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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2020-21)**

EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2020/Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2020

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.03.2020



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2020/Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
6. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
7. Shri Y. Devendrappa
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
14. Shri Vijay Kumar
15. Shri Akshaibar Lal
16. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
- #18. Shri Prince Raj
19. Shri Arjun Singh
20. Smt. Supriya Sule
21. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
24. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
25. Shri Biswajit Daimary
26. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
27. Shri P. L. Punia
28. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
29. Shri Ramkumar Verma
- *30. Vacant
31. Vacant

Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 09.12.2019.

* Shri Anil Desai, MP (RS) has resigned from the membership of this Committee w.e.f. 16.12.2019.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Srinivasulu Gunda | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Madhu Bhutani | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Smt Shashi Bisht | Assistant Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) having been authorized by the Committee, do present, on their behalf, this Eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2020-21' pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 10 February, 2020. After obtaining their Budget related Documents and Explanatory Notes, the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Minority Affairs on 19 February, 2020. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 13 March, 2020.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for appearing before them and furnishing information in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)'.

4. For ease of reference, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
13 March, 2020
23 Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)

SMT. RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Ministry of Minority Affairs was created on 29th January, 2006 to ensure a focused approach to the issues related to the minority communities.

1.2 As per 2011 Census, the population of Minorities was 23.39 crore out of total population of 121.09 crore i.e. 19.28 per cent. Category-wise break up is as under:

Community	Population	% of minorities to the Total	% of minorities to the Total minority Population
Muslim	17,22,45,158	14.22%	73.65%
Christian	2,78,19,588	2.29%	11.89%
Sikh	2,08,33,116	1.72%	8.90%
Buddhist	84,42,972	0.69%	3.61%
Jain	44,51,753	0.36%	1.90%
Zorastrian (Parsis)	57,264	0.004%	0.02%

Vision and Mission

1.3 The vision of the Ministry is to empower the minority communities and create an enabling environment for strengthening the multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-religious character of our nation.

1.4 The mission is to improve the socio-economic conditions of the minority communities through affirmative action and inclusive development so that every citizen has equal opportunity to participate actively in building a dynamic nation, to facilitate an equitable share for minority communities in education, employment, economic activities and to ensure their upliftment.

1.5 The welfare and development schemes of the Ministry accordingly focus on poor and deprived sections of the minorities. Majority of schemes have devised an eligibility criteria on economic basis to ensure that the benefits reach to poor and deprived sections.

1.6 The educational schemes cover scholarships for all levels, fellowships and interest subsidy to promote higher education and support for providing good quality coaching to enable minorities to go for Government and private jobs.

1.7 In tune with “Skill India Mission” and “Make in India Mission”, the Ministry have strengthened and expanded its job linked “Seekho aur Kamao” scheme and implemented schemes namely, USTTAD for preservation of traditional crafts/arts and “Nai Manzil” to integrate education with skills for economic empowerment of minority communities.

1.8 There is special scheme namely “Nai Roshni” for empowerment of minority women. The other special programme “Jiyo Parsi” concerns population decline of Parsi community. “Hamari Dharohar” scheme is for preservation of rich heritage and culture of minorities under overall concept of Indian Culture.

1.9 The Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry are as under:

A. Empowerment

I. Educational Empowerment:

- (i) Pre-matric scholarship for minorities
- (ii) Post-matric scholarship for minorities
- (iii) Merit-cum-means based scholarship for professional & technical courses
- (iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students.
- (v) Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies scheme for the students belonging to minority communities.
- (vi) Free Coaching & Allied Scheme
- (vii) Support for students clearing Prelims Conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.

II. Economic Empowerment

- (i) Skill Development Initiatives: Seekho aur Kamao
- (ii) Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)
- (iii) Nai Manzil

- (iv) Equity contribution to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

III. Special Initiatives for Empowerment

- (i) Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women (Nai Roshni)
- (ii) Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community 'Jiyo Parsi'.
- (iii) Hamari Dharohar (Scheme to preserve the Rich Heritage of Minority Communities of India).
- (iv) Research/Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicity.

B. Area Development Programme

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(PMJVK)

C. Support to Institutions

- (i) Grants-in-Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation
- (ii) Grants-in aid to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) engaged for implementation Scheme of NMDFC
- (iii) Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme
- (iv) Sahri Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana

D. Others

- (i) Secretariat
- (ii) Haj Management
- (iii) National Commission for Minorities.
- (iv) Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities

CHAPTER II

BUDGETARY PROVISION AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2020-21 are given under Demand No. 69. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid in Parliament on 10th February, 2020. The financial outlay for 2020-21 is ₹ 5029.00 crore.

2.2 The Ministry have furnished the following data on the Budget Estimate(BE), Revised Estimate(RE) and Actual Expenditure(AE) for the last five years along with BE for the year 2020-21 and AE upto 31.12.2019:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	% variation of (C w.r.t. B)
	A	B	C	
2015-16	3738.11	3735.18	3654.85	97.83
2016-17	3827.25	3827.24	3049.15	79.67
2017-18	4195.48	4195.48	4139.31	98.66
2018-19	4700.00	4700.00	3853.01	81.92
2019-20	4700.00	4700.00	1840.47 (upto 31.12.2019)	39.15
2020-21	5029.00	-	-	

2.3 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on all the Schemes during the last three years viz. 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 along with BE for the year 2020-21:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/ Programme	2017-18				2018-19				2019-20				% of shortfall/ excess exp year-wise	BE 2020-21
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	Shortfall/excess exp., if any indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	Shortfall/ excess exp., if any indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	Actual Exp. (upto to 31.12.19)	Shortfall/ excess exp., if any indicating reasons in brief		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Contribution to equity of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	170.00	170.00	170.00	-	165.03	165.03	165.00	-	100.00	160.00	100.00	Proposal under way for release of funds	2017-18 100% 2018-19 99.98% 2019-20 100%	160.00
2.	Grants-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation.	113.00	113.01	113.00		125.01	123.76	36.00	It was decided not to release funds towards Corpus due to availability of surplus funds .	90.00	90.00	37.50	Funds still to be released.	2017-18 100% 2018-19 28.80% 2019-20 41.67%	82.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3	Research /studies, monitoring & evaluation of development schemes for Minorities including publicity	50.00	50.01	50.04	-	55.00	55.00	52.60	Non release of funds due to ban on PIAs by Govt of UP	60.00	40.00	3.61	Funds still to be released	2017-18 100.08% 2018-19 95.63% 2019-20 15.63%	50.00
4	Merit cum means Scholarship	393.54	393.54	388.79	Non-receipt of adequate proposals from States/UTs including North Eastern States	522.00	402.00	261.17	Non-receipt of adequate proposals from States/UTs including North Eastern States	366.43	361.51	65.75	Proposal for release of scholarships are underway	2017-18 98.79% 2018-19 50.03% 2019-20 18%	400.00
5	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for minorities	48.00	48.00	45.59	Non-receipt of adequate proposals from PIAs. /North Eastern States	74.00	74.00	44.61	Non-receipt of adequate proposals from PIAs. /North Eastern States	75.00	40.00	9.92	Proposal for release of funds are underway	2017-18 94.98% 2018-19 60.28% 2018-19 13.23%	50.00
6	Grants in aid to state Channelizing Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme.	2.00	2.00	0.30	Non-receipt of adequate proposals	2.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00	1.43	Funds still to be released	2017-18 15% 2018-19 100% 2019-20 71%	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(Earlier MsDP)	1200.00	1200.00	1197.70	Minor variations	1319.99	1319.99	1156.07	Less projects/Proposals from States/UTs.	1470.00	1588.86	928.31	Funds still to be released	2017-18 99.80% 2018-19 87.58% 2019-20 63.15%	1600.00
8	Pre-matric scholarship	950.00	1001.15	1108.13	--	980.00	1269.00	1176.19	Non receipt of adequate and viable proposals from States /UTs including NE States.	1220.30	1199.82	211.73	Proposal for release of scholarships are underway	2017-18 116.65% 2018-19 120.02% 2019-20 17.35%	1330.00
9	Post matric scholarship	550.00	561.29	479.72	Saving was due to receipt of less proposals through the State/Govts.	692.00	500.00	354.89	Non receipt of adequate and viable proposals from States /UTs including NE States.	496.01	482.66	79.78	Proposal for release of scholarships are underway	2017-18 87.22% 2018-19 51.28% 2018-19 16.08%	535.00
10	Secretariat	17.66	18.38	17.81		19.14	20.01	28.16		22.00	24.39	17.27	Funds still to be released	2017-18 100.85% 2018-19 146.23% 2019-20 78.54%	25.00
11	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	100.00	150.00	124.87	-	153.00	153.00	97.85	Non receipt of demand from UGC	155.00	130.00	100.00	Funds still to be released	2017-18 124.87% 2018-19 63.95% 2019-20 64.52%	175.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	Computerization of records of State Waqf Boards(SWBs)	3.30	3.00	2.80	due to less receipt of demand from the grantee Institutions								Scheme merged with scheme at SN 13	2017-18 84.84	--
13	Strengthening of the State Wakf Boards	9.70	9.70	7.37	Saving was due to non-receipt of adequate proposals from grantee institutions and less engagement of professionals for the scheme								Scheme merged with scheme at SN 12	2017-18 75.98%	--
14	Qaumi Wakf Boards taraqquti Scheme.(Merged scheme of 12 &13)	-	-	-	-	16.94	16.94	11.89	Receipt of less proposals from CWC	17.50	15.00	11.83	Funds still to be released	2018-19 70.19% 2019-20 67.61%	18.00
15	Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women.	15.00	15.00	15.19		15.00	17.00	13.83	Receipt of less proposals from PIAs	15.00	10.00	1.14	Funds still to be released	2017-18 101.26% 2018-19 92.20% 2019-20 7.58%	10.00
16	Interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities.	8.00	17.00	17.00	-	24.00	45.00	45.00	-	30.00	25.00	9.00	Proposals for release of interest subsidy are under process.	2017-18 212.50% 2018-19 187.50% 2019-20 30.00%	30.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community.	2.00	3.00	3.00	-	4.00	4.00	4.00	-	4.00	4.00	3.46	Funds still to be released	2017-18 150.00% 2018-19 100.00% 2019-20 86.38%	4.00
18	Skill Development Initiative	250	200	199.80	Receipt of less proposals from PIAs	250	250	175.73	Receipt of less proposals from PIAs	250	250	122.23	Funds still to be released	2017-18 79.92% 2018-19 70.33.% 2019-20 48.89%	250.00
19	Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Services Commissions etc.	4.00	6.00	6.18	-	8.00	8.00	6.72	Receipt of less proposals from candidates	20.00	10.00	5.00	Funds still to be released to candidates on declaration of results by UPSC etc.	2017-18 154.50 % 2018-19 84.00 % 2019-20 25.00 %	10.00
20	Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts /Crafts for Development (USTTAD)	22.00	29.00	21.80	Receipt of less proposals from PIAs	30.00	50.00	31.26	Receipt of less proposals from PIAs	50.00	60.00	28.93	Funds still to be released	2017-18 99.09 % 2018-19 104.20 % 2019-20 57.86 %	50.00
21	Hamari Dharohar	12.00	12.00	0.64	Non receipt of proposals from PIAs	6.00	6.00	1.64	Non receipt of proposals from PIAs	8.00	3.00	0.00	Funds still to be released	2017-18 5.33% 2018-19 27.33 % 2019-20 0 %	3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
23	Nai Manzil	175.95	95.39	93.73		140.00	120.00	93.73		140.00	100.00	15.89	Funds still to be released	2017-18 53.27 % 2018-19 66.95% 2019-20 11.35%	120.00
24	Sahari Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana(Earlier GIA to Waqf)	3.16	3.16	3.16		3.16	3.16	3.16		3.16	3.16	1.48	Funds still to be released	2017-18 100'00%) 2018-19 100% 2019-20 46.78%	3.00
25	Grants –in-Aid to Central Waqf Council	0.02	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	Scheme discontinued.	2017-18 00%	0.00
26	National Commission for Minorities	8.41	8.51	7.26	Vacant posts, less tours/procurement	8.62	8.92	8.93	Vacant posts,less tours/procurement	9.30	10.30	7.25	Funds still to be released	2017-18 86.32%) 2018-19 103.48% 2019-20 77.95%	11.00
27.	Special officer for Linguistic Minorities	2.74	2.74	1.86	Vacant posts, less tours/procurement	2.32	1.90	1.69	Vacant posts,less tours/procurement	2.30	2.30	1.51	Funds still to be released	2017-18 67.88%) 2018-19 73.28% 2019-20 66.45%	3.00
28	Haj Management	85.00	81.60	63.20	Vacant posts, less tours/procurement	84.79	85.29	80.89	Vacant posts, less tours/procurement	94.00	88.00	77.48	Vacant posts,less tours/procurement	2017-18 74.35%) 2018-19 82.40%	98.00
	Total	4195.48	4195.48	4139.31		4700.00	4700.00	3853.01		4700.00	4700.00	1840.47			5029.00

2.4 The Ministry could not spend the entire amount during the year 2017-18, 2018-19 under various schemes. When asked, the reasons furnished by the Ministry remained same as previous years like non-receipt of adequate proposals from States/UTs including North-Eastern States.

2.5 During the Financial Year 2019-20, the Ministry could merely spend ₹ 1840.47 crore upto 31.12.2019 against RE of ₹ 4700.00 crore (39.15%). In written reply to queries as to (i) the reasons for low expenditure during the financial year 2019-20; (ii) why only 39.15% expenditure was incurred by 31.12.2019; and (iii) how the Ministry would be able to spend the remaining 60.85% of RE funds in the last quarter which is the violation of financial rules also, the Ministry submitted as under:

"It is correct that the booking of expenditure is low to end of December, 2019, however, this has been the pace even in previous years. The current expenditure as on 18th February, 2020 is ₹ 2336.00 crore, which is 49.70% of the BE.

Two important schemes of the Ministry i.e. Scholarships and PMJVK account for large share of nearly 80% of funds i.e. about Rs 3740 crore of Rs 4700 crore. The releases under Scholarship schemes have started and will certainly be completed by March, 2020. Similarly, a number of projects under PMJVK have been sanctioned recently and proposals for release are being received. It is reasonably expected that the entire allocation under BE will be utilized. In fact, higher allocation of Rs 118 crore has been projected in the Revised Estimates, 2019-20.

A proposal to relax the expenditure ceilings of 25% in the last quarter and 10% in March has already been sent to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs. Further, additional funds are being proposed through 2nd Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for a number of schemes, namely, Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (₹10.00 crore), Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (₹118.86 crore) and Investment in National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (₹ 60.00 crore) with a view to utilize the Savings available under various schemes during 2019-20.

There was no adverse impact on any scheme due to non-availability of funds."

2.6 Furnishing the monthly expenditure plans and also the justification for spending the remaining 60% in the last quarter, the Ministry stated as under:

"Monthly Expenditure Plan was formulated considering the need to have even pace of expenditure throughout the year, although the MEP/QEP did show a higher percentage of expenditure in the last quarter i.e. 40% to cater to disbursement of scholarships. Further, Ministry of Finance reduced the

expenditure ceilings from 33% to 25% in the last quarter. A proposal for relaxation of these ceilings has been sent for approval."

2.7 Regarding allocation of ₹ 5029.00 crore against the projection of ₹ 6452.65 crore from the Ministry of Finance for the year 2020-21, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted as under:

"Ministry projected a requirement of ₹ 6452.65 crore for the year 2020-21 in line with the Ministry of Finance's Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Keeping in view the availability of resources and expenditure trends of previous years, an allocation of ₹ 5029 crore has been made for 2020-21. The reduced allocation is not likely to influence the ongoing schemes. The process of appraisal and evaluation of all Schemes has been initiated and if need for additional funds arises, Ministry will seek higher funds at RE stage."

2.8 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their Detailed Demands for Grants have furnished the Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure Plan for the year 2020-21 as under:

(₹ in crore)

Monthly/Quarterly	Expenditure Plan		Cumulative Total
BE (2020-21)	5029	% age w.r.t. BE	
April	60.00	1.19	60.00
May	80.00	1.59	140.00
June	115.00	2.29	255.00
Total (Ist Quarter)	255.00	5.07	
July	300.00	5.97	555.00
August	432.00	8.59	987.00
September	525.00	10.44	1512.00
Total (IIrd Quarter)	1257.00	25.00	
October	490.00	9.74	2002.00
November	500.00	9.94	2502.00
December	520.00	10.34	3022.00
Total (IIIrd Quarter)	1510.00	30.03	
January	750.00	14.91	3772.00
February	750.00	14.91	4522.00
March	507.00	10.08	5029.00
Total (IVth Quarter)	2007.00	39.91	
Grant Total	5029.00	100.00%	

2.9 The expenditure plan for the last quarter of 2020-21 of the Ministry is showing 39.91% while as per the financial rules of the M/o Finance dated 27th December, 2019 amount to be released in the last quarter is only 25% of BE (January & February 15% and March 10%). Furnishing the reasons for the same the Ministry stated as under:

“Monthly Expenditure Plan of the Ministry is formulated in such a way because of slow pace of expenditure under the three scholarship schemes upto December of the Financial Year and release of major part of the expenditure pertaining to Scholarship Schemes in the last quarter of the financial year.

As regards financial rules of Ministry of Finance OM No. [F.No.12(15)-B(W&M)/2019] dated 27th December, 2019 is concerned, this Ministry will have to submit a proposal to Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for relaxation of expenditure ceilings of 15% during Jan to Feb and 10% during March, every year so as to ensure that the funds are released under the scholarship schemes and other schemes of the Ministry without adversely affecting the interest of the beneficiaries belonging to minority communities.”

2.10 The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has formulated a multipronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care. Further, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has constituted a Parliamentary Constituency Committee on Road Safety in each district of the country to promote awareness amongst road users under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). While referring to this laudable initiative of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways during evidence, members of the Committee were unanimous that such steps could be of immense help for the welfare of Minorities.

2.11 The Committee note that out of total budgetary allocation of ₹ 4700.00 crore during the year 2019-20, the actual expenditure till 18.02.2020 is ₹ 2336.00 crore which is around 49.70% of the BE/RE and the remaining 50.30% of BE/RE funds will be required to be spent by the Ministry by 31.03.2020. The Ministry in their written submission accepted that the booking of expenditure is low till end of December, 2019. As the Committee have been examining the DFG of the Ministry in the past also, they note that this has been the pace in the previous years too. The Ministry have attributed this uneven/inconsistent expenditure pattern to their two important schemes i.e. Scholarships and Prime Minister Jan Vikas Programme (PMJVK) which account for a large share of nearly 80% of funds i.e. about ₹ 3740 crore out of ₹ 4700 crore. Reportedly, the releases under Scholarship schemes are stated to have started and expected to be completed by March, 2020. Secondly a number of projects under PMJVK have been sanctioned recently and proposals for release are being received and accordingly the Ministry have tried to convince the Committee that hopefully the entire allocation would be utilized.

2.12 The Committee, however observe that such large percentage of spending in the final quarter of the financial year goes against the prescribed limit of spending i.e. 25% of BE in the final quarter of the year. Even the annual expenditure plan drawn for 2020-21 by the Ministry also shows that 39.91% of funds would be utilized in the last quarter. The Committee, therefore, want the Ministry to apprise them as to whether the Ministry has already sought exemption from the Department of Expenditure and the response thereon and other details in this case. The Committee also note that due to non-receipt and receipt of inadequate & viable proposals from State/UTs, amounts allocated could not be spent fully. They, therefore, suggest that the Officers may be delegated the responsibility of personally visiting those States with large Minority Concentration Areas, which require hand holding to prepare proper proposals. If need be, the help of local representatives can also be sought to pursue the issue with State Authorities concerned.

2.13 The Committee recommend the Ministry to review the status of fund utilization by States at regular intervals and vigorously pursue the slow

performing States to utilize the funds. For this, a select team of officers at the Headquarters may be given the task of physically monitoring the implementation of various schemes periodically by visiting some of the most challenging areas as well as accountability be fixed on the officers responsible for any avoidable delays in scrutinizing proposals/sanctioning funds so that large chunk of funds does not remain unutilized till the fag end of the financial year. The Committee believe this will go a long way in ensuring the utilisation of the funds in the desired manner and prevent the under utilisation from becoming a regular affair.

2.14 The Committee recall that few years back, Parliamentary Constituency Monitoring Committees on Road Safety were constituted at district level by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways for better road safety under the chairmanship of concerned MPs. As the local public representatives, MPs/MLAs, are well versed with the ground realities of their constituencies and their feedback could be of immense use in effective implementation of various welfare schemes for Minorities, the Committee feel that the Ministry can also explore setting up of such Parliamentary Constituency Level Monitoring Committees to put to use the experience of the public representatives in design, delivery, monitoring and implementation of welfare schemes for Minorities. The Committee are also of the view that the experience of the local public representatives may come in handy in pursuing the issue of timely submission of UCs and proposals from State Governments, especially from North Eastern Region where this Ministry has not able to bring all Governments on board for their schemes, despite prioritising it. Had the Ministry brought such issues to the notice of the local public representatives from NE States, such issues could have been resolved obviating the need for surrendering of the funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend, the Ministry to consider setting up such Parliamentary Constituency Level Monitoring Committee and also ensure the involvement of the MPs of that constituency for monitoring and effectively implementation of various programmes/schemes for the welfare of the Minorities.

CHAPTER-III

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

3.1 The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing three scholarship schemes viz. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of students belonging to the six centrally notified minority communities.

3.2 With a view to improve transparency in the implementation of the Scholarship Schemes, the Ministry informed that a new and revamped version of National Scholarship Portal (NSP) has been launched during 2016-17 for various Ministries of Government of India including Ministry of Minority Affairs. All the above Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry are implemented through this portal. The scholarships are transferred into the bank accounts of students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

I. Pre-Matric Scholarship

3.3. The Committee note that Pre-Matric Scholarship is awarded to students from the minority communities who fulfill the eligibility criteria for studies from class I to X in government schools/institutes and private schools / institutes recognized by an appropriate authority. 30% of the scholarship is earmarked for girl students. The scheme was launched w.e.f. 1.4.2008 as Centrally Sponsored Scheme with funding pattern between Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25. From 2014-15 onwards the scheme is converted as Central Sector Scheme with 100% central funding.

3.4 The Committee further note that the students studying in India in a government/recognized private school, who secure 50% marks in the previous examination and whose parents' / guardians' annual income does not exceed ₹ 1.00 lakh, are eligible for award of the Pre-matric scholarship under the scheme. Under the scheme, 30 lakh fresh scholarships are awarded every year in addition to the renewals. Scholarship ranging from ₹ 1,000/- to ₹ 10,700/- is awarded to every selected student.

3.5 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the BE, RE and AE under the scheme of the Pre-matric scholarship since 2017-18:

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
	A	B	C
2017-18	950.00	1001.15	1108.13
2018-19	980.00	1269.00	1176.19
2019-20	1220.30	1199.82	211.73 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	1330.00	-	-

3.6 Under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme there was over spending of ₹ 107 crore in 2017-18 and underutilization of ₹ 93 crore in 2018-19. Responding to the Committee's query as to the reasons for such underutilization. The Ministry in their written reply informed as under:

"The budget estimation is based on the average rate of scholarship and may vary in case larger numbers of students are hostellers. Further, the expenditure may also increase in case claims under renewal category are higher. During 2017-18, the number of renewal claims was 23,12,850 compared to just 5,18,544 during the previous year of 2016-17. In 2018-19, the renewal claims was 27,60,009 and accordingly, the actual expenditure was higher than 2017-18 but marginally lower than the revised estimates. Moreover, due to re-validation process, claims of 2018-19 were also settled in 2019-20."

3.7 During the year 2019-20, allocation to the Ministry of ₹ 1220.30 crore at Budget Estimate stage was reduced to ₹ 1199.82 crore at RE stage, actual expenditure was only ₹ 211.73 crore (17.65 % of RE) (upto 31.12.2019). This meant that the remaining amount of ₹988.09 crore (82.35%) of RE was required to be spent by the Ministry in the last quarter of the financial year 2019-20. The budgetary allocation has now been enhanced to ₹ 1330.00 crore for the year 2020-21. When enquired about the reasons for a poor performance till 31.12.2019 for the Financial Year 2019-20 and the action plan of the Ministry for utilization of funds for the year 2020-21 under the scheme, the Ministry stated as under:

"The Scholarships under all the three Schemes are processed and disbursed online through the National Scholarship Portal. The Portal remains open to

students to apply upto November every year. Thereafter, the applications are verified at two levels. At the first level, it is verified by the applicants Institute and thereafter by the domicile State of the applicant. This process goes on upto December as some States fail to complete the process within the due dates given initially. Thereafter, the verified applications are put under sanity checks and doubtful applications are again sent to the States for revalidation. Thus, the architecture of the Scholarship Schemes is such that the expenditure starts in the third quarter of the financial year and major expenditure happens in third and fourth quarter of the financial year. Nevertheless, the actual sanction as on date under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for 2019-20 is ₹ 802.82 crore, and the Ministry is hopeful of spending the budget allocation during the year as well as during 2020-21.

II. Post-Matric Scholarship

3.8 Post-Matric Scholarship is awarded to students from the minority communities, who fulfill the eligibility criteria for studies in India from class XI to Ph.D. in government schools/colleges/institutes and private schools/colleges/institutes recognized by an appropriate authority, including technical and vocational courses of class XI & XII level. 30% of the scholarship is earmarked for girl students. The scheme was launched in November, 2007 as Centre Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding.

3.9 The Committee found that Scholarship ranging from ₹ 2,300/- to ₹ 15,000/- is awarded to every selected students every year. Students who secure 50% marks in the previous year's final examination and whose parents' / guardians' annual income does not exceed ₹ 2.00 lakh are eligible for award of scholarship under the scheme. 5 lakh fresh scholarships are awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30% of scholarships have been earmarked for girl students. In case sufficient numbers of girl students are not available, then eligible boy students are given these scholarships.

3.10 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and AE under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme:

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
	A	B	C
2017-18	550.00	561.29	479.72
2018-19	692.00	500.00	354.89
2019-20	496.01	482.66	79.78 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	535.00	-	-

3.11 The above data shows that the actual expenditure was far lower than REs during the years 2017-18 and 2018-19. Furnishing the reasons for this lower expenditure, the Ministry stated as under:

"The budget estimation is based on the average rate of scholarship and may vary in case larger numbers of students are hostellers. Further, the expenditure may also increase in case claims under renewal category are higher. During 2017-18, the number of renewal claims was 2,01,105 compared to just 88,941 during the previous year of 2016-17. In 2018-19, the renewal claims was 1,85,043 and accordingly, the actual expenditure was lower than 2017-18 and the revised estimates. Moreover, due to re-validation process, claims of 2018-19 were also settled in 2019-20."

3.12 Under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme during the year 2019-20, funds sanctioned to the Ministry ₹ 496.01 crore at BE stage was reduced to ₹ 482.66 crore at RE stage and actual expenditure stood at only ₹ 79.78 crore upto 31.12.2019 which is 16.55% of the RE and the balance of RE i.e. 83.45% will be required to be spent in the last quarter of financial year 2019-20. On being enquired by the Committee as to why even after underutilization of the allocation, higher amount was earmarked for the year 2020-21 in BE, in response, the Ministry submitted as follows:

"The Scholarships under all the three Schemes are processed and disbursed online through the National Scholarship Portal. The Portal remains open to students to apply upto November every year. Thereafter, the applications are verified at two levels. At the first level, it is verified by the applicants Institute and thereafter by the domicile State of the applicant. This process goes on upto December as some States fail to complete the process within the due dates given initially. Thereafter, the verified applications are put under sanity checks and doubtful applications are again sent to the States for revalidation. Thus, the architecture of the Scholarship Schemes is such that the expenditure starts in the third quarter of the financial year and major expenditure happens in third and fourth quarter of the financial year. Nevertheless, the actual sanction as on date under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for 2019-20 is ₹ 256.70 crore and the Ministry is hopeful of spending the budget allocation during the year as well as during 2020-21."

III Scholarship Scheme: Merit-cum-Means Scholarship

3.13 Merit-cum Means (McM), a Scholarship launched in 2007, is a Central Sector Scheme. Scholarships are awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses in institutions recognized by appropriate authority. Under the Scheme, 60,000 fresh scholarships are awarded every year in addition to renewals.

3.14 The resource allocation and utilization under the scheme since 2017-18 are as follows:-

(₹ in thousands)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
	A	B	C
2017-18	393.54	393.54	388.79
2018-19	522.00	402.00	261.17
2019-20	366.43	361.51	65.75 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	400.00	-	-

3.15 In written reply to a query as to why in 2018-19 BE was reduced by ₹ 120 crore at RE stage; and, ₹ 141 crore of RE was surrendered, the Ministry stated as follows:

“During 2018-19, ₹ 522.00 crore was provided as Budget Estimates as the Merit-cum-Means Scholarship amount was expected to be revised with effect from 2018-19. However, the CCEA approved the Scheme without any change. Hence, the budget provision was reduced to ₹ 402.00 crore for Revised Estimates. Further, while going through de-duplication and other allied processes, the National Scholarship Portal team observed that there has been a considerable increase in fake or doubtful applications which needed further re-validation by the State/UT Nodal Officers. This process of re-validation went up to May, 2019 with the States/UTs rejecting 30,570 applications ultimately. Thus, for the year 2018-19, so far ₹ 315.94 crore has been sanctioned while ₹ 310.81 crore has been spent and the disbursement of Scholarship continues in 2019-20.”

3.16 With regard to the reasons for (a) spending 18 % only of the resources allocated till the end of December, 2020; (b) whether the Ministry would be able spend rest 82% in the remaining three months of the financial year 2019-20; and, (c) the basis of allocating ₹ 400 crore for 2020-21, the Ministry stated as under:

“The Scholarships under all the three Schemes are processed and disbursed online through the National Scholarship Portal. The Portal remains open to students to apply upto November every year. Thereafter, the applications are verified at two levels. At the first level, it is verified by the applicants Institute and thereafter by the domicile State of the applicant. This process goes on

upto December as some States fail to complete the process within the due dates given initially. Thereafter, the verified applications are put under sanity checks and doubtful applications are again sent to the States for revalidation. Thus, the architecture of the Scholarship Schemes is such that the expenditure starts in the third quarter of the financial year and major expenditure happens in third and fourth quarter of the financial year. Nevertheless, the actual sanction as on date under the Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme for 2019-20 is ₹ 192.81 crore and the Ministry is hopeful of spending the budget allocation during the year as well as during 2020-21.

At present, the scholarship is disbursed to the applicants once in a year and this Ministry endeavors to disburse almost 90% of the eligible scholarships during the year itself.”

3.17 In regard to the poor performance of all the three Scholarship Schemes during the course of evidence held on 19.02.2020, the Secretary of the Ministry deposing before the Committee stated as follows:

"Actually this year the delay was due to the fact that we did a two-time registration of the Institutions. The procedure is that first it is applied through schools and colleges, after then it is verified by the Principal of such schools/colleges. In the last, the State level Officer authorized by the State concerned is verified the same and send it to us."

3.18 The Ministry have informed that to improve implementation of Scholarship Schemes and to identify fake institutes, all institutes were re-verified afresh, with KYC, during 2019-20. 2,64,366 institutes (except J&K) were finally verified by the States during the year as compared to 14.50 lakh during 2018-19.

3.19 The Ministry further informed that there is no scheme/community-wise quota for UTs of J&K and Ladakh for the year 2019-20 and all the eligible applicants shall get the scholarship. Therefore, during 2019-20, UTs of J&K & Ladakh are likely to be sanctioned more than 8.00 lakh scholarships, compared to 1.89 lakh scholarships, sanctioned in 2018-19.

3.20 The Committee were further informed that for better improvement in implementation of Scholarship Schemes the following changes have been made by the Ministry:

- (i) In cases where 'Institute State' is different from 'Domicile State' of the 'student', scanned copy of 'Bonafide certificate', certified from Institute, is to be uploaded with the application.
- (ii) Aadhaar exception handling mechanism is devised, in case of non-Aadhaar applications:
 - (i) Applicants are required to upload the scanned copy of first page of bank passbook with photograph, during registration.
 - (ii) Applicants are required to upload scanned copy of 'Bonafide Certificate', certified from Institute.

3.21 The Committee, while appreciating the Ministry for utilizing the entire amount and, in fact, in excess of the allocation for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme in 2017-18, note underutilization in subsequent years, i.e. in 2018-19 and in 2019-20, when 82.35% of RE remained unspent as on 31.12.2019.

3.22 The Committee observe that under Post-Matric Scholarship scheme, in 2017-18 and 2018-19 there was under utilization of 15% and 29% respectively of the allocation made for the scheme at RE stage. The BE for the purpose at ₹ 496.00 crore for the year 2019-20 was reduced to ₹ 482.66 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure incurred is ₹ 79.78 (upto 31.12.2019), which is just 16.55% of RE, requiring the Ministry to spend the remaining 83.45% in the last quarter of the financial year.

3.23 The Committee note that Merit-cum Means (McM) Scholarship is awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses by the students of Minority Communities in the institutions recognized by appropriate authority. Under the scheme every year 60,000 fresh scholarships are awarded in addition to the renewals. The budgetary allocation of ₹ 522 crore for the year 2018-19 was revised downwards to ₹ 402 crore at RE stage. However, the actual amount spent till 31.12.2019 was reportedly ₹ 261.17 crore i.e. 65% of the RE amount. The Ministry attributed this under utilization to (i) rejection of their proposal for revision of scholarship w.e.f. 2018-19 by Cabinet Committee and Economic Affairs (CCEA); and, (ii) de-duplication, revalidation by States/UTs and other allied processes resulting in rejection of 30,570 applications. The Ministry, however, subsequently informed the Committee that so far ₹ 315.94 crore are spent and disbursement of scholarships to rest of the applicants continues in 2019-20. In this background, the Committee fail to understand such a large number of doubtful applications being rejected despite pre-verification by the Institutes as well as the domicile State Government of the applicant. As there are several fraud institutes/universities active in the field of education in various States/UTs, all the State/UT Governments should be asked to verify fake institutes/universities from UGC & AICTE websites and the local educational departments, before recommending the same. The Ministry is also expected to be well-aware of the accreditation process of educational institutions on all India level, hence Committee hope that they also verify such cases and should reject

these without them being revalidated/rejected by the State/UT Governments. Such an action would serve the desired purpose of preventive action against fake applications and saving time to speed up processing of applications from valid and deserving candidates.

3.24 The Committee are of the view that verification and validation of the applicants/ beneficiaries in any scholarship scheme or for that matter in any other welfare schemes, is an integral part of the scheme to eliminate unscrupulous and ineligible candidates. This aspect, the Committee are of the view, should have been taken into consideration at least at RE allocation which generally takes place in the month of September / October. Further, they are also of the view that surrendering of the funds due to delay in verification and validation checks might have delayed the payment of scholarships to the eligible/genuine candidates for no fault of theirs. The Committee, therefore recommend that disbursement of the amounts under the scheme may be streamlined with specific deadlines at each level of verification and validation of the claims by the applicants ensuring disbursement of the scholarships to the eligible applicants in the same year. Also, in order to give incentive to girl students, the Committee desire that instead of surrendering of funds, scholarships can be disbursed to girl students by relaxing marks percentage norms, if any, for the girl students, by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Committee desire that the Ministry may advise them suitably since girl students suffer the most if their parents are not in a position to pay their fee.

3.25 The Committee also want the Ministry to furnish the data on BE, RE, actuals, the total number of applications received for scholarships, the number of applications rejected, the number of students actually given the scholarship for the last five years (year wise) in a tabular format, as the scheme is very significant for minority communities some of which are yet to come at par with other communities in the education field.

3.26 From the information furnished to them, the Committee observe that only 18% of the funds allocated at RE stage for the purpose was utilized during 2019-20 (till the end of December 2019) leaving the remaining 82% of the funds for

spending in the last three months of the financial year. This figure later improved to 47% till February, 2020, which, however, is still far above the prescribed ceiling *i.e.* 25% of the total funds allocated for spending in the last quarter of the financial year. The Committee were given to understand that the timelines under the scholarship scheme are designed in a manner due to which expenditure starts in the third quarter of a given financial year only and major expenditure happens in third and fourth quarter of the financial year. The reply, however, is silent as to whether the Ministry has obtained necessary exemption from the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) for incurring major expenditure in the third and fourth quarters of the financial year. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to furnish copies of such exemption obtained from Ministry of Finance, if any. Also the academic calendars may be studied thoroughly to see whether the timelines could be advanced under the Scheme. The Committee recommend that this exercise may be undertaken this year and comments may be furnished thereafter.

CHAPTER-IV

FREE COACHING AND ALLIED SCHEME FOR MINORITIES

4.1 The free coaching and allied scheme for minorities for the candidates belonging to Minority communities was launched on 17th July 2007. The objective of the scheme is to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates for minority communities to get employment in government service/public sector undertaking and admission in reputed institutions in technical and professional course at under graduate and post-graduate levels.

4.2 B.E. RE and Actual Expenditure under the scheme since 2017-18 are as follows:

(₹ in crore)

YEAR	BE	RE	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE
	A	B	C
2017-18	48.00	48.00	45.59
2018-19	74.00	74.00	44.61
2019-20	75.00	40.00	9.92 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	50.00		

4.3 During the year 2018-19 Ministry could spent ₹ 44.61 crore only (60.28%) out of ₹ 74 crore. When asked to furnish (i) the reason for under utilization stated as follows and the (ii) the time line in the entire processes from receipt of proposals during disbursement of scholarships, the ministry stated as follows:-

“Under the Scheme, Minority students are provided Free Coaching through empanelled Project Implementing Agency (PIAs).

Under the scheme, grants are released to the PIAs in two installments. For 1st installment, PIAs are required to mobilize the students and submit the list of students to the Ministry alongwith other documents. First installment including 50 % of coaching fees and 50% of stipend amount is released to the coaching institutions/organizations (PIAS) in advance for implementing the Scheme. PIAS are required to complete the coaching program and disburse the remaining amount of stipend to the students from their own sources.

During 2018-19, 1st installment was released to 87 PIAs. Coaching programme has also been completed by them. However, proposal for release of 2nd installment have not been received from all of them. There are some delay in submission of their proposals due to various reasons such as problems being faces in implementation of Expenditure Advance and Transfer (EAT) module of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) which has been introduced first time in 2018-19. Some PIAs have also informed that either exams for Group B/C services have not been held or results are not declared. Due to this they are not in position to submit the UC of the coaching program.

As per GFR, the PIA are required to submit Utilization Certificate within 12 months after closing of the Financial Year. All the PIAs have been requested to submit their proposal alongwith UC and other information including result of exams for release of 2nd installment. While giving allocation for 2019-20, it has been clearly mentioned that 1st installment for 2019-20 be released only after settlement of account of their previous program.”

4.4 During the year 2019-20 Budget Estimate under the scheme was ₹ 75 crore which has been registered to ₹ 40 crore at RE. However, the actual expenditure is ₹ 9.92 crore (upto 31.12.2019) submitting the specific reasons for reducing RE and low expenditure incurred during the 2019-20, the Ministry stated as follows:-

“In 2019-20, provision for providing coaching to 9630 students has been made to 89 PIAs with the condition that 1st installment for 2019-20 be released only after settlement of accounts of their previous program i.e. release of 2nd installment pertaining to 2017-18 and 2018-19. Since release of 2nd installment is linked with submission of various documents including UCs, use of Expenditure Advance and Transfer (EAT) module, prescribed outcome of coaching program, satisfactory report of State government / National Productivity Council (NPC), Documentary proof of result of the exam etc, it takes considerable time to submit and examine the proposals and take necessary approvals of Competent Authority. This at times, leads to delay in release of 1st installment of subsequent coaching program i.e. 2019-20.

Further States/UTs of Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Lakshdweep and Puducherry were left without any allocation, due to non receipt of suitable proposals from PIAs belonging to said States/UTs. Hence it was considered to seek fresh proposals from these states for empanelment of PIAs under the Scheme. However, it is also submitted that when the Scheme was appraised and approved by the competent authority for its continuation beyond 2016-17, in the revised scheme a new course for preparation of Civil Service Exams (Pre+Mains) conducted by UPSC was introduced which was fully residential with coaching fees of ₹ 1.00 lakh per student including hostel charges. However, very few proposals were received for this programme as the coaching fees was not found sufficient for conduct of the coaching programme. Further, the one PIA which was selected for this programme also did not implement it. Therefore it was felt to modify this component and then call for fresh proposals for empanelment. Now the scheme is due for its

revision and continuation beyond 2019-20. In view of the above, BE has been reduced to ₹ 40.00 crore from ₹ 75.00 crore for 2019-20.”

4.5 Responding to Committee’s query as to how does it justify the utilization of remaining amount of ₹ 30.08 crore (75.2% of RE) in the last quarter of the financial 2019-20 and whether such huge expenditure in the last quarter of the financial year violate the relevant rules of the Ministry of finance, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted as follows:

“As on 17.02.2020 ₹ 11.31 crore has been incurred under the scheme and a number of proposals for release of grants-in-aid have been received. In order to make expenditure beyond 25% in the last quarter, a request to relax the expenditure ceilings has been sent to Ministry of Finance.”

4.6 Furnishing the (i) the details regarding the number of applications received from the minority students during 2018-19 and out of them the number of application rejected the ministry and (ii) the details of number of beneficiaries under the scheme for the years 2018-19 and 2019 -20 (fresh and renewal separately), the Ministry submitted the following information:

“Under the Scheme, Minority students are provided Free Coaching through empanelled Project Implementing Agency(PIAs). Mobilization and selection of students are done by the concerned PIAs having their own selection process as per eligibility criteria given in the scheme guidelines.

During 2018-19 numbers of beneficiaries were 10097 and for 2019-20 allocation to 9630 students have been given for various coaching courses.”

4.7 The Committee note that the objective of the scheme is to enhance the skills and knowledge of the students and candidates of minority communities to get employment in Government Sector/Public Sector, admission in professional and technical courses in reputed institutions at under-graduate and post-graduate levels.

4.8 The budget allocation and utilization during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (upto 31.12.2019) stood at 95%, 60.2% and 24.8% respectively. The Ministry attributed lower fund utilization due to non-receipt of proposals from Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), as PIAs faced problems in implementation of Expenditure Advances and Transfer module of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) which has been introduced for the first time in 2018-19 and non-conducting of exams for Group B/C services/results which are not be declared. This, the Committee note, made them unable to submit the Utilization Certificate of the coaching program. The Committee were also informed that that first installment of money for 2019-20 will be released only after settlement of 2nd installment of the year 2018-19.

4.9 The under utilization during 2019-20 (upto 31.12.2019) was attributed to the fact that there was delay in submission of various documents including UCs, use of Expenditure Advances and Transfer module, prescribed outcome of coaching programme, satisfactory report of State Governments/National Productivity Council (NPC) etc., which the Ministry claimed took considerable time in examining the proposals and according the approvals. The Committee note as on 17 February 2020, ₹ 11.31 crore was incurred under the scheme and a number of proposals for release of grant-in-aid have been received. In order to make expenditure beyond 25% in the last quarter, a request to relax the expenditure ceiling have been sent to Ministry of Finance.

4.10 The Committee are of the view that had the Ministry communicated/consulted the PIAs on the need for completing the formalities, at regular intervals, the need for surrendering of the funds would not have arisen. The Committee therefore, recommend that constant communication with the PIAs impressing upon the need for completing the formalities should be followed in

future to ensure utilization of the allocated funds fully. The Committee also would like the Ministry to apprise as to whether the exemption from the Ministry of finance has been obtained for incurring the expenditure more than the prescribed amount in the last quarter of the financial year was received or not.

CHAPTER-V

SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE “SEEKHO AUR KAMAO”

5.1 “Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)”, a placement linked Skill Development scheme for Minorities was launched in 2013. The scheme aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment. The scheme is implemented through Selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

5.2 B.E., R.E. and Actual Expenditure under the scheme since 2017-18 are as under :

(₹ in thousands)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
	A	B	C
2017-18	250.00	200.00	199.80
2018-19	250.00	250.00	175.73
2019-20	250.00	250.00	122.23 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	250.00	-	-

5.3 The expenditure for the year 2019-20 was only ₹122.23 (upto 31.12.2019) representing less than 49% of BE. Furnishing the reply as to how the Ministry would spend the allocated amount at the fag end of the financial year, the Ministry submitted as follows:

“It is estimated that the outstanding claims for the ongoing/completed projects is expected to be received in the last quarter. It is expected that these grants shall be released during the remaining months of 2020.”

5.4 Furnishing the details as to (i) the number of beneficiaries trained since 2017-18; (ii) the skills imparted; (iii) monitoring mechanism to check the actual employment status of trained beneficiaries; and (iv) the percentage of persons who have been able

to get a suitable employment or have become entrepreneurs , Ministry submitted as under:

“It is estimated that the outstanding claims for the ongoing/completed projects is expected to be received in the last quarter. It is expected that these grants shall be released during the remaining months of 2020.

(ii) Beneficiaries trained since 2017-18 is provided below:

Financial Year	Beneficiaries Allocated	Beneficiaries Trained
2017-18	116020	88041
2018-19	43231	26187
Total	159251	114228

- The skills imparted are as per the NSQF complaint courses and curriculum approved by NSDC. The PIAs select the training programme as per the list and conduct the training. Some of the key skills imparted include Beauty Therapy Hair Styling, Basic Sewing Machine Operator, Accounts Assistant with Tally, DTP and Print Publishing Assistant, Computer Hardware Assistant, BPO-Non Voice, Food Beverage Services, BPO Voice, Bed Side Assistant, Industrial Sewing Machine Operator, Animation & Multimedia Assistant, Web Designing & Publication Assistant, Fashion Design Technology, Integrated Course In Hair, Skin And Make-Up, Aerospace & Aviation and Hospitality Assistant.
- The ministry monitors the actual employment status of the beneficiaries through various measures such as final payments to the PIAs are linked to the completion of employment targets, post placement tracking of the beneficiaries for almost one year, receipt of offer letters, salary certificates documents of the beneficiaries.
- The actual percentage of persons who have been able to get suitable employment or have become entrepreneurs may have varied from the inception of the scheme. However, the average remains at 75% of the beneficiary being placed as this is mandatory guideline of the scheme.”

Major head-2225
Minor Head:102
Detailed Head -02.00.28

Skill Development Initiatives – Professional Services

5.5 The allocation of funds under this Head is meant for conducting independent field inspection of the ' Seekho Aur Kamao' Scheme.

5.6 The allocation of the resources and their utilization since 2015-16 is as under:-

(₹ in thousands)

YEAR	BE	RE	ACTUALS
2015-16	23,00	23,00	00
2016-17	23,00	23,00	16,54
2017-18	20,00	20,00	00
2018-19	30,00	30,00	14,58
2019-20	30,00	30,00	
2020-21	30,00		

5.7 With regard to the actual expenditure incurred for the year 2015-16 and 2017-18, the Ministry submitted that :

“Expenditure for these two years is NIL.”

5.8 With regard to the reasons for not utilizing the entire allocation at RE stage during 2016-17, the Ministry stated as follows :

“The allocation is made keeping in view the resources required to conduct the inspection of the scheme. However, the inspections undertaken were postponed/delayed and the budget remained under-utilised.”

5.9 With regard to utilizing less than 50% of the amounts allocated at RE stage during 2018-19, the Ministry informed as follows:

“The allocation is made keeping in view the resources required to conduct the inspection of the scheme. However, the inspections undertaken were postponed/delayed and the budget remained under-utilised.”

5.10 Despite less than 50% utilization of resources vis-à-vis RE in 2018-19, BE was doubled the actuals for 2019-20. Furnishing the basis for such hike in allocation for 2019-20, the Ministry submitted that the same was not doubled on the basis that BE & RE for 2018-19 was ₹ 30 crore and BE & RE for 2019-20 was also ₹ 30 crore, while overloading the fact pointed by the Committee that the actual expenditure was ₹ 14.58 only. They stated:

“The BE for 2019-20 was not doubled. The BE remained the same. The allocation is made keeping in view that the resources required to conduct the implementation of the scheme in the current financial year may be increased such as increase in inspection of centers and increase in monitoring and evaluation activities of the scheme.”

5.11 “Seekho aur Kamao” scheme was started in 2013 and aims to upgrade the skills of minority youths in various modern/technical skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential which can give them suitable employment or make self employed. The Committee note that during 2018-19 out of RE of ₹ 250 crore, actuals amounted to ₹ 175.73 crore only resulting in surrendering of ₹ 74.27 crore i.e. 29.71 % of RE. Similarly, during 2019-20 (up to 31.12.2019) the actual incurred stood at ₹ 122.23 crore representing 49% only of the RE allocation. The Committee observe that Ministry has not furnished any specific reasons for surrendering 30% of the allocated funds at RE stage in the year 2018-19. The Ministry while furnishing clarification as to how they would spend the remaining amount of ₹ 128 crore in the last quarter of the financial year (2019-20), submitted that outstanding claims for ongoing/completed projects are expected to be received during the remaining months of 2019-2020. The Committee, as mentioned elsewhere in the report, note that spending more than 25% of the allocations in the last quarter of the financial year violates the relevant rules issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. They would like to be informed of whether the Ministry have taken the required exemption from the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for incurring the amounts in excess of prescribed ceiling in the final quarter of the financial year. The Committee also believe that the number of beneficiaries trained remaining lower than the number of beneficiaries allocated for the scheme is due to under utilization of the resources.

5.12 The Committee desire the Ministry to furnish (i) the data on BE,RE and actual from 2013-14 to 2016-17(year wise) ; (ii) the number of beneficiaries trained, employed, self employed since the inception of the scheme – separately and year wise; and, (iii) note on the mechanism to monitor the employment status of the beneficiaries. At the same time the Committee suggest that certain State specific trades/business have good prospects, which hitherto have perhaps not received focus under this scheme. For instance Homestay projects in North-Eastern States which are very popular among domestic and foreign tourists or Willow Cricket bat making in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir which can have a countrywide market. Inclusion/upgradation of skills required to run such profitable businesses can be of huge benefit to the local minority population.

Hence the Committee desire to be apprised of the Ministry's view and action on this point too.

5.13 The Committee observe that allocation under the Minor Head 102 is meant for hiring professional services for inspecting the scheme "Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)" for skill development of Minorities. The data of allocation and utilization of the resources since 2015-16 shows that there was Nil utilization in 2015-16 and 2017-18. In 2016-17 and 2018-19 the utilization stood at 72% and 48.5% of RE respectively. The allocation pattern also reveals that higher allocations were made in the subsequent years vis-a-vis lower actual of the previous years. The Ministry could not provide any specific reply as to the reason for Nil utilization in 2015-16 and 2017-18. Their reply is also silent on reasons for 28% and 51.5% under utilization in 2016 and 2018-19 respectively. Despite the Committee pointing out that in 2018-19, since the actual was only 50% of BE/RE, still in 2019-20, double the amount of actual were allotted, the Ministry straightaway denied the same. As this head has virtually remained activity-less, perhaps, due to inaction on the part of the Ministry to hire professionals for inspection of the scheme, this scheme has failed to identify bottlenecks and hence has remained impact-deficient for minorities.

It is amply clear to the Committee that the Ministry could not impart due diligence for assessing the requirement of funds and spending the allocated resources even at RE stage. This exhibits lack of professionalism and casual attitude on the part of the Ministry in allocating and spending the funds. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to fix responsibility on the officials who were incharge of this head for delayed decisions, if any. The Ministry should ensure that the assessment of fund requirement may be done with due seriousness to avoid surrendering of funds year after year. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the measures taken to abate the practice of surrendering funds.

CHAPTER-VI

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKARAM (PMJVK)

6.1 Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) earlier known as Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme identified as Core of the Core schemes under National Development Agenda by the NITI Aayog. The MsDP Scheme was launched in 2008-09 with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) for improving the quality of life of the people in these areas. The MsDP scheme was restructured in May 2018 for continuation during the remaining period of the 14th Finance Commission i.e. upto 2019-20 as PMJVK.

6.2 Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 1300 identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) across the country. The objective of the scheme is to create socio-economic infrastructure as well as basic amenities in the MCA for uplifting the quality of the life of the minorities in the MCAs.. The thrust areas of the scheme is education, health and skill development for which allocation of at least 80% of resources has been made. Further, the scheme provides for use of 30-40 % of resources for women centric projects.

6.3 The Committee found that Projects are implemented on a fund sharing arrangement between the Centre and the State Govt./UT Admn. in the ratio of 60:40 for all States, and 90:10 for North Eastern States and Hilly States/UTs (J&K, Ladhak, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand) & UTs with Legislation and 100% for UTs without Legislation. Proposals received from Central/State Universities/CPSEs are supported 100%. The Central Govt. releases funds in two instalments of 50% each (three instalments in case of innovative projects, 30%, 30% and 40%). The second and subsequent installment is released on utilization of the previous installments and release of corresponding share by State/UTs.

6.4 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and AE under the scheme :

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	AE
	A	B	C
2017-18	1200.00	1200.00	1197.70
2018-19	1319.99	1319.99	1156.07
2019-20	1470.00	1588.86	928.31 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	1600.00		-

6.5 With regard to the activities covered under this scheme and allocation thereon each of the activities in the last financial year, the Ministry in their written reply informed as under:

"The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) earlier known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme(MsDP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, in identified Minority Concentration Areas(MCA) of the country with the objective of developing socio-economic assets and basic amenities in the area.

Projects related to construction of infrastructure for education, health and skill sectors are accorded priority. Besides, minimum 33-40% of the resources are earmarked for creation of assets/facilities for women/girls.

During 2018-19, the value of projects approved in the priority sectors are as under:-

S.No.	Sector	Type of projects	Value of Central Share approved. in ₹ crore
1	Education	Degree Colleges, new Schools, Residential Schools, Hostels, Additional Class Rooms, Teaching aids etc	855.61
2	Health	Hospital buildings, Health Centres, AnganwadiCentresetc	68.48
3	Skill	Industrial Training Institute, Polytechnic, Huner Hubs, Skill Centre etc	164.25
4	Women Centric Projects	Women related projects in education, health & skill sectors like Women/Girls Hostels, Women ITIs, Girls Residential Schools, Girls Schools & Colleges, Women Polytechnic, Working Women Hostels etc.	258.09

6.6 The Empowered Committee on PMJVK while approving the projects accords priority to projects of education, skill and health sectors. Projects related to construction of facilities for Women/Girls viz. Women/Girls Hostels, Women ITIs, Girls Residential Schools, Girls Schools & Colleges, Women Polytechnic, Working Women Hostels are also given priority as per scheme provisions.

6.7 BE for the year 2019-20 at ₹1470.00 crore was enhanced to ₹ 1588.86 crore at RE stage while the AE was ₹ 928.31 crore i.e. 58.43% upto 31.12.2019. Responding to

a query on the reasons for enhancing budget at RE stage even after under utilization of ₹ 660.55 crore, the Ministry stated as under:

"During the current year 2019-20, the Ministry has regularly pursued with all the States/UTs covered under PMJVK, including the newly added States/UTs, for submission of proposals for their respective identified MCAs. This process was initiated with meeting by the Secretary, Minority Affairs with the Principal Secretaries of the States/UTs at Vigyan Bhavan on 17.07.2019 wherein the participants were informed about the PMJVK scheme in detail and were requested to submit large/big proposals which would have substantial impact in the Minority Concentration Areas, such as new schools, hostels, residential schools, colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics, Working Women Hostels, Health related projects, Skill Development projects, Common Service Centres etc.

The Ministry also followed up with the concerned States/UTs through regular correspondences and telephonic contact. Ministry in the recent past also conducted review meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (MA) at Indore, Mumbai and Bhopal where the State Govt. officers were requested for submission of proposals for their respective MCAs.

Due to the concerted efforts of the Ministry, proposals were received from the States/UTs of West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Manipur, Puducherry, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. In addition, Ministry has also received proposals from Central Organisations namely Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Aligarh Muslim University, Central University of Kerala and Secunderabad Cantonment Board. The projects received were placed before the Empowered Committee and projects to the tune of around ₹ 2600 crore having Central Share of ₹1948.48 crore have been sanctioned and funds to the tune of ₹ 988.77 crore has been released so far. Further, release of ₹ 163 crores is under process. Thus by 20.02.2020, expenditure to the tune of ₹ 1148.77 crore would be incurred against allocation of ₹ 1588.86 crore for year 2019-20.

Further, proposals received from Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and States of West Bengal, Goa, Kerala, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya are under process and will be considered in February 2020 itself.

The Ministry is also pursuing vigorously with the States/UTs for liquidation of pending UCs. It is expected that a substantial amount of UCs will be liquidated and corresponding amount will be released to States/UTs as subsequent installments.

In addition, fresh proposal/additional proposals are also expected from States of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Manipur, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh etc during the current financial year itself.

Considering the above, the increase in the budgetary allocation for PMJVK for year 2019-20 at RE stage may be considered as justified."

6.8 With regard to the specific reasons for enhancing budget allocation of ₹1600.00 crore for the financial year 2020-21, the Ministry informed as under:

"Consequent to implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karaykram(PMJVK) in May 2018, the area coverage has increased substantially. Under the PMJVK 109 Minority Concentration District Headquarters (MCD Hqr) have been newly added, the number of Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs) increased from 710 to 870 and Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) increased from 66 to 321. Overall, the MCAs have increased to 1300 spread over 33 States/UTs.

Minority Concentration Areas from five states have been added in the restructured PMJVK scheme. These states are Goa, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh. Proposals have started to come from these States/UT for consideration of the Empowered Committee during 2019-20. The trend would continue in the year 2020-21.

Under MsDP, only States/UTs were authorized to submit projects. In the restructured PMJVK, in addition to the State Govt./UT Admns, Central Government Departments/Organizations, Central Public Sector Enterprises/Undertakings, Central/State Universities and Armed Police Forces have also been allowed to submit their proposals to the Ministry for implementation of projects in identified backward Minority Concentration Areas. Proposals have been received from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samithi, Central University of Kerala, Aligarh Muslim University and Secunderabad Cantonment Board during the year 2019-20. Proposals from these organisations and similar other organisations are expected in 2010-21.

Ministry has already approved substantial value of projects since the inception of the scheme i.e. 2008-09. It is also expected that the States/UTs will submit their claims for subsequent instalment of Central Share for the project previously approved.

Ministry has also taken steps for convergence of the PMJVK scheme with other Centrally Sponsored Schemes like for new Schools, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, for health related projects with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Anganwadi Centres with the Ministry of Women & Child Development etc. The convergence of PMJVK with schemes of the Line Ministries/Deptts would incentivize interventions by the State Govt/UT Administrations in areas where there is substantial minority population as the Central share of the projects in such areas would be borne by the MoMA and the recurring cost by the concerned line Ministries/Departments.

Considering the requirement of the enhanced MCAs and also the committed liability under PMJVK, increase in Budgetary Allocation for 2020-21 to ₹ 1600 has been proposed."

6.9 On steps taken by the Ministry to avoid underutilization of funds during 2020-21, the Ministry informed that following steps are being taken by them for optimum utilization of funds under PMJVK:-

- a) Prior intimation to States/UTs for submission of fresh proposals in the year 2020-21.
- b) Pursue submission of UCs for previously approved projects by the States/UTs so that subsequent releases could be made.
- c) Regular review meeting with States/UTs through Empowered Committee on PMJVK to expedite speedier implementation of projects.
- d) Convergence of the PMJVK scheme with other schemes of Government of India in priority Sectors i.e Education, Health, Skill Development and Women Centric Projects.

6.10 The Committee appreciate the Ministry for taking steps to enlarge the ambit of the PMJVK scheme by allowing Central Departments/Organizations/PSUs/Universities etc. to implement projects under the schemes as also initiation of convergence of the scheme with schemes of other Ministries to open new schools, boost health related activities and Anganwadi Centres in identified backward Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs). But at the same time the Committee would like the Ministry to give special attention towards construction of hospital buildings, Health Centres, Anganwadi Centres, Colleges and ITIs because these are the areas lagging behind under the scheme as during the year 2018-19 out of the total expenditure of ₹ 1156.07 crore only ₹ 68.48 crore have been spent on these activities. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the health, children and mother care projects must be accorded due attention as these are of paramount importance for the overall improvement in the living conditions of a minority community. They also want the Ministry to address the procedural issues which are hampering the implementation of the projects resulting in under utilisation of the allocated resources.

CHAPTER-VII

WAQF PROPERTIES

7.1 Ministry of Minority Affairs is responsible for implementation of the Waqf Act, 1995, which came into force with effect from 1st January, 1996. The Act was last amended in 2013. The Act extends to whole of India. Thirty two States/UTs have constituted Waqf Boards under this Act.

7.2 Schemes implementing by the Waqf Division are as follows:

Computerization of Records of State Waqf Boards:

The scheme is intended to help streamlining record keeping, introduce transparency, and to computerize the various functions/processes of the Waqf Boards. For this purpose, a web-based software application namely Waqf Management System of India (WAMSI) was developed by NIC for keeping the centralized database covering the following four modules viz. (i) Registration of Waqfs (ii) Mutawalli returns assessments (iii) Leasing details of properties (iv) Litigation tracking.

Strengthening of State Waqf Boards

The objective of this component is to strengthen the Waqf Boards resulting in a more transparent and accountable administration and management of their waqf properties and allow improvement in income generation & attaining self-sufficiency. Improvement in their capabilities will facilitate enhancement in their income that will reduce, and over the period of time, eliminate their dependence on outside financial support.

100% digitization of the records of Waqf Estates

7.3 During the 100 days campaign period (July 5 to Oct 15, 2019), intensive efforts were made by the Ministry through the Central Waqf Council (CWC) to engage with the State Waqf Boards (SWBs) on a daily basis. State Governments were also approached at the highest level to push the SWBs to complete the balance work of digitization in time. Given the poor capacity of most of SWBs to undertake this kind of technical work, it was a herculean task. However, with constant engagement through letters, emails, Video conferencing, meetings and personal visits, the target of digitization was achieved in time. At the end of campaign period, 3,30,141 (98.99%) records stood digitized. All SWBs except J&K have reported 100% completion.

7.4 Despite best efforts to clean up the records, 09 SWBs have reported discrepancies in the number of Waqf Estates available with them vis-à-vis the number entered in WAMSI Portal of the Ministry. Central Waqf Council which is a Statutory Body of this Ministry has been advised to take up the matter with these 09 SWBs to resolve the discrepancies in a systematic manner to avoid any controversies. In this connection, CWC has taken up with these 09 SWBs to reconcile the figure and submit the detailed report to the Council. The clarification from 09 SWBs and comments of CWC are still awaited.

Initiate GIS mapping in respect of all immovable Waqf properties:

7.5 At the end of the campaign period 28 out of 32 SWBs had already initiated the work of GIS Mapping in respect of Waqf Properties in their jurisdiction. As of now, out of 6,00,723 Waqf Properties 31,407 have been mapped. The work is going on in full swing, however, GIS Mapping work involves physical site visit for each property, and hence it takes a long time. The Ministry has the target to complete GIS Mapping of 50% of Waqf Properties by the end of FY 2019-20. 15 States are getting the GIS Mapping done by their own agencies. The remaining 13 SWBs are using services of IIT Roorkee (03), Jamia Millia Islamia (04) and Aligarh Muslim University (06).

BE for Financial Year 2019-20 is ₹ 17.50 crore and an amount of ₹ 11.83 crore has been released to CWC up to 31st December, 2019.

7.6 When the Committee desired to know State/UT wise details of number of Waqf properties registered as on date, the Ministry have furnished the following table:

S. No.	State or UT Waqf Board	Digitized Waqf Estates* CWC Reported on 10-OCT-2019	Records in WAMSI On-line System <u>REGISTRATION</u> Module					Records in WAMSI On-line System <u>RETURN</u> Module	Records in WAMSI On-line System <u>LEASING</u> Module	Records in WAMSI On-line System <u>LITIGATION</u> Module	
			Waqf Estates	Immovable Properties	GPS Survey	Photography	Movable Properties			External Cases (Hon'ble Courts)	Internal Cases (Waqf Board)
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)
1	Andaman & Nicobar UT	84	95	146							
2	Andhra Pradesh	3546	3546	6369	52	8					
3	Assam	1554	1556	1609	2	2		394	11	7	
4	Bihar (Shia)	279	279	1504	871	875	16	20		19	1
5	Bihar (Sunni)	2600	2640	5820	1642	1581	18	939	7	157	15
6	Chandigarh UT	33	33	34	21	21					
7	Chhattisgarh	794	800	2006	212	211		31		87	276
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT	23	24	26	24	23					
9	Delhi UT	1964	1964	1037	476	478					
10	Gujarat	11681	11681	21600	8	34	5417	4874		453	166
11	Haryana	12560	12628	22702	997	846			8542		1
12	Himachal Pradesh	719	1157	2563	6	6					
13	Jammu & Kashmir UT		115	1753							
14	Jharkhand	144	260	281			3				
15	Karnataka	31052	32019	54194	596	595	1801	9041	3193	872	1368
16	Kerala	10152	10152	42348	155	658		4729	1	1821	812
17	Lakshadweep UT	341	342	896	237	74		1496		7	49
18	Madhya Pradesh	14902	14902	24541	374	625	237	6178	134	606	3624
19	Maharashtra	8284	8284	20766	110	111	112	5224		7	
20	Manipur	885	885	897	402	392		4			
21	Meghalaya	61	43	58	9	9	51	56			
22	Odisha	3764	4328	74242	378	366	17	516	1	19	
23	Puducherry UT	45	45	675	70	61	254	253	90	3	
24	Punjab	24555	24973	36891	61	59			5193	35	371

25	Rajasthan	18950	18831	23705	2228	296		218			19
26	Tamil Nadu	7453	7454	53486	1	1	8605	9795	1597	549	320
27	Telangana State	32157	32157	28107	225	9			282		
28	Tripura	1899	1899	2643			62	14	1	2	
29	Uttar Pradesh (Shia)	7856	3102	12229	2293	1862					
30	Uttar Pradesh (Sunni)	123115	123127	154626	20438	15571	3			45	104
31	Uttarakhand	2074	2089	5298	2206	227		3045		238	178
32	West Bengal	6981	6981	80480			1	524	6	414	
GRAND TOTAL		330507	328491	616732	53210	45654	16597	47351	19058	5343	7304

Note:* Digitized Waqf Estates means Scanned Waqf Estate ORE Docs (Off-line Activity); ORE Docs ==> Ownership Rights Establishing Documents; CWC ==> Central Waqf Council, New Delhi; (N) ==> N Numbers added during this month;

7.7 In regard to registration of non-registered Waqf Properties during evidence the representative of the Ministry deposed before the Committee that on this they are doing their best through the Waqf Boards and as a result the number of Waqf Properties are increasing. The digitization of the records has shown that the properties of the Waqf Board have increased and all of them are to be brought to the WAMSI Portal.

7.8 The Committee note that ₹ 11.83 crore was released against BE of ₹ 17.50 crore for computerization and strengthening of Waqf Board. They further note that 328491-Waqf Estates, 616732-Immovable Properties, 53210-GPS Survey, 45654- Photography and 16597-Movable Properties etc. were registered in Waqfs Management System of India (WAMSI) an online registration module. The Committee desire to know if their GIS mapping is done too. The Committee while appreciating the Ministry for initiating the digitization of waqf properties, note that so far digitization of the registered properties only has been completed. As there could be many unregistered properties too and as all properties are susceptible for encroachment, the Committee desire that State Waqf Boards should be accordingly suggested for registration of unregistered properties too and subsequently their digitization under WAMSI to prevent encroachments.

7.9 The Committee note that for 100% digitization of the records of Waqf Estates, during 100 days campaign period (July 5 to Oct 15, 2019) intensive efforts were made by the Ministry through the Central Waqf Council (CWC) to engage with the State Waqf Boards (SWBs) on a daily basis. As several new components providing financial assistance to SWBs, have now been added in the computerization scheme, the Committee recommend the need to diligently monitor the fund outflow vis-a-vis the progress of work State-wise.

7.10 The Committee further note that despite best efforts to clean up the records, 09 SWBs have reported discrepancies in the number of Waqf Estates available with them vis-à-vis the number entered in WAMSI Portal of the Ministry. CWC has reportedly taken up with these 09 SWBs to reconcile the figure and submit the detailed report to the Council but with no outcome. The Committee desire that Ministry/CWC to pursue the matter for obtaining the clarification from 09 SWBs and examine those at the earliest.

7.11 The Committee, while commending the steps initiated by the Ministry to bring transparency in the functioning of Waqf Boards and creation of computerized data base on various activities viz registration of waqf properties, leasing details of properties, tracking of court cases, etc., note that Ministry have initiated the GIS Mapping of all immovable waqf properties across the country and aims to complete GIS Mapping of 50% of waqf properties by the end of financial year 2019-20. The Committee found that out of 6,00,723 waqf properties, only 31,407 properties have so

far been mapped and 2,68,955 properties are to be mapped by the end of March, 2020, which is an enormous task. The Committee are in doubt if the Ministry would be able to accomplish the target in the set time period. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to report the progress to them and fix realistic targets if the process does not get completed as per the set timeline and draw a roadmap as well to complete the task of GIS mapping in a time bound manner. Further, as transparency is the utmost requirement in the functioning of State Waqf Boards/Councils, the Committee feel that elections of Members should be held at specified intervals.

CHAPTER-VIII

UPGRADING SKILL AND TRAINING IN TRADITIONAL ARTS/CRAFTS FOR DEVELOPMENT (USTTAD)

8.1 Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD), a scheme launched in 2015 aims at capacity building and upgrading of the traditional skills of master crafts men and artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/ crafts of minorities; set standards of traditional skills; training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts through master craftsmen; develop national and international market linkages; and preservation of languishing Arts / crafts.

8.2 B.E., R.E. and Actual Expenditure under the scheme since 2017-18 are as follows:

(₹ in thousands)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2017-18	22.00	29.00	21.80
2018-19	30.00	50.00	31.26
2019-20	50.00	60.00	28.93 (upto 31.12.2019)
2020-21	60.00	-	-

8.3 It could be seen from the above table that since 2017-18 not only BE was hiked at RE stage but the actual fell short by ₹ 7.20 crore, ₹ 18.74crore & ₹ 31 crore in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (upto 31.12.2019) respectively. Despite large scale surrendering and the funds, higher allocations were made in subsequent year. Furnishing the reasons for such utilization of the allocated resources, the Ministry submitted as under:

“2017-18: Non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

2018-19: The target for 2017-18 and 2018-19 of 7560 trainees, were allocated together during 2018-19. Therefore, additional funds of ₹ 20.00 Crore were sought to meet the additional requirement towards release of 1st installment during 2018-19. The additional funds were received during February, 2019. However, funds to any of the newly empanelled PIAs could not be released during 2018-19 due to coming into force of election code of conduct announced by Election of India on 10.03.2019

2019-20: Expenditure as on 31.1.2020 is ₹ 29.45 Crore. This expenditure is progressively increasing. Besides, there are committed liabilities of ₹ 65.79 Crore.

Therefore, additional supplementary of ₹ 10.00 Crore has been obtained to meet some part of the committed liability during the remaining period of current financial year.”

8.4 Responding to a query as to whether the Ministry could utilize the balance of funds i.e. 51.78% of the RE, by the end of the financial year 2019-20, the Ministry replied as follows:

“Sufficient proposals are at hand for utilization of the balance funds under the USTTAD Scheme during the remaining period of the current financial year.”

8.5 In written reply to a query as to the arts/crafts covered under USTTAD and whether there are any traditional arts/crafts which got revived solely due to this scheme, the Ministry have furnished the following list of 41 trades/crafts covered under USTTAD Scheme:

SI. No.	PROPOSED TRADES	Duration of Trades/Courses
1	Ari Work	7 Months
2	Artistic Textile & Embroidery	7 Months
3	Artistic Textile Craft (Products of Traditional Looms like Makhala Shawls etc.)	7 Months
4	Bamboo & Cane	6 Months
5	Black Pottery	7 Months
6	Block Printing	6 Months
7	Bone Carving	6 Months
8	Cane & Bamboo Products	4 Months
9	Clay Scluptor	7 Months
10	Crewal Work	7 Months
11	Durries Making	7 Months
12	Gems & Jewellery	6 Months
13	Hand Printing Specialist	7 Months
14	Kalamkari Painting craft	7 Months
15	Kani Craft	7 Months
16	Kashidakari	6 Months
17	Kasuti/Kashidakari	7 Months
18	Lac Bangles & Lac Product	6 Months
19	Lac Bangles (Lahar, Kiri)	7 Months
20	Lac Work	7 Months
21	Leather Puppetry	7 Months
22	Madhubani Painting	4 Months
23	Munj Craft	6 Months
24	Phulkari	5 Months
25	Products of Traditional Looms like Makhala	7 Months

	Shawls etc.	
26	Sozni Work	7 Months
27	Surface ornamentation Techniques	7 Months
28	Traditional Hand Embroiderer (Phulkari/Embroidery/chikenkari Embroidery/Zari-Zardozi Embroidery)	7 Months
29	Traditional Embroidery	7 Months
30	Traditional Embroidery (Patti Work)	7 Months
31	Traditional Embroidery- Bengal Kantha Stitch Embroidery, Kachhi Embroidery, Zari and Zardosi & Bead work, Bengal Pata Chitra Embroidery	7 Months
32	Traditional Embroidery Chikankari	6 Months
33	Traditional Embroidery-Kuchi Namda, Kathiyawadi Tangaliya	7 Months
34	Traditional Embroidery-Natural Dyeing & Dakbanda Shaphee Lanphee	7 Months
35	Traditional Embroidery-Zardozi & Chicken Work, Batik & Block Printing	7 Months
36	Traditional Hand Embroidery	5 Months
37	Weaving	6 Months
38	Wood Carving	7 Months
39	Woodilay of Hosiarpur	7 Months
40	Zardozi Work	7 Months
41	Zari Zardosi Work	6 Months

8.6 The Ministry further informed that the above trades/crafts are languishing arts/crafts which are practiced by minority communities in India. The training for these trades/crafts is continuing.

8.7 Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) was launched in 2015 with the objective of capacity building and upgrading of the traditional skills of master craftsmen and artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of minorities, set standards of traditional skills, training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts, etc. The objective of the scheme is laudable in view of the fact that minorities play a major role in preserving some of the most precious yet dying arts and crafts as well as traditional skills, which came into existence centuries ago. However, the Committee find it disappointing that the resource allocation of utilization since 2017-18 shows that despite increase in allocation at RE stage, the actuals fell far short of enhanced REs. The shortfall in utilization vis-à-vis REs during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (till 31.12.2020) stood at ₹ 7.20 crore, ₹ 18.74 crore and ₹ 31 crore respectively. Despite surrendering of the funds in the previous years higher allocations were made in the subsequent years.

The Ministry attributed the under utilization of the funds during 2017-18 to the non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). The higher allocation for 2018-19 reportedly was due to additional requirement towards release of first instalment during 2018-19. However, the Ministry also claimed that funds were received during February 2019 i.e. 10 months after the commencement of the financial year 2018-19. Furnishing the latest expenditure figures for 2019-20 to the Committee, the Ministry have informed that as on 31 January 2020, expenditure of ₹ 29.25 crore was incurred and the expenditure is increasing progressively. The Ministry have expressed confidence about spending the remaining amount in the next two months of the financial year.

The Committee are not satisfied with the contention of the Ministry that non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals has resulted in surrendering of the funds in 2017-18. They strongly feel that there is no dearth of deserving skilled craftsmen/artisans who require assistance provided they are aware of such help available. Had the Ministry given wide publicity, organized awareness campaigns and roped in public representatives, who know the ground realities in minority, concentrated areas, non receipt of applications for the purpose would not have arisen. They accordingly recommend for taking suitable steps to improve the awareness of the existing schemes especially in minority concentrated areas.

8.8 The Committee are surprised that it almost took 10 months to receive the additional funds required for the purpose during 2018-19. As a result, funds have to be surrendered in this year also. The Committee are of the view that 10 months period is too long to receive the allocated additional funds. This implies that the Ministry of Minority Affairs may not have made enough and continuous communication with the Ministry of Finance to receive additional amount well-in-time which might have enabled them to utilize it in the same year. They, therefore, would like to be furnished with copies of the communications sent to Ministry of Finance by them as reminders alongwith their response. Also the Committee recommend that in such cases concerted efforts should be made by the Ministry by having regular correspondence/communications with the relevant authorities to get the funds already allocated well-in-time so that the same can be spent in the same year.

The reply furnished by the Ministry in response to the query of the Committee as to whether they would be able to spend 51.78% of the funds in the last quarter of the financial year shows that they would be able to spend the amount in the remaining three months of the financial year 2019-20 . The Committee , in view of the ceiling applicable (25 % of the allocated amounts) on spending in the last quarter of the financial year , would like the Ministry to apprise them as to whether any exemption was taken from the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) and if so, the details may be furnished to the Committee.

CHAPTER-IX

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

Major head-2225
Sub Major Head: 04
Minor Head: 001
Detailed Head - 01.00.16

National Commission for Minorities - Publications

9.1 The purpose of this provision is to carry out research studies sanctioned by the Commission to outside agencies for carrying out research work on topics that may be beneficial for upliftment of the minorities in view of the mandate of the Commission.

9.2 The data on the allocations and their utilization since 2015-16 is as follows:

(₹ in thousands)

YEAR	BE	RE	ACTUALS
2015-16	25,00	10,00	Not given
2016-17	21,00	70	50
2017-18	15,00	5,00	00
2018-19	10,00	5,00	00
2019-20	5,00	5,00	
2020-21	6,00		

9.3 With regard to the publications brought out by NCM, their frequency, etc., the ministry submitted the following:

"The funds under the budgetary head have been utilised for publication of booklets on Central Government schemes related to minorities which are being used for generating awareness by Chairman/Members of the Commission during their field visits/Jan Sabhas."

A statement showing details of expenditure under the head of "Publications" is given below:

(Expenditure in ₹)

Year of publication	Expenditure	Frequency	Receiving agencies/institutions	If stopped the year of its last publishing	Remarks
2015-16	-	-	-	-	
2016-17	50,000	-		-	The expenditure was incurred in June, 2016 towards pending payment of Research study commissioned in 2013-14 on "Potential for Education in Muslim orphanages". The study was conducted by Social Economic and Educational Development Society, New Delhi.
2017-18	-	-	-	-	
2018-19	-	-	-	-	
2019-20	31,500		-	The booklet on Central govt. schemes for minorities was first published in Urdu language in 2019. It is intended to continue the activity in succeeding years.	The expenditure was incurred for publishing of booklets on Central Govt. schemes for minorities in Urdu language which are used for generating awareness by Chairman/Members during their field visits/Jan Sabhas.
	2,30,000 (Estimated)				Work for printing of Annual Report 2018-19 of the Commission has been completed and the payment will be released in the current financial year.

9.4 The Ministry submitted that 'no funds were utilized under the head of 'Publications' during 2015-16'. They further stated that even in 2017-18 also, no funds could be spent as the 'Research proposals initiated could not be fructified during the due to procedural short comings.

9.5 On the utilization of the funds during 2018-19, the Ministry submitted that it was utilized for bringing out a booklet on Central Government schemes related to minorities in Urdu language.

9.6 The allocation under the head since 2015-16 shows that not only BE was revised downwards at RE stage but also the actuals fell far short of RE. Further, despite spending very meager amounts in previous years, far higher amounts were allocated in the subsequent years. Furnishing the reasons for such allocations and utilization of the funds, Ministry stated as follows:

“Research works are undertaken after detailed scrutiny in the Commission and Ministry of Minority Affairs. On certain occasions, the proposals have not materialised for various reasons. The provision was kept in the successive years anticipating commissioning of new research studies.”

9.7 With regard to the internal audit process of the allocation and utilization at ministerial level, the ministry submitted that:

“The internal audit is conducted by the Audit party under the control of Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the last such internal audit was done in April, 2018.”

9.8 The Committee note that the provision is meant for carrying out research work on topics beneficial for the upliftment of the Minorities and also for preparing awareness generation material such as booklets on Central Government Schemes related to minorities in Urdu language.

During three years *i.e.* 2015-16, 2017-18 and 2018-19 not even a single rupee was spent for the purpose. Despite NIL /low actuals, higher amounts at BE stage was made in the subsequent years since 2015-16 showing scant regard for financial prudence. The Ministry's reply is silent as to the reasons for not spending even a single rupee during 2015-16. As the research proposals initiated could not be fructified due to procedural shortcomings, Ministry stated that entire amount had to be surrendered during the financial year 2017-18. Further the Ministry has not adduced any reasons for not spending even a single rupee during 2018-19 too. However, for the year 2019-20, they stated that funds were utilized for publication of booklet on Central Government Schemes related to Minorities in Urdu language.

The Committee note that though the amounts are low, the purpose of the allocation is for an important cause *i.e.* generation of awareness creating material for various schemes of the Ministry. They are of the view that the Ministry have not taken the fund utilisation made for the purpose, with due seriousness that it deserves, as they observed elsewhere in the report that in many schemes funds remained un/under utilised for want of proposals from the targeted beneficiaries which, in turn, is due to lack of awareness of the existence of the schemes. Had the Committee spent the resources for the intended purposes, the extent of awareness generation would have been different at much higher levels resulting in receipt of the proposals from the stakeholders. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable steps be taken to identify areas, which need research, for upliftment of minorities, in the field of education, healthcare, welfare, preservation of art/craft/traditional skills etc. and ensure the utilisation of the funds for this important purpose.

Major head-2225
Sub Major Head:04
Minor Head:001
Detailed Head -02.00.13

National Commission for Minorities - Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities Office Expenses

9.9 The Constitution of India under Article 350B (1) and (2) provides for Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, formally designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India (CLM). The basic function of the CLM is to investigate all matters relating to safeguards provided for linguistic minorities and to report to the President of India upon these matters at such intervals as the President may direct. The President causes all such Reports to be laid before each House of Parliament. Besides, the CLM may prepare Reports on vital issues and submit these to the Union Government and to the Chief Ministers/ Lt. Governors of the States/ UTs concerned. CLM Office has 3 Regional Offices (Chennai, Kolkata & Belagavi). It includes establishment expenses of HQ and 3 Regional offices in different cities across India.

9.10 The allocations and their utilisation since 2015-16 is as under:

(₹ in thousands)

YEAR	BE	RE	ACTUALS
2015-16	40,00	29,70	29,40
2016-17	40,20	30,00	17,20
2017-18	40,00	45,00	19,68
2018-19	35,00	15,00	10,04
2019-20	27,40	27,40	
2020-21	45,00		

9.11 BE for 2016-17 was reduced at RE stage. However, the actuals are 57% only of the reduced RE. Furnishing the reasons for surrendering 43% of the allocation made at RE, the, the Ministry submitted as follows:

“Budgetary provision was made for renovation of the office of CLM at 14/11 & 15/11, Jamnagar, New Delhi. However, the renovation could not be carried out.”

9.12 Despite under utilisation of the 43 % of the allocations made during 2016-17, BE for 2017-18 was more than two times of the actuals incurred during 2016-17. Further,

actuals in the same year were 43% of the RE of ₹.45 lakh, resulting in surrendering of 57% of the allocations at RE stage. In written reply to as to the reasons for such imprudent allocation and utilisation of the funds ,the Ministry submitted that :

“The reduction in the expenditure of the Office of the CLM, is owing to the skeletal staff strength and retirement of staff in the past 3 years, and also because new recruitment could not be done for vacant posts”.

9.13 A higher amount of ₹ 35 lakh was provided for 2018-19 vis-a- vis actual (₹ 19.68 Lakh) of 2017-18. However, BE was reduced to ₹ 15 lakh only at RE stage. However, out of reduced RE, 2/3 only could be spent surrendering 1/3 of the allocations. Further, BE for 2019 -20 is more than 2.5 times of actuals of 2018-19. Furnishing the reasons for such allocation and spending, the Ministry submitted as follows:

“Provision was made in anticipation of increased activities such as filling up of vacant posts, renovation of the office premises, and replacement of office equipment and furniture etc.”

9.14 The allocation and utilization pattern of the funds allocated for the head 'Office Expenses' of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities reveals that the Ministry could spend 57%, 43% and 70% of the allocations made at RE stage during 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively. Further, despite incurring far lower actual, far higher budgetary allocations were made in the subsequent years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. The Ministry's reply to surrendering of 43% of RE during 2016-17 merely stated that the funds could not be utilized without furnishing any specific reason for doing so.

On the basis for allocating higher amounts for 2017-18 especially in the light of surrendering of 43 % of the RE allocation in 2016-17 but utilizing 57% only of RE allocations during 2017-18, the Ministry's reply, while remaining silent on the basis of higher allocations for 2017-18, attributed the under utilization to skeletal staff strength, retirement of staff in the past three years and absence of recruitment for filling up the vacant posts. Similarly, on the basis for higher allocations at BE 2019-20 *vis-a-vis* far lower actuals of 2018-19, it was informed that the allocation was made in anticipation of increased activities such as filling up of posts , renovation of office premises , replacement of office equipment ,etc.

The Committee are of the view that the Ministry's allocation and spending pattern appears under this head to be very casual without taking into consideration relevant factors before allocating the funds which could not be spent fully for the last five years. The Committee are of the opinion that the factors attributed for lower utilizations include staff strength, retirements, recruitment delays are well known as data regarding retirements, vacancies, and time taken to recruit, etc is available with them. However, their scant regard for spending resources resulted in surrendering of the substantial amount of funds for the last five years. They, therefore recommend suitable steps be taken to ensure proper assessment of the requirement, review of the same at RE stage and take appropriate measures to use the funds allocated at least at RE stage.

Major head-2225
Sub Major Head:04
Minor Head:001
Detailed Head -02.00.16

National Commission for Minorities - Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities: Publications

9.15 The data on allocations and spending of the funds for the head 'Publications' since 2015-16 are as follows:

(₹ in thousands)

YEAR	BE	RE	ACTUALS
2015-16	9,00	7,00	5,05
2016-17	9,00	1,50	1,07
2017-18	6,00	6,00	90
2018-19	4.90	4,90	00
2019-20	5,00	5,00	0.354
2020-21	5,70		

9.16 Actuals incurred year after year since 2015-16 are far lower than not only BEs but also in some years sharply reduced REs. Despite meager utilisation of allocated resources even compared to reduced RE, far higher amounts were given for the purpose. Further no amount could be spent during 2018-19. The Ministry furnished the following reasons for low / nil utilization as follows:

“The reports of CLM are under preparation, and provision was accordingly made for the same.”

9.17 In written reply to a query as to whether this allocation is serving the intended purpose, the Ministry submitted as follows:

- (i) It would be necessary to keep the allocation to meet the expenditure on account of printing of reports of CLM.
- (ii) With regard to the actual incurred 2019-20, the Ministry submitted that the actual for 2019-20 till date are ₹ 35,423/-.
- (iii) The allocation made for the Head Publication is meant for preparation and printing of reports of special officer for linguistic minorities.

- (iv) The utilization of the resources made at RE stage since 2015-16 stood at 72%, 71%, 71%, 15%, 100% and 7% only during 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

9.18 The Committee note that since 2015-16, despite lower actuals vis-à-vis RE, allocation for higher funds were allocated in the specific years. The Ministry attributed this under/Nil utilization to the reports of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) which are under preparation. The Committee are constrained to note that even the small amounts could not be utilized for the last five years on the pretext of the reports under preparation. The Committee would like to be appraised as to the specific reports which are under preparation and the reasons as to why it took almost 6 years to prepare the reports.

NEW DELHI;

13 March, 2020
23 Phalguna, 1941 (Saka)

SMT. RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2020

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Y. Devendrappa
4. Shri Abdul Khaleque
5. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
6. Smt. Geeta Kora
7. Shri Vijay Kumar
8. Shri Prince Raj
9. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
11. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
12. Shri P. L. Punia
13. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Shri Pramod Kumar Das	Secretary
2.	Shri Siddharth Kishore Dev Verman	Additional Secretary
3.	Ms. Niva Singh	Joint Secretary
4.	Ms. Nigar Fatima Husain	Joint Secretary
5.	Ms. Rajnesh Jain	Deputy Director General
6.	Shri Rizwanur Rahman	Secretary (MAEF)
7.	Dr. S.A.S. Naqvi	Secretary, Central Waqf Council
8.	Shri Mohd. Shahbaz Ali	CMD, NMDFC
9.	Shri Daniel E. Richards	Joint Secretary (NCM)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2019-20) pertaining to their Ministry. Referring to the Directions by the Speaker to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential' till a Report on the subject is presented to the House, the Chairperson asked the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs to introduce his team and give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee about overall performance of the Ministry, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with the help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the sitting relating to Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry are as follows:-

- (i) Physical and Financial performance of the flagship schemes of the Ministry. Allocation of funds under flagship schemes for the year 2019-20 and its utilization.
- (ii) Need to enhance the scholarship amount at all levels.
- (iii) Financial assistance to candidates who clear Prelims of UPSC, State PSCs, SSC exams under the scheme of Nai Udaan.

- (iv) To encourage maximum girl students of notified minority communities for entrance to professional/technical courses and competitive exams of Group A/B/C services under - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme.
- (v) Need for a provision of mechanism through which necessary help could be provided to the trainees desirous of starting their own venture under the Scheme of Seekho aur Kamao.
- (vi) Need for proper implementation of the projects undertaken in education, health and skill development for bridging infrastructural gap under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram.
- (vii) Need for efficient monitoring of Waqf properties.
- (viii) Proposal for setting up Universities in the Waqf land.
- (ix) Need to review the Jio Parsi Scheme, bring more people in its ambit, monitor it efficiently so as to strengthen and increase the Parsi population.

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson then directed the Ministry to furnish written replies to all the queries raised by Members for early finalization of the Report.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON FRIDAY, 13TH MARCH, 2020.

The Committee met from 1000 hrs. to 1045 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

- 2 Smt. Sangeeta Azad
- 3 Shri Y. Devendrappa
- 4 Smt. Maneka sanjay Gandhi
- 5 Shri Abdul Khaleque
- 6 Smt. Geeta Kora
- 7 Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
- 8 Shri Vijay Kumar
9. Shri Akshaibar Lal
- 10 Shri Arjun Singh
- 11 Smt. Supriya Sule
- 12 Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

- 13 Shri N. Chandrasegharan
- 14 Smt. Wansuk Syiem
- 15 Shri. Ramkumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Srinivasulu Gunda - Director

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para	Observations/Recommendations
1.	2.11	<p>The Committee note that out of total budgetary allocation of ₹ 4700.00 crore during the year 2019-20, the actual expenditure till 18.02.2020 is ₹ 2336.00 crore which is around 49.70% of the BE/RE and the remaining 50.30% of BE/RE funds will be required to be spent by the Ministry by 31.03.2020. The Ministry in their written submission accepted that the booking of expenditure is low till end of December, 2019. As the Committee have been examining the DFG of the Ministry in the past also, they note that this has been the pace in the previous years too. The Ministry have attributed this uneven/inconsistent expenditure pattern to their two important schemes i.e. Scholarships and Prime Minister Jan Vikas Programme (PMJVK) which account for a large share of nearly 80% of funds i.e. about ₹ 3740 crore out of ₹ 4700 crore. Reportedly, the releases under Scholarship schemes are stated to have started and expected to be completed by March, 2020. Secondly a number of projects under PMJVK have been sanctioned recently and proposals for release are being received and accordingly the Ministry have tried to convince the Committee that hopefully the entire allocation would be utilized.</p>
2.	2.12	<p>The Committee, however observe that such large percentage of spending in the final quarter of the financial year goes against the prescribed limit of spending i.e. 25% of BE in the final quarter of the year. Even the annual expenditure plan drawn for 2020-21 by the Ministry also shows that 39.91% of funds would be utilized in the last quarter. The Committee, therefore, want the Ministry to apprise them as to whether the Ministry has already sought exemption from the Department of Expenditure and the response thereon and other details in this case. The Committee also note that due to non-receipt and receipt of inadequate & viable proposals from State/UTs, amounts allocated could not be spent fully. They, therefore, suggest that the Officers may be delegated the responsibility of personally visiting those States with large Minority Concentration Areas, which require hand holding to prepare proper proposals. If need be, the help of local representatives can also be sought to pursue the issue with State Authorities concerned.</p>

3.	2.13	<p>The Committee recommend the Ministry to review the status of fund utilization by States at regular intervals and vigorously pursue the slow performing States to utilize the funds. For this, a select team of officers at the Headquarters may be given the task of physically monitoring the implementation of various schemes periodically by visiting some of the most challenging areas as well as accountability be fixed on the officers responsible for any avoidable delays in scrutinizing proposals/sanctioning funds so that large chunk of funds does not remain unutilized till the fag end of the financial year. The Committee believe this will go a long way in ensuring the utilisation of the funds in the desired manner and prevent the under utilisation from becoming a regular affair.</p>
4.	2.14	<p>The Committee recall that few years back, Parliamentary Constituency Monitoring Committees on Road Safety were constituted at district level by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways for better road safety under the chairmanship of concerned MPs. As the local public representatives, MPs/MLAs, are well versed with the ground realities of their constituencies and their feedback could be of immense use in effective implementation of various welfare schemes for Minorities, the Committee feel that the Ministry can also explore setting up of such Parliamentary Constituency Level Monitoring Committees to put to use the experience of the public representatives in design, delivery, monitoring and implementation of welfare schemes for Minorities. The Committee are also of the view that the experience of the local public representatives may come in handy in pursuing the issue of timely submission of UCs and proposals from State Governments, especially from North Eastern Region where this Ministry has not able to bring all Governments on board for their schemes, despite prioritising it. Had the Ministry brought such issues to the notice of the local public representatives from NE States, such issues could have been resolved obviating the need for surrendering of the funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend, the Ministry to consider setting up such Parliamentary Constituency Level Monitoring Committee and also ensure the involvement of the MPs of that constituency for monitoring and effectively implementation of various programmes/schemes for the welfare of the Minorities.</p>
5.	3.21	<p>The Committee, while appreciating the Ministry for utilizing the entire amount and, in fact, in excess of the allocation for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme in 2017-18,</p>

		note underutilization in subsequent years, i.e. in 2018-19 and in 2019-20, when 82.35% of RE remained unspent as on 31.12.2019.
6.	3.22	The Committee observe that under Post-Matric Scholarship scheme, in 2017-18 and 2018-19 there was under utilization of 15% and 29% respectively of the allocation made for the scheme at RE stage. The BE for the purpose at ₹ 496.00 crore for the year 2019-20 was reduced to ₹ 482.66 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure incurred is ₹ 79.78 (upto 31.12.2019), which is just 16.55% of RE, requiring the Ministry to spend the remaining 83.45% in the last quarter of the financial year.
7.	3.23	The Committee note that Merit-cum Means (McM) Scholarship is awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses by the students of Minority Communities in the institutions recognized by appropriate authority. Under the scheme every year 60,000 fresh scholarships are awarded in addition to the renewals. The budgetary allocation of ₹ 522 crore for the year 2018-19 was revised downwards to ₹ 402 crore at RE stage. However, the actual amount spent till 31.12.2019 was reportedly ₹ 261.17 crore i.e. 65% of the RE amount. The Ministry attributed this under utilization to (i) rejection of their proposal for revision of scholarship w.e.f. 2018-19 by Cabinet Committee and Economic Affairs (CCEA); and, (ii) de-duplication, revalidation by States/UTs and other allied processes resulting in rejection of 30,570 applications. The Ministry, however, subsequently informed the Committee that so far ₹ 315.94 crore are spent and disbursement of scholarships to rest of the applicants continues in 2019-20. In this background, the Committee fail to understand such a large number of doubtful applications being rejected despite pre-verification by the Institutes as well as the domicile State Government of the applicant. As there are several fraud institutes/universities active in the field of education in various States/UTs, all the State/UT Governments should be asked to verify fake institutes/universities from UGC & AICTE websites and the local educational departments, before recommending the same. The Ministry is also expected to be well-aware of the accreditation process of educational institutions on all India level, hence Committee hope that they also verify such cases and should reject these without them being revalidated/rejected by the State/UT Governments. Such an action would serve the desired purpose of preventive

		action against fake applications and saving time to speed up processing of applications form valid and deserving candidates.
8.	3.24	The Committee are of the view that verification and validation of the applicants/ beneficiaries in any scholarship scheme or for that matter in any other welfare schemes, is an integral part of the scheme to eliminate unscrupulous and ineligible candidates. This aspect, the Committee are of the view, should have been taken into consideration at least at RE allocation which generally takes place in the month of September / October. Further, they are also of the view that surrendering of the funds due to delay in verification and validation checks might have delayed the payment of scholarships to the eligible/genuine candidates for no fault of theirs. The Committee, therefore recommend that disbursement of the amounts under the scheme may be streamlined with specific deadlines at each level of verification and validation of the claims by the applicants ensuring disbursement of the scholarships to the eligible applicants in the same year. Also, in order to give incentive to girl students, the Committee desire that instead of surrendering of funds, scholarships can be disbursed to girl students by relaxing marks percentage norms, if any, for the girl students, by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Committee desire that the Ministry may advise them suitably since girl students suffer the most if their parents are not in a position to pay their fee.
9.	3.25	The Committee also want the Ministry to furnish the data on BE, RE, actuals, the total number of applications received for scholarships, the number of applications rejected, the number of students actually given the scholarship for the last five years (year wise) in a tabular format, as the scheme is very significant for minority communities some of which are yet to come at par with other communities in the education field.
10.	3.26	From the information furnished to them, the Committee observe that only 18% of the funds allocated at RE stage for the purpose was utilized during 2019-20 (till the end of December 2019) leaving the remaining 82% of the funds for spending in the last three months of the financial year. This figure later improved to 47% till February, 2020, which, however, is still far above the prescribed ceiling i.e. 25% of the total funds allocated for spending in the last quarter of the financial year. The Committee were given to understand that the timelines under the scholarship scheme are designed in a manner

		<p>due to which expenditure starts in the third quarter of a given financial year only and major expenditure happens in third and fourth quarter of the financial year. The reply, however, is silent as to whether the Ministry has obtained necessary exemption from the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) for incurring major expenditure in the third and fourth quarters of the financial year. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to furnish copies of such exemption obtained from Ministry of Finance, if any. Also the academic calendars may be studied thoroughly to see whether the timelines could be advanced under the Scheme. The Committee recommend that this exercise may be undertaken this year and comments may be furnished thereafter.</p>
11.	4.7	<p>The Committee note that the objective of the scheme is to enhance the skills and knowledge of the students and candidates of minority communities to get employment in Government Sector/Public Sector, admission in professional and technical courses in reputed institutions at under-graduate and post-graduate levels.</p>
12.	4.8	<p>The budget allocation and utilization during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (upto 31.12.2019) stood at 95%, 60.2% and 24.8% respectively. The Ministry attributed lower fund utilization due to non-receipt of proposals from Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), as PIAs faced problems in implementation of Expenditure Advances and Transfer module of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) which has been introduced for the first time in 2018-19 and non-conducting of exams for Group B/C services/results which are not be declared. This, the Committee note, made them unable to submit the Utilization Certificate of the coaching program. The Committee were also informed that that first installment of money for 2019-20 will be released only after settlement of 2nd installment of the year 2018-19.</p>
13.	4.9	<p>The under utilization during 2019-20 (upto 31.12.2019) was attributed to the fact that there was delay in submission of various documents including UCs, use of Expenditure Advances and Transfer module, prescribed outcome of coaching programme, satisfactory report of State Governments/National Productivity Council (NPC) etc., which the Ministry claimed took considerable time in examining the proposals and according the approvals. The Committee note as on 17 February 2020, ₹ 11.31 crore was incurred under the scheme and a number of proposals for release of grant-in-aid have</p>

		been received. In order to make expenditure beyond 25% in the last quarter, a request to relax the expenditure ceiling have been sent to Ministry of Finance.
14.	4.10	The Committee are of the view that had the Ministry communicated/consulted the PIAs on the need for completing the formalities, at regular intervals, the need for surrendering of the funds would not have arisen. The Committee therefore, recommend that constant communication with the PIAs impressing upon the need for completing the formalities should be followed in future to ensure utilization of the allocated funds fully. The Committee also would like the Ministry to apprise as to whether the exemption from the Ministry of finance has been obtained for incurring the expenditure more than the prescribed amount in the last quarter of the financial year was received or not.
15.	5.11	“Seekho aur Kamao” scheme was started in 2013 and aims to upgrade the skills of minority youths in various modern/technical skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential which can give them suitable employment or make self employed. The Committee note that during 2018-19 out of RE of ₹ 250 crore, actuals amounted to ₹ 175.73 crore only resulting in surrendering of ₹ 74.27 crore i.e. 29.71 % of RE. Similarly, during 2019-20 (up to 31.12.2019) the actual incurred stood at ₹ 122.23 crore representing 49% only of the RE allocation. The Committee observe that Ministry has not furnished any specific reasons for surrendering 30% of the allocated funds at RE stage in the year 2018-19. The Ministry while furnishing clarification as to how they would spend the remaining amount of ₹ 128 crore in the last quarter of the financial year (2019-20), submitted that outstanding claims for ongoing/ completed projects are expected to be received during the remaining months of 2019-2020. The Committee, as mentioned elsewhere in the report, note that spending more than 25% of the allocations in the last quarter of the financial year violates the relevant rules issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. They would like to be informed of whether the Ministry have taken the required exemption from the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for incurring the amounts in excess of prescribed ceiling in the final quarter of the financial year. The Committee also believe that the number of beneficiaries trained remaining lower than the number of beneficiaries allocated for the scheme is due to under utilization of the resources.

16.	5.12	<p>The Committee desire the Ministry to furnish (i) the data on BE,RE and actual from 2013-14 to 2016-17(year wise) ; (ii) the number of beneficiaries trained, employed, self employed since the inception of the scheme – separately and year wise; and, (iii) note on the mechanism to monitor the employment status of the beneficiaries. At the same time the Committee suggest that certain State specific trades/business have good prospects, which hitherto have perhaps not received focus under this scheme. For instance Homestay projects in North-Eastern States which are very popular among domestic and foreign tourists or Willow Cricket bat making in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir which can have a countrywide market. Inclusion/upgradation of skills required to run such profitable businesses can be of huge benefit to the local minority population. Hence the Committee desire to be apprised of the Ministry’s view and action on this point too.</p>
17.	5.13	<p>The Committee observe that allocation under the Minor Head 102 is meant for hiring professional services for inspecting the scheme “Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)” for skill development of Minorities. The data of allocation and utilization of the resources since 2015-16 shows that there was Nil utilization in 2015-16 and 2017-18. In 2016-17 and 2018-19 the utilization stood at 72% and 48.5% of RE respectively. The allocation pattern also reveals that higher allocations were made in the subsequent years vis-a-vis lower actual of the previous years. The Ministry could not provide any specific reply as to the reason for Nil utilization in 2015-16 and 2017-18. Their reply is also silent on reasons for 28% and 51.5% under utilization in 2016 and 2018-19 respectively. Despite the Committee pointing out that in 2018-19, since the actual was only 50% of BE/RE, still in 2019-20, double the amount of actual were allotted, the Ministry straightaway denied the same. As this head has virtually remained activity-less, perhaps, due to inaction on the part of the Ministry to hire professionals for inspection of the scheme, this scheme has failed to identify bottlenecks and hence has remained impact-deficient for minorities.</p> <p>It is amply clear to the Committee that the Ministry could not impart due diligence for assessing the requirement of funds and spending the allocated resources even at RE stage. This exhibits lack of professionalism and casual attitude on the part of the Ministry in allocating and spending the funds. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to fix responsibility on the officials who were incharge of this</p>

		<p>head for delayed decisions, if any. The Ministry should ensure that the assessment of fund requirement may be done with due seriousness to avoid surrendering of funds year after year. The Committee would also like to be appraised of the measures taken to abate the practice of surrendering funds.</p>
18.	6.10	<p>The Committee appreciate the Ministry for taking steps to enlarge the ambit of the PMJVK scheme by allowing Central Departments/Organizations/ PSUs/Universities etc. to implement projects under the schemes as also initiation of convergence of the scheme with schemes of other Ministries to open new schools, boost health related activities and Anganwadi Centres in identified backward Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs). But at the same time the Committee would like the Ministry to give special attention towards construction of hospital buildings, Health Centres, Anganwadi Centres, Colleges and ITIs because these are the areas lagging behind under the scheme as during the year 2018-19 out of the total expenditure of ₹ 1156.07 crore only ₹ 68.48 crore have been spent on these activities. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the health, children and mother care projects must be accorded due attention as these are of paramount importance for the overall improvement in the living conditions of a minority community. They also want the Ministry to address the procedural issues which are hampering the implementation of the projects resulting in under utilisation of the allocated resources.</p>
18.	7.8	<p>The Committee note that ₹ 11.83 crore was released against BE of ₹ 17.50 crore for computerization and strengthening of Waqf Board. They further note that 328491-Waqf Estates, 616732-Immovable Properties, 53210-GPS Survey, 45654- Photography and 16597-Movable Properties etc. were registered in Waqfs Management System of India (WAMSI) an online registration module. The Committee desire to know if their GIS mapping is done too. The Committee while appreciating the Ministry for initiating the digitization of waqf properties, note that so far digitization of the registered properties only has been completed. As there could be many unregistered properties too and as all properties are susceptible for encroachment, the Committee desire that State Waqf Boards should be accordingly suggested for registration of unregistered properties too and subsequently their digitization under WAMSI to prevent encroachments.</p>

19.	7.9	The Committee note that for 100% digitization of the records of Waqf Estates, during 100 days campaign period (July 5 to Oct 15, 2019) intensive efforts were made by the Ministry through the Central Waqf Council (CWC) to engage with the State Waqf Boards (SWBs) on a daily basis. As several new components providing financial assistance to SWBs, have now been added in the computerization scheme, the Committee recommend the need to diligently monitor the fund outflow vis-a-vis the progress of work State-wise.
20.	7.10	The Committee further note that despite best efforts to clean up the records, 09 SWBs have reported discrepancies in the number of Waqf Estates available with them vis-à-vis the number entered in WAMSI Portal of the Ministry. CWC has reportedly taken up with these 09 SWBs to reconcile the figure and submit the detailed report to the Council but with no outcome. The Committee desire that Ministry/CWC to pursue the matter for obtaining the clarification from 09 SWBs and examine those at the earliest.
21.	7.11	The Committee, while commending the steps initiated by the Ministry to bring transparency in the functioning of Waqf Boards and creation of computerized data base on various activities viz registration of waqf properties, leasing details of properties, tracking of court cases, etc., note that Ministry have initiated the GIS Mapping of all immovable waqf properties across the country and aims to complete GIS Mapping of 50% of waqf properties by the end of financial year 2019-20. The Committee found that out of 6,00,723 waqf properties, only 31,407 properties have so far been mapped and 2,68,955 properties are to be mapped by the end of March, 2020, which is an enormous task. The Committee are in doubt if the Ministry would be able to accomplish the target in the set time period. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to report the progress to them and fix realistic targets if the process does not get completed as per the set timeline and draw a roadmap as well to complete the task of GIS mapping in a time bound manner. Further, as transparency is the utmost requirement in the functioning of State Waqf Boards/Councils, the Committee feel that elections should be held at specified intervals.
22.	8.7	Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) was launched in 2015 with the objective of capacity building and upgrading of the traditional skills of master craftsmen and artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of

		<p>minorities, set standards of traditional skills, training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts, etc. The objective of the scheme is laudable in view of the fact that minorities play a major role in preserving some of the most precious yet dying arts and crafts as well as traditional skills, which came into existence centuries ago. However, the Committee find it disappointing that the resource allocation of utilization since 2017-18 shows that despite increase in allocation at RE stage, the actuals fell far short of enhanced REs. The shortfall in utilization vis-à-vis REs during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (till 31.12.2020) stood at ₹ 7.20 crore, ₹ 18.74 crore and ₹ 31 crore respectively. Despite surrendering of the funds in the previous years higher allocations were made in the subsequent years.</p> <p>The Ministry attributed the under utilization of the funds during 2017-18 to the non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). The higher allocation for 2018-19 reportedly was due to additional requirement towards release of first instalment during 2018-19. However, the Ministry also claimed that funds were received during February 2019 i.e. 10 months after the commencement of the financial year 2018-19. Furnishing the latest expenditure figures for 2019-20 to the Committee, the Ministry have informed that as on 31 January 2020, expenditure of ₹ 29.25 crore was incurred and the expenditure is increasing progressively. The Ministry have expressed confidence about spending the remaining amount in the next two months of the financial year.</p> <p>The Committee are not satisfied with the contention of the Ministry that non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals has resulted in surrendering of the funds in 2017-18. They strongly feel that there is no dearth of deserving skilled craftsmen/ artisans who require assistance provided they are aware of such help available. Had the Ministry given wide publicity, organized awareness campaigns and roped in public representatives, who know the ground realities in minority, concentrated areas, non receipt of applications for the purpose would not have arisen. They accordingly recommend for taking suitable steps to improve the awareness of the existing schemes especially in minority concentrated areas.</p>
23.	8.8	<p>The Committee are surprised that it almost took 10 months to receive the additional funds required for the purpose during 2018-19. As a result, funds have to be surrendered in this year also. The Committee are of the view that 10 months period is too long to receive the</p>

		<p>allocated additional funds. This implies that the Ministry of Minority Affairs may not have made enough and continuous communication with the Ministry of Finance to receive additional amount well-in-time which might have enabled them to utilize it in the same year. They, therefore, would like to be furnished with copies of the communications sent to Ministry of Finance by them as reminders alongwith their response. Also the Committee recommend that in such cases concerted efforts should be made by the Ministry by having regular correspondence/communications with the relevant authorities to get the funds already allocated well-in-time so that the same can be spent in the same year.</p> <p>The reply furnished by the Ministry in response to the query of the Committee as to whether they would be able to spend 51.78% of the funds in the last quarter of the financial year shows that they would be able to spend the amount in the remaining three months of the financial year 2019-20 . The Committee , in view of the ceiling applicable (25 % of the allocated amounts) on spending in the last quarter of the financial year , would like the Ministry to apprise them as to whether any exemption was taken from the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) and if so, the details may be furnished to the Committee.</p>
24.	9.8	<p>The Committee note that the provision is meant for carrying out research work on topics beneficial for the upliftment of the Minorities and also for preparing awareness generation material such as booklets on Central Government Schemes related to minorities in Urdu language.</p> <p>During three years <i>i.e.</i> 2015-16, 2017-18 and 2018-19 not even a single rupee was spent for the purpose. Despite NIL /low actuals, higher amounts at BE stage was made in the subsequent years since 2015-16 showing scant regard for financial prudence. The Ministry's reply is silent as to the reasons for not spending even a single rupee during 2015-16. As the research proposals initiated could not be fructified due to procedural shortcomings, Ministry stated that entire amount had to be surrendered during the financial year 2017-18. Further the Ministry has not adduced any reasons for not spending even a single rupee during 2018-19 too. However, for the year 2019-20, they stated that funds were utilized for publication of booklet on Central Government Schemes related to Minorities in Urdu language.</p> <p>The Committee note that though the amounts are low, the purpose of the allocation is for an important</p>

		<p>cause i.e generation of awareness creating material for various schemes of the Ministry. They are of the view that the Ministry have not taken the fund utilisation made for the purpose, with due seriousness that it deserves, as they observed elsewhere in the report that in many schemes funds remained un/under utilised for want of proposals from the targeted beneficiaries which, in turn, is due to lack of awareness of the existence of the schemes. Had the Committee spent the resources for the intended purposes, the extent of awareness generation would have been different at much higher levels resulting in receipt of the proposals from the stakeholders. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable steps be taken to identify areas, which need research, for upliftment of minorities, in the field of education, healthcare, welfare, preservation of art/craft/traditional skills etc. and ensure the utilisation of the funds for this important purpose.</p>
25.	9.14	<p>The allocation and utilization pattern of the funds allocated for the head 'Office Expenses' of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities reveals that the Ministry could spend 57%, 43% and 70% of the allocations made at RE stage during 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively. Further, despite incurring far lower actual, far higher budgetary allocations were made in the subsequent years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. The Ministry's reply to surrendering of 43% of RE during 2016-17 merely stated that the funds could not be utilized without furnishing any specific reason for doing so.</p> <p>On the basis for allocating higher amounts for 2017-18 especially in the light of surrendering of 43 % of the RE allocation in 2016-17 but utilizing 57% only of RE allocations during 2017-18, the Ministry's reply, while remaining silent on the basis of higher allocations for 2017-18, attributed the under utilization to skeletal staff strength, retirement of staff in the past three years and absence of recruitment for filling up the vacant posts. Similarly, on the basis for higher allocations at BE 2019-20 <i>vis-a-vis</i> far lower actuals of 2018-19, it was informed that the allocation was made in anticipation of increased activities such as filling up of posts , renovation of office premises , replacement of office equipment ,etc.</p> <p>The Committee are of the view that the Ministry's allocation and spending pattern appears under this head to be very casual without taking into consideration relevant factors before allocating the funds which could not be spent fully for the last five years. The Committee</p>

		<p>are of the opinion that the factors attributed for lower utilizations include staff strength, retirements, recruitment delays are well known as data regarding retirements, vacancies, and time taken to recruit, etc is available with them. However, their scant regard for spending resources resulted in surrendering of the substantial amount of funds for the last five years. They, therefore recommend suitable steps be taken to ensure proper assessment of the requirement, review of the same at RE stage and take appropriate measures to use the funds allocated at least at RE stage.</p>
26.	9.18	<p>The Committee note that since 2015-16, despite lower actuals vis-à-vis RE, allocation for higher funds were allocated in the specific years. The Ministry attributed this under/Nil utilization to the reports of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) which are under preparation. The Committee are constrained to note that even the small amounts could not be utilized for the last five years on the pretext of the reports under preparation. The Committee would like to be appraised as to the specific reports which are under preparation and the reasons as to why it took almost 6 years to prepare the reports.</p>