarship for day scholars as well as hostellers be revised. The Committee also desire that the Department should pursue Ministry of Finance to increase allocation of funds under the scheme to include more candidates so as to keep the number of eligible candidates at par with the OBC population of the country.

## **Reply of the Government**

2.20 The rates of the Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs were last revised in 2011. The revision of the scheme (including enhancement of rates), inter alia, was again proposed under “Umbrella Scheme for Development of OBCs” (Post Matric Scholarship being one of the components). The then Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure deferred the Umbrella Scheme due to paucity of fund.

Every year, higher allocation is requested to Ministry of Finance under the Scheme but the funds as requested are not allocated to the Ministry by Ministry of Finance. This year also the matter of higher allocation of these 15 schemes will be pursued with the Ministry of Finance as desired by the Committee.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.72)**

2.21 The Committee are unhappy to observe that the allocated funds could not be used fully under the scheme due to 10 per cent mandatory allocation for North Eastern States which is never fully utilized. The Committee urge the Department to take up the matter again with the Ministry of DoNER to examine the 10 per cent mandatory allocation for 4 out of 8 North Eastern States which have no OBC population at all. As receiving UCs late is the prime cause of under-utilization, the Committee desire that the Department, in coordination with the State Governments, should monitor the scheme and set a defined procedure to obtain Utilization Certificates from the States/UTs in time. The Secretary, in her deposition, informed the Committee that State Governments are responsible for delays in releasing the scholarship money to the concerned students. In Committee's view blaming the States for delays in releasing the scholarship money to the students does not give



the Department any alibi to shun its responsibility in the matter. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Department to take up the matter seriously with the State Governments, adopt stringent measures to ensure timely disbursal of money to the students and take punitive action against those officials who are responsible for these delays which adversely affects the future of the students.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.22 The State Governments/UT Administrations are being advised to adhere to time lines for disbursal of Scholarships through DBT & ensure Aadhaar seeding. Moreover, the Department has also started implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in its scholarship Schemes in a limited manner.

In 2014-15, an approx. amount of Rs. 15.50 cr. was transferred directly by the Department into the Bank Accounts of around 93,000 beneficiaries.

As per the recommendation of the Committee, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has been requested to relax the 10% mandatory allocation to 5% for North Eastern States under Other Backward Classes (OBC) Schemes. For getting the UCs in time, the Department has already taken up the matter, starting with holding meetings under the chairpersonship of Secretary (SJ&E) with Principal Secretaries of states/UTs in first week of May, 2015. The Department has already written to State 16 Governments/UT Administrations to submit pending UCs by second quarter of the financial year and this is being pursued consistently.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

### **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**

**- NIL -**

## **CHAPTER V**

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

#### **(Recommendation Para 2.18)**

5.1 The Committee note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment submitted demand for Rs. 9367.35 crore for the year 2015- 16 which was reduced to Rs. 6467.00 crore at BE stage. The reasons assigned for this enhanced demand are revision of cost norms of some of the schemes with increased grant-in-aid, launching of new schemes and increasing number of beneficiaries under the schemes like Post Matric Scholarship for SCs, OBCs etc. The Secretary candidly admitted before the Committee that the difference between Outlay & Approved outlay shortfall was due to late receiving of the proposals by the State Governments/UTs. The Committee are not satisfied with the state of affairs as almost some reasons are advanced by the Department every year for shortfalls in meeting the annual physical targets advances almost some reasons. The Committee desire that the efforts of the Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UT administration 3 should be dovetailed to enhance pooling of resources for social sector projects and to bring out better utilization of allocated funds with better outputs. The Committee would also like to know the present status of the new schemes/programmes initiated by the Department in the current financial year.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 As already stated above in (S. No. 1 Point No. 2.17), all the efforts are being made to utilize the funds fully at the BE stage during the year 2015-16. The present

status of the new schemes/programmes initiated by this Department during 2014-15 for the development of the various target groups, are given as under:--

#### **I. Schemes for the Development of Scheduled Castes.**

The following new Schemes have been initiated:

1. The Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes
2. The Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes

The above schemes are being implemented through the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited, New Delhi, which is the Nodal agency for implementation of both the Schemes. The initial capital of Rs 200.00 crore has been released under each scheme to the IFCI Ltd. for implementation.

#### **II. Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the welfare of the Denotified Tribes and Economically Backward Classes.**

The following new Schemes have been initiated:

1. Dr Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs.
2. Nanaji Deshmukh scheme of Construction of hostels for DNT Boys & Girls.
3. Dr Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarships for EBCs.

Three Centrally sponsored schemes namely; Dr Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs, Nanaji Deshmukh scheme of Construction of hostels for DNT Boys & Girls and Dr Ambedkar Post-matric scholarship for EBCs were launched in 2014-15. In the current year, letters have been sent to Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of the UTs to send proposals under the scheme. The Department is pursuing with individual States/UTs to get the 4 proposals early. Also, in a meeting held by Secretary (SJ&E) with Principal Secretaries of States/UTs on 05-07 May, 2015, the States were requested to send proposals soon.

#### **IV. Central Sector Schemes for the welfare of Other Backward Classes.**

The following schemes also initiated during the year 2014-15:

1. National Fellowship for OBCs (NF-OBC):

This scheme National Fellowship for OBCs is being implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) and it is going to place its demand for 2015-16, after which funds will be transferred to UGC for onward disbursement to beneficiaries.

2. Dr Ambedkar scheme of Interest subsidy on Educational Loan for overseas studies for OBCs and EBCs:

Canara bank is the nodal Bank under CSIS scheme. In a meeting held on 15.05.2015, it was confirmed that the dedicated portal for the scheme will be ready which the member banks will quarterly upload the beneficiary details and their demand of interest subsidy.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

#### **(Recommendation, Para 2.19)**

5.3 The Committee are glad that the Department has been formulating schemes for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), but at the same time, are equally perturbed by the poor response of the States in not sending the proposals except Rajasthan. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Department to pursue the matter vigorously with those States who are not forwarding proposals under the scheme with the advisory to send the proposals viz., by the end of second quarter of the financial year. As the mandatory amount of 10 per cent for NE States every year remains unutilised, the Committee desire that the Department should pursue the matter with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to utilize

the mandatory provision of 10 per cent provided for the development of North Eastern States. The Committee also wish to know the status of the other new schemes related to EBCs and DNTs which are under finalization by the Department.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 The State Governments/UT Administrations have already been requested to send the proposals under the new scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs. In 2014-15, the State of Rajasthan got Rs 50 lakh under this Scheme.

Regarding unutilized mandatory amount for North Eastern States, the matter has already been taken up with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to relax the 10% mandatory allocation to 5%, since only four of the North Eastern States have Other Backward Classes population and also in those states the number of Other Backward Classes beneficiaries is low. So far, this request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has not been considered/accepted by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). The status of two schemes initiated for DNTs and EBCs is already mentioned above at S.No.2 Para No. 2.18.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para nos. 1.12 and 1.13 of Chapter I of the Report.)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.27)**

5.5 The Committee note that empowerment of the Scheduled Castes through implementation of educational schemes, notably, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the children of IX and X classes as well as

for the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning is the prime objective of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Committee are dismayed over the inability of the Department to raise these current rates of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning which are Rs. 110 to the day scholars and Rs. 700 to the hostellers per month. The Committee find these rates of scholarship too less to serve any practical purpose of these children. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and demand an allocation of more funds for the schemes which are meant for the welfare of the most downtrodden and neglected section of the society.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.6 Increase in the rates of scholarships can be considered only after ensuring that the Ministry of Finance to makes requisite funds available

- i) clear the backlog of demand of previous financial years, and
- ii) manage enhanced allocation after revision of rates of Scholarship.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-11/2014-Plan Division dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015.)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.33)**

5.7 Rajiv Gandhi Fellowships for SC Students (RGNF) is a very important scheme for the educational empowerment of SCs and provides financial assistance to Scheduled Caste students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil, PhD and equivalent research degrees in universities and research institutions. The Committee, however, are constrained to observe that against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 125 crores in 2012-13, Rs. 100 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 200 crore



in 2014-15, RE was drastically cut down to Rs. 25 crore in 2012-13 and again Rs. 25 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 150 crore in 2014-15, yet the actual expenditure was nil in 2012-13, only Rs. 24.50 crore in 2013-14 and RS.148 crore in the year 2014-15. With such a dismal performance, the claim of the Department that all the 2000 fellowships have been utilized during 2013-14 and 2014-15 is 7 beyond the comprehension of the Committee. The Committee wonder how the Department was able to award all the 2000 fellowships in the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 when the total amount spent was so varied i.e. Rs. 24.50 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 148 crore in 2014-15. Expressing their concern over the drastic cut at the RE stage of such a vital scheme, the Committee urge the Department to strictly monitor the scheme in coordination with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and UGC and ensure that the list of eligible candidates along with other necessary documents and utilization certificates are forwarded to them in time, so that the deserving SC students get the fellowship and funds meant for the scheme are utilized optimally.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.8 The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students is being reviewed with the University Grants Commission (UGC) for better implementation. Certain details have been called for which are awaited. The variation in outlays spent from year to year is due to non receipt of UCs from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)  
Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 1.16 of Chapter I of the Report.)

### **(Recommendation, Para 2.79)**

5.9 The Committee note that Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) is an important scheme dealing with the issues relating to senior citizens in the society under which financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the project cost is provided to Government/Non-Governmental Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies etc. The Committee are concerned to note that amount allocated under the Scheme at the BE stage was Rs. 50 crore in 2014-15 which was cut down to Rs. 25 crore at RE stage and the Department could utilize only Rs. 10.45 crore. Having noted the fact that there is more than 50 per cent shortfall in expenditure by the Department every year, the reason being recommendations from most of the States/UTs are received in the third or fourth quarter of the financial year, the Committee urge the Department to set up a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure timely receipt of appropriate recommendations from concerned States/UTs. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to examine the extension of some more facilities to older persons by Central / State Governments, including CGHS as well as revising dispensary ceiling there under to provide them desired social and health security.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.10 Efforts are being made to set up a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure timely receipt of recommendation from the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. The system of online submission of applications and online processing of these at every stage has resulted in considerable improvement thereby accelerating the pace of disbursement of Grant in aid. In order to improve the disbursement of grants-in-aid to the NGOs, during 2014-15 upto 75% was

disbursed as first installment in advance to the NGOs even without obtaining the recommendation of the State Government online.

Wherever the State Government's recommendation is received, the full amount is sanctioned and released. As regards extension of some more facilities to older persons including CGHS etc., the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been requested to examine the same and their reply is awaited.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-5/2015-Plan Division dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015)

#### Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 1.22 of Chapter I of the Report.)

**NEW DELHI;  
17 December, 2015  
26 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 17<sup>th</sup>  
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) \*\*\*\*\*
- (iv) Twenty-fourth Action Taken Report on Eleventh Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (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 ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	16	
II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Paragraph Nos. 2.17, 2.20, 2.44, 2.45, 2.51, 2.52, 2.59, 2.60, 2.61, 2.71 and 2.72)	11	68.75
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: -Nil-	0	0
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: (Paragraph No. 2.18, 2.19, 2.27, 2.33 and 2.79)	5	31.25