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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (2019-2020)**

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment) (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

**TENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
September, 2020/Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

# TENTH REPORT

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(2019-2020)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

### MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment) (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 10.09.2020

Presented to Lok Sabha on \_\_\_\_\_

Laid in Rajya Sabha on \_\_\_\_\_



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

September, 2020/Bhadrapada, 1942 (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. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
- \*26. Shri Biswajit Daimary
- \*27. Shri Ashok Gasti
- \*28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri P. L. Punia
- \*30. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

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

\* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 22.07.2020.

## LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- |    |                     |   |                   |
|----|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Joint Secretary   |
| 2. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal   | - | Director          |
| 2. | Shri Salil Saroj    | - | Committee Officer |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Tenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 04.05.2020. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 06.08.2020.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

06 August, 2020  
15 Shravana, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

1.1 The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2019-20)" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

1.2 The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. It contained 20 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under: -

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

**Paragraph Nos. 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 3.12, 3.15, 3.16, 3.38, 3.43, 5.9 and 5.11.**

**(Total: 10, Chapter II)**

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

**Paragraph Nos. 3.13, 3.14, 3.26, 3.27, 4.10 and 5.8.**

**(Total: 6, Chapter III)**

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

**Paragraph Nos. 2.12 and 3.37.**

**(Total: 2, Chapter IV)**

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

**Paragraph Nos. 3.25 and 5.7.**

**(Total: 2, Chapter V)**

**1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report for which interim replies have been given by the Government may be furnished at the earliest and in any case not later than three months after the presentation of this Report.**

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

**A. Proper and effective implementation of the 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs'.**

#### **Recommendation (Para No.2.12)**

1.5 The Committee, in their First Report, had recommended as follows:

“The Committee note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been utilizing almost all funds allocated to them every year from 2016-17 till 2018-19. The Committee are happy that the Department is committed to reducing the pendency of arrears in Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs. The Committee have been informed that in the current fiscal, they have utilized 58.17 per cent till 31st October, 2019 i.e. ₹ 5169.03 crore out of the total fund allocation of ₹ 8885 crore. It is evident that the requirements of this Department are much more to provide Scholarships, than allocation actually provided to them, particularly since they have failed to receive their projected demand. The Committee find that the Department submitted its requirement of ₹ 14871.37 crore to the Ministry of Finance but received only ₹ 8885.00 crore for the year 2019-20 which adversely affected the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs. The shortfall were reportedly ₹ 4198.18 crore and ₹ 1140.00 crore respectively in both Schemes, which the Committee finds quite disappointing. The Committee learn that the Department have put forth extra demand of ₹ 4-5 thousand crore to the Ministry of Finance to fill this gap which was statedly not accepted till the Committee examined the subject. Hence they



would like to know the status now. As there were reportedly huge arrears pending under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SCs and even though the Department had released ₹ 5928.15 crore upto 2017-18 to all the States/UTs, the arrears have not been completely cleared, therefore, the Committee expect that the Department must have vigorously pursued Ministry of Finance to grant the extra funds demanded by them to clear the arrears and to ensure smooth functioning of all the Schemes/programmes of the Department at the supplementary Demands for Grants stage. The Committee would like to be apprised of the additional funds allocated, if any, and the position of arrears at the action taken stage.”

1.6 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:-

“With regard to Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC (PMS-SC) students, it is submitted that Central Assistance is released towards the demand under the scheme for a year over and above the respective committed liability of the States/UTs. Central Assistance of ₹ 3414 crore, ₹5928 crore and ₹ 2711.31 crore have been released during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The entire arrears accumulated at the end of 2016-17 have been released to all States/UTs who had submitted their proposals/demand.

With regard Central Assistance due for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20, the same has been released to all States/UTs who had submitted their complete proposals under the scheme.”

1.7 The Committee find from the reply of the Government that the entire arrears accumulated at the end of 2016-17 under Post Matric Scholarship for SC students have been released to all the States/UTs who have submitted the proposals/demand. However, the information is sketchy and without any factual data or figures. Hence, the Committee would like to be furnished with the details of arrears accumulated and released Statewise, after 2016-17 under the Scheme. The Ministry have also not provided any information on any additional funds obtained at the supplementary stage as desired by the Committee. The Committee feel that Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students is one of the most important schemes of the Ministry for SC students and is critical to contain the dropout trend among such students, hence, the Department must take serious view of lacunae on their part in availing funds, their utilization, getting the arrears cleared and disbursing the amount to the beneficiaries on time. As the National Scholarship Portal has started functioning, the Committee feel that increase in awareness of the same among the SC students now would result in greater demand and therefore desire that the system must be streamlined without any delay.

## **B. Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the SCs**

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.25)**

1.8 The Committee in, their First Report, had recommended as follows:

“The Committee note that Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes in one of its kind Scheme initiated by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to enhance entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes through 31 banks, which is very important for their economic development. The Committee are distressed to note that only 13 candidates have been provided credit under this Scheme since its inception in 2016-17 till 30th September, 2019. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department to review its present mechanism for implementation of this Scheme and modify it accordingly to provide credit to more eligible candidates under this Scheme. For this, the Department should make efforts to publicize it more through electronic and print media and sensitize Banks/Financial Institutions to be supportive to the SC entrepreneurs who are Credit seekers. The Committee are also of the considered opinion that in order to increase the number of beneficiaries in this Scheme, the Ministry should plan an exclusive outreach programme for the target population. The Department should also make use of the promotional mobile audio vans to publicize this Scheme in rural as well as urban areas.”

1.9 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:-

“As on 31st March, 2020, the total number of beneficiaries who availed the benefits under the scheme is 21. Indian Financial Corporation Limited (IFCI) has been making all out efforts to promote the schemes at various levels such as State Level Banking Committee. Conferences are held at different cities and conferences organized by industry bodies viz. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce Industries (DICCI) are also being attended where the scheme is promoted.

Further, Indian Financial Corporation Limited (IFCI) has been regularly following up with all the Nodal Officers of the Banks requesting them to submit the proposals under the Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for

Scheduled Caste (CEGSSC). IFCI has requested banks to advise their branches to identify and cover maximum SC beneficiaries under the Scheme on priority to achieve the Nobel objectives of the Scheme. As suggested, more efforts through electronic and print media shall be made and Banks shall be sensitized to be supportive to the SC entrepreneurs. Exclusive outreach programmes as suggested by the Committee shall be undertaken for the target population.”

**1.10 The Committee are not satisfied with the efforts being made by the Department as so far only 21 beneficiaries from 13 earlier, have availed the credit facilities under the Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes, since its inception in 2016-17 till 31.03.2020. Despite 31 banks involved in the scheme, the minuscule number of beneficiaries in the last 5 years shows a very weak performance of the scheme. At the same time, the Committee also feel that perhaps these 31 banks are not performing their job satisfactorily to promote this Scheme at the ground level. The Department has now asked IFCI to sensitize banks towards the SC entrepreneurs, which should produce desired results, if undertaken in the right spirit. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to continue in their efforts and conduct more training and awareness programmes also so that a good number of SC entrepreneurs could avail actual benefits under this Scheme.**

## **C. Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS)**

1.11 The Committee, in their First Report, had recommended as follows:

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.37)**

“The Committee observe that under the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS), 42,303 manual scavengers were identified during National Survey of manual scavengers, 2018 but Skill Development Training has been imparted to only 1682 candidates in 2018-19 and 978 candidates in 2019-20. The Committee fail to fathom that why only 2660 manual scavengers have been imparted training, when Skill Development Training is an integral part of rehabilitation of manual scavengers. In the same way One Time Cash Assistance has also not been provided to all the identified manual scavengers but only to 298 in 2018-19 and 428 in 2019-20. Considering the above facts, the Committee exhort the Department to at least provide Skill Development Training to all the latest identified manual scavengers and also One Time Cash Assistance to all identified manual scavengers in order to fulfill the purpose of the Scheme. The Department should also ensure that they are gainfully employed in future in order to totally prohibit manual scavengers from the country. The Committee are of the view that the Department should conduct a survey regarding the age, gender and qualification of manual scavengers and their counseling should be done before imparting Skill Development Training to them. For this purpose, the Department should develop a focused capsule for their reemployment.”

1.12 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:-

“Survey of manual scavengers: “Prohibition of Employment as Manual scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” provides for the survey and identification of manual scavengers by the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality in urban areas and the Chief Executive Officer of the Gram Panchyat in rural areas if there are reasons to believe existence of manual scavengers in areas

under their jurisdiction. Accordingly States and Union Territories have reported identification of 14559 manual scavengers from 6.12.2013 upto 31.3.2020. In addition, a National survey of manual scavengers was also carried out during 2018-19 on the basis of data of insanitary latrines converted into sanitary latrines under Swachh Bharat Mission and inputs received from Social Organisation in 194 identified districts. The survey has been completed and 48687 manual scavengers have been identified upto.31.3.2020. Data of identified manual scavengers in respect of some districts is awaited. A total of 63,246 manual scavengers have been identified upto 31.3.2020

Rehabilitation of Identified manual scavengers: Rehabilitation benefits to the identified manual scavengers include (i) Onetime Cash Assistance (OTCA) of ₹ 40,000 each (ii) Skill Development Training with monthly stipend of ₹3000 to those manuals scavengers and their dependents who opt for such training (iii) subsidy up to Rs3,25.000 on loans availed for self employment projects.

As regards the observation of the Committee that only 298 manual scavengers in 2018-19 and 428 during 2019-20 have been provided Onetime cash assistance, it is clarified that these figures relate to the annual scavengers identified by the States as per the provisions of MS Act, 2013. 13 States and Union Territories have reported identification of 14559 manual scavengers of whom 13161 have been provided OTCA upto 31.3.2020. The remaining manual scavengers could not be provided due to deficiencies in the information like bank account details, incomplete addresses of the beneficiaries etc., for which the States have been asked to provide complete information. As regards release of OTCA to the manual scavengers identified in the National Surey-2018, out of 48687 manual scavengers identified in the National survey, 30246 have been provided OTCA upto 31.3.2020. The remaining manual scavengers could not be provided OTCA due to incomplete details of the beneficiaries. The matter has been taken up with the concerned State Governments for providing deficient information.

As regards, skill development training, which is voluntary, 9653 manual scavengers/ their dependents who have opted for training have been sanctioned such training. It is targeted to provide skill training to 15,000 beneficiaries during 2020-21. Awareness camps are organized in the areas of concentration of manuals scavengers from time to time to motivate them to undergo skill training.

As regards, self employment projects, due to socio economic background and lack of entrepreneurial skills, there is very poor response from the target group to avail loans for undertaking such projects. 1074 beneficiaries who have availed loans for self employment project have been sanctioned subsidy as per the guidelines of the scheme. In order to encourage more people to undertake self employment, it is proposed to provide loans up to ₹ 5 lakh with 50% subsidy for purchase of sanitation machinery/ equipment. A more positive response and greater acceptability to avail such loans is expected from the target group on account of their traditional skills.”



**1.13 The Committee note that 63,246 manual scavengers have been identified in the country as on 31.03.2020. The Committee are disappointed to note that out of 48,687 manual scavengers identified in National survey, only 30,246 have been provided One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) under the Self Employment Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS). Reportedly, the remaining manual scavengers could not be provided OTCA due to incomplete details of bank accounts, addresses etc. provided by the State Governments. As the Department issued a letter to all States in March, 2020 referring to this Committee's observation, their response may now be furnished. In Committee's view OTCA must be provided to all the manual scavengers as per the commitment of the Government. They therefore urge the Department to actively seek requisite details from concerned State Governments. The Committee also note that a small fraction of 9563 manual scavengers or their dependents have so far opted for skill development training. They feel that although the skill development training is voluntary under the Scheme, efforts should be made by the Department to encourage maximum number of manual scavengers to opt for the skill training so that they are able to create/utilize better employment opportunities and lead a life of dignity. The Committee desire that the Department should invite suggestions from the people's representatives elected from constituencies of States which report presence of scavengers, to organize camps and publicize the scheme in more purposeful manner so that the benefit of availing loans for self employment projects may reach maximum number of beneficiaries. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.**

## **D. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**

1.14 The Committee, in their First Report, had recommended as follows:

### **Recommendation (Para No.5.7)**

“The Committee note that Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) is a Scheme run by the Department for the Welfare of Senior Citizens in which aids and assisted devices viz. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walker/crutches, tripods/quad pods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries. The Scheme was initiated in 2016-17 but there was „nil“ utilization of funds in that year and only ₹ 1.50 crore was utilized in 2017-18 and in 2018-19 ₹ 106.51 crore were utilized against the RE of ₹ 0.01 crore. In 2018-19, the Department have utilized ₹ 106.51 crore from Senior Citizen’s Welfare Fund and again 2019-20 only ₹ 0.01 crore have been allocated under this Scheme. The Committee note that there are only two Schemes run by the Department at present for the Welfare of Senior Citizens. In the other Scheme also there is „nil“ utilization of funds in 2018-19 as it is a new Scheme launched in the year 2018-19. The Committee note that there is no separate allocation for this Scheme by the Department and the funds are utilized entirely from Senior Citizens’ Fund. The Committee wonder when whole expenditure of this Scheme is met by the Senior Citizens’ Fund what is the requirement of creating a separate Head for this Scheme. The Committee, therefore, feel that the Department should create a separate head for the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, so that the other aspects of the Scheme such as organizing camps, survey for selection of beneficiaries etc. may not suffer due to paucity of funds. The Committee also desire that the Members of Parliament should be intimated while organizing camps for distributing aids and appliances to the Senior Citizens in their respective constituencies.”

1.15 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:-

“As per the Budget announcement 2015-16, a new scheme namely „Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana“ (RVY) for providing physical aids and assisted living device to the senior citizens belonging to below poverty line has been formulated by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The source of funding of the scheme is from Senior Citizen’s Welfare Fund (SCWF). The SCWF has been established under the Finance Act, 2015, to be utilized for such schemes for the promotion of the Welfare of Senior Citizens, in line with the National Policy on Older Persons. The Fund is administered by an Inter Ministerial Committee with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the Nodal Ministry for administration of the Fund. Proposals are invited by this Ministry from Central Ministries/Departments for formulation of welfare Schemes for Senior Citizens to be directly funded from SCWF. IMC of this Ministry has approved RVY for getting entirely funded from the SCWF. The Scheme was launched on

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age-related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. The Scheme is implemented through the „Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)“, (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) as the sole implementing Agency.

As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, a separate Head No. 2235.02.104.23.00.31 has already been created for the scheme of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). Under this Head, as per the requirement of funds of this scheme, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure provides the adequate funds from Senior Citizens Welfare Funds for organizing the camps, survey for selection of beneficiaries etc.

The Members of Parliament are being informed/ intimated on the direction of Hon'ble Minister, SJE while organizing the camps under RVY since the inception of the scheme for distributing aids and appliances to the Senior Citizens in their respective constituencies.

BE, RE are not made to the scheme of RVY, as it is funded from Senior Citizens Welfare Fund (SCWF), however, a token allocation as ₹ 1.00 lakh has been made to the scheme. Since inception, ₹ 124.01 Crore have been released to Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation India Ltd.(ALIMCO), out of which approximately ₹ 77.36 Crore have been utilised under the scheme till date. The details are as below:”

S.No.	Financial Year	Allocated from SCWF (₹ In Cr)	Released to ALIMCO (₹ In Cr)	Fund Utilized by ALIMCO in RVY (₹ In Cr)
1.	2016-17	16.00	16.00	NIL
2.	2017-18	1.5	1.5	14.317
3.	2018-19	106.5	106.51 (₹ 1 lakh token money)	45.027
4.	2019-20	0.00	0.00	<b>40.676</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>124.01</b>	<b>100.02</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>200.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**1.16 The Committee in their earlier Reports have been repeatedly recommending that Department should create a separate head for the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) so that the other aspects of the Scheme such as organizing camps, survey for selection of beneficiaries etc. do not suffer owing to paucity of funds. The Committee are happy to note from the Department's Action Taken Reply that a separate Head No. 2235.02.104.23.00.31 has been created for the Scheme. The Ministry have informed that the Scheme is funded from Senior Citizens's Welfare Fund (SCWF), however, a token allocation of ₹ One lakh has been made to the Scheme. The Committee desire that the sufficient amount should be allocated under this Head every year to cover the increasing number of beneficiaries under the Scheme. They further note that the Members of Parliament are also being intimated by the department while organizing the camps for distribution of aids and appliances to the Senior Citizens in their respective constituencies under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana. The Committee desire the Department to furnish, since the inception of the scheme, the details of camps being organized Statewise every year. Also a report may be submitted to the Committee highlighting the impact of organizing such camps for welfare of senior citizens, as well as future plans for this Financial Year, if any.**

## **CHAPTER II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation (Para No.2.13)**

2.1 The Committee note that during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 actual expenditure under some of the Schemes of the Department viz. Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC students (ii) Assistance for Skill Development of OBCs/DNTs/EBCs (NGO Scheme) was very low vis-à-vis its budgetary allocation and the allocated budgetary amount could not be utilized fully by the Department. The Committee find that the Department has been repeatedly citing reasons such as non-receipt of complete and adequate proposals from the States/UTs, non-receipt of proposals and UCs in time. The Committee note from the proceedings of the Coordination meetings of the Department that problems range from lack of computerization to inadequate coordination mechanism to low recovery from beneficiaries etc. Also Apart from State Channelizing Agencies, there are several agencies/bodies involved in Schemes and thus an effective coordination is a must. With a large number of dependable information tools/technology available at hand, the Committee are sanguine that many challenges can be tackled so as to attain fiscal prudence. The Committee desire the Department to work hard in handling all challenges and supporting State agencies as their mandate is unique and much valuable for the Society.

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

2.2 The following schemes are being implemented for the welfare of Weaker Section belonging to OBCs/EBC/DNTs for educational empowerment, employment generation though skill development training programme.

The details of allocation of funds and expenditure incurred during 2017-18 and 2018-19 under the schemes of the welfare of Backward Classes are given as under are:-

S. No.	Schemes	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20			Remarks
		B.E	RE	Exp.	B.E	RE	Exp.	B.E	RE	Exp.	
1	Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students	142.00	142.00	128.23	232.00	132.00	121.84	220.00	220.00	201.57	Low expenditure due to the savings of the budget of North-Eastern Region and Sikkim.
2	Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC students	885.00	885.00	829.62	1100.00	983.25	1000.46	1360.00	1397.50	1299.33	
3	Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls,	40.00	40.00	42.50	50.00	30.00	36.05	30.00	30.00	21.29	
4	Dr.Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loan for Overseas Studies OBCs and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)	4.30	4.30	19.87	10.00	10.00	10.00	15.00	26.09	26.09	
5	National Fellowship for OBC students	40.00	40.00	20.00	110.00	30.00	30.00	70.00	52.50	52.50	
6	Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for EBC Students	10.00	10.00	11.00	103.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	13.00	13.99	
7	Dr.Ambedkar Pre and Post-Matric scholarship for DNT Students	6.00	6.00	5.40	10.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	
8	Assistance for skill development for OBC/EBC/DNT	10.00	10.00	15.00	30.00	30.00	40.00	30.00	34.00	34.00	Expenditure more than allocation after re-appropriation of funds.
9	Venture Capital Fund for OBCs.	10.00	10.00	10.00*	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	90.00	
<b>Grant total</b>		<b>1147.30</b>	<b>1147.30</b>	<b>1081.62</b>	<b>1645.00</b>	<b>1248.25</b>	<b>1270.35</b>	<b>1808.00</b>	<b>1832.09</b>	<b>1747.77</b>	

**Note: - \* The expenditure incurred from the allocation is made under the scheme of Venture Capital Fund for SCs.**

The above statement clearly shows that there is an increase in overall Budgeted allocation under various schemes of the welfare of the Backward Classes.

The brief in respect of the schemes viz Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme for OBC students and Assistance for Skill Development of OBCs/DNTs/EBCs regarding low expenditure vis-à-vis its budgetary allocation and the allocated budgetary amount could not be utilized fully by the Department is given as under:-

➤ **Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students**

The scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students is being implemented on sharing pattern of 50:50. The State Government furnishes consolidated physical achievement which includes the beneficiaries from Central share as well State Share. The reason for low expenditure of the scheme is due to savings from North-East budget, incomplete proposals under various schemes received by the Department from NER.

➤ **Assistance for Skill Development of OBCs/DNTs/EBCs (NGO Scheme)**

The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) under its Skill Development Training Programme (in broad conformance to the Common Norms) facilitates upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills to its target group through Government Training Institutes (TIs) and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) constituted by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on pan India basis, so that eligible member of Backward Classes (OBCs)/ Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) etc, may engage in developmental activities by way of self/wage employment and additional GIA to the tune of Rs. 10.00 crores was spent on Skill Development Training Programme (SDTP) due to increase in eligible target beneficiaries.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (Para No.2.14)**

2.3 The Committee observe that the details of beneficiaries under the Scheme Post Matric Scholarship for SCs (PMS-SC) are still awaited from many States for the year 2018-19. The Committee are dismayed to note that though more than half of the financial year i.e. 2019-20 has passed, yet the Department still have no details of the beneficiaries of previous year. The Committee wonder that under these circumstances how the Department would manage to assess the pendency of the arrears under this Scheme and on what basis would it manage to take measures to clear the pending arrears. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to take up this issue with the concerned States/UTs on urgent basis so that the details of the beneficiaries are provided without delay to the Department and the Department could decide the future plan of action for clearing the pendency in arrears and also provide assistance to the fresh eligible candidates under this Scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 As per procedure under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme for SC students, States/UTs submit the proposal placing details of actual expenditure incurred and actual beneficiaries covered during the previous year and anticipated expenditure, beneficiaries for current year. Central Assistance is considered for release based on actual expenditure of previous year and anticipated expenditure for current year. In such situation, State will be able to disburse the scholarship to beneficiaries in time and submit the details of actual coverage of beneficiaries after completion of Financial Year. Based on information available as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, the beneficiaries covered during 2018-19 is approximately 60.29 lakh. State-wise details are attached as **Annexure-I**.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020



### **Recommendation (Para No.2.15)**

2.5 The Committee note that there are few Schemes under which the Department has not been able to utilize full amount of allocated funds such as Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations and Scheme for Education and Economical Development of De-notified and Nomadic Tribes etc. The Committee are dissatisfied to note that non-receipt of proposals in time by the Department under these Schemes is the major reason behind less utilization of funds which is an oft-repeated stance taken by them. It is high time that the Department takes concrete steps towards solving this issue of non-sending of adequate and complete proposals by the States/UTs in time. The Committee suggest that the Department could depute capable staff who can provide either necessary on-line expertise to the State Departments or counseling via video conferencing regarding sending of appropriate proposals well in time to them which would result in full and proper utilization of funds to benefit larger number from the target groups.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 With regard to Pre-Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards, it is submitted that this scheme is centrally sponsored and implemented through the States/UTs. Central Assistance is released towards such portion of demand for a year under this scheme which is over and above the respective committed liability of the States/UTs. It has been observed that most of the States are having demand within their committed liability and thus no Central Assistance is due to them. Accordingly, they are not submitting proposals for Central Assistance. This Department is approaching States through Letters/Video Conferencing/Meetings for better implementation of the scheme and timely disbursement of scholarship to eligible beneficiaries. During the year 2019-20, the Budget Estimate of Rs. 5 crore was revised to Rs 30.00 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 29.40 crore has been incurred under the scheme.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.12)**

2.7 The Committee note that under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC Students, assistance is provided to the selected candidates from Scheduled Castes for pursuing higher studies i.e. Master level courses and Ph.D. programmes abroad in the fields of Engineering and Management, Pure and Applied Science, Agricultural Science and Medicine, International Commerce, Accounting & Finance and Humanities & Social Science. While the Scheme is one of its kind, the Committee find that it has been revised with effect from 20.07.2016 in the sense that the condition of 5 years mandatory stay in India after completion of course has been relaxed in any of the three conditions viz. if the candidate is able to obtain employment abroad/joins any other course/is married to a person settled abroad. The Committee are of the considered opinion that when the Department is spending a hefty sum of taxpayers' money to support foreign education for candidates from the country, it should be made mandatory for the scholarship holders to return to India after the completion of studies and serve the country for at least 2 years. The Committee also desire the Department to take the initiative to help them gain employment in the regions/States where there is dearth of qualified professionals and motivate them to pursue specialised research in India. As the selection procedure was still going on for the year 2019-20 when the Committee was examining the subject, the Committee would like to be apprised of the final figures of the beneficiaries at the end of this financial year i.e. 2019-20.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 As per the existing guidelines, it is mandatory for the scholarship awardees to return to India after completion of the studies. However, in only three conditions, viz. if the candidate is able to obtain employment abroad/ joins any other course/ is married to a person settled abroad, he/she may be allowed to stay abroad. Each such request is examined on the basis of facts and circumstances of the case and only after due examination and approval the permission for stay is granted only where considered necessary for the wellbeing of the Candidate. The Scheme is devised to enable the economically weaker students of the target population to obtain quality higher education abroad. It is a scholarship scheme only therefore, the employment aspects are not covered under it. All the 100 slots for the selection year 2019-20 have been filled.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

**Recommendation (Para No.3.15)**

2.9 The Committee note that the under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, Department had utilised ₹ 4.59 crore out of ₹ 15.00 crore in 2017-18 and ₹ 5.97 crore out of ₹ 15.00 crore in 2018-19. The Department have received ₹ 20.00 crore in 2019-20 and till 31st October, 2019, only ₹ 3.27 crore was utilised. In this regard, the Committee have been informed that as this scholarship is meant for the Masters and Ph.D. programmes, the disbursement of money is spread over a period of 3 or 4 years. Acknowledging the same, the Committee opine that the numbers of candidates are also increasing year after year under this Scheme, hence the utilisation of money should also register an increase. As the budgetary allocation for the year 2019-20 has been enhanced from ₹ 15.00 crore in 2018-19 to ₹ 20.00 crore in 2019-20, the Committee impress upon the Department to adopt stringent mechanism to overcome procedural lacunae and select more eligible candidates through proper publicity of the Scheme in order to achieve full utilisation of fund allocation.

**Reply of the Government**

2.10 During the current financial year, an amount of Rs 28.39 crore has been incurred by Indian Mission/ Embassies and the Department under the scheme out of a Revised Estimate of Rs 30 crore. Due to higher demand by the Indian Missions, the Budget Estimate of Rs 20 crore was revised to Rs 30 crore during the current financial year.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.16)**

2.11 The Committee are constrained to note that even in the States where SC population is very high such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, etc., there are nil or very less number of candidates selected for National Overseas Scholarship Scheme. The Committee are of the view that though the unfilled slots in the previous years are carried forward to the next financial year, still the Department should make extra efforts to advertise this Scheme through print/electronic media so that more and more people become aware of this Scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 The Ministry is making due efforts to create awareness of the Scheme throughout the country. The details of the scheme are available on the website of the Department. Apart from this the features of the scheme are also broadcasted through radio channels of All India Radio in the programme 'Sawarati Jaye Jeewan ki Rahen'. In addition, the scheme guidelines are circulated to all States/UTs for making proper publicity in their respective higher education institutions. The scheme guidelines have also been sent to „Institute of National importance“ institutes/universities for proper publicity.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.38)**

2.13 The Committee are pained that manual scavenging is still prevalent in the urban areas in India and every now and then news of deaths of scavengers while manually cleaning the manholes are reported. The Committee are of the considered view that if manual scavenging is to be eliminated then the Department has to take implementation of this Scheme very seriously. The Committee urge upon the Department to ask all State Governments/UT Administrations to direct their respective Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Municipal Corporations to strictly prohibit

cleaning of manholes manually and conduct inspections to ensure that contractors do not resort to hiring manual scavengers for the job. Machines should be used instead of manual scavengers for this purpose. The Department should also issue instructions to the implementing agencies to take strong punitive action against those who are responsible for employing labourers for cleaning of manholes and blacklist them

### **Reply of the Government**

2.14 The recommendation/observation of the Committee has been conveyed to all the States and Union Territory Administrations for compliance vide D.O letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 addressed to Principal Secretaries of Municipal Administration. A copy of the D.O letter is given at Annexure-II.

### **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.43)**

2.15 The Committee are distressed to note that for such a significant educational Scheme for the welfare of Scheduled Castes boys, the budgetary allocation has been extremely low in the last three years i.e. only ₹ 5.00 crore from 2016-17 till 2018-19 and the expenditure is still lower than this allocation i.e. ₹ 3.28 crore in 2015-16 vis-à-vis BE of ₹ 2.25 crore and only ₹ 4.90 in 2016-17 and 2017-18 against BE of ₹ 5.00 crore. In addition to it, the number of sanctioned boys hostels reflects a sorry state of affairs regarding this Scheme. Only 4 hostels have been sanctioned in 2015-16, 12 in 2016-17, 01 in 2017-18 and 15 in 2018-19. The Committee are further dismayed to observe that there are only 50 boys inmates benefitted under the Scheme each in Tripura and Uttarakhand in the entire 11th and 12th Five Year Plan Period. Similarly 131 inmates have been covered in the States of Punjab and only 220 in Andhra Pradesh where there is a sizeable number of SC population. The Committee also find that these hostels have reportedly been sanctioned and there is no data available regarding hostels being functional. Taking into account the above

facts, the Committee deplore this kind of lackadaisical approach of the Department in implementing this Hostel Scheme and exhort the Department to increase the budgetary allocation for this Scheme specially for Boys Hostels from the next financial year i.e. 2020-21. The Committee also desire the Department to improve its mechanism to monitor the Scheme properly and ensure that the hostels which have been sanctioned by the Department have been fully constructed by the State Governments and are also in use by the boys of the target group. As regards hostels for SC girls, the Committee feel that safety aspect should be monitored diligently in order to ensure a safe and secure environment for girl hostellers. The Committee believe that only releasing the funds and sanctioning the hostels would not solve the purpose. This Scheme would only be beneficial if the Department keeps in mind the number of Scheduled Castes population of that State also while releasing the funds.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.16 The Scheme of Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna (BJRCY) provides for eligible central assistance to implementing agencies for construction/ expansion of hostels for SC boys and girls. As per the funding pattern, 100% central assistance is provided to implementing agencies for construction of girls hostel. However, for boys hostel, only 50% of the admissible cost estimate is provided to the State Governments on matching share basis. Mainly for this reason, there has been less response from the State Governments in submitting proposals for construction of boys hostels in comparison of girls. Resultantly, there was low budgetary allocation, expenditure and number of sanctioned hostels & inmates in respect of boys hostels during the years 2016-17 to 2018-19.

Further, sanction for construction of hostels depends upon receipt of proposals from the State governments along with the complete documents/ information required as per the Scheme guidelines, such as detailed cost estimate, land documents, site plan, building plan, list of SC students of feeder institutions/schools/colleges, pending UCs, physical & financial progress reports of the hostels sanctioned earlier, etc. It is relevant to mention that the State Governments submit the proposals for construction of hostels as per their requirements. However, it is noticed that the State Governments and other implementing agencies do not send complete proposals despite repeated reminders from the Department which leads to delay in approval of proposals.

Requests are also made to State Governments/ UT Administrations to identify the districts not covered under the Scheme on regular basis and submit the proposals for construction of hostels there. However, due to lack of proper response from the State Governments, it has not been possible for the Department to sanction the hostels in these districts.

As regards less number of inmates benefited during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, in Tripura, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, it is submitted that during this period, the Ministry was not in receipt of sufficient number of complete proposals from these States for construction of boys hostels. Due to this reason, and also the proposals received being incomplete, it was not possible for the Ministry to sanction adequate number of boys hostels and inmates.

Based on the information received from the implementing agencies, completion and operationalization status of the hostels sanctioned under the Scheme is updated in the Department's records. However, in some cases, the implementing agencies do not intimate the status to the Department in time. Therefore, the Department takes up these issues with the implementing agencies regularly and insist them to submit the quarterly physical and financial progress reports of the hostels under construction. The progress on construction work is also monitored through regular video conferencing and meetings with the implementing agencies.

With the revision of the scheme guidelines w.e.f. 10.09.2018, a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, D/o Social Justice & Empowerment has been constituted to review and monitor the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee holds meeting with representatives of the State Governments and other implementing agencies on regular intervals to monitor the physical and financial progress of the hostels sanctioned and also functioning and occupancy status thereof post-construction. Apart from this, field visits are made by authorities of the Department to inspect the projects wherever required.

Under the existing Scheme of BJRCY, adequate provisions have been made to ensure safety and security of girls hostellers. Appointment/ availability of lady Wardens and Watchmen have been made mandatory in girls hostels constructed under the Scheme and the implementing agencies have to ensure the same. Construction of boundary walls, two rooms set quarter for hostel Wardens and one room set for Chowkidars/ Lady Guards has been made integral part of the Scheme.

Provision has also been made for construction of girls hostels in close vicinity of the educational institutions.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

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**Recommendation (Para No.5.9)**

2.17 The Committee note that the Scheme of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) is only performing well in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, elsewhere the Scheme does not seem to be picking up so well. Taking into cognizance the huge population of 10.36 crore (8.56 per cent) of Senior Citizens in the country, the Committee urge upon the Department to formulate a strategy to impeccably implement this Scheme in co-ordination with the State Governments/UT Administrations to benefit more and more Senior Citizens. The Committee feel that the States of Bihar, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh need to focus more in this direction so the Department should co-ordinate with these States and pursue them to introduce remedial measures for better implementation and hence to include more beneficiaries under this Scheme

**Reply of the Government**

2.18 The scheme is being implemented through ALIMCO in the all the States/UTs of India. In some States, the scheme has been implemented successfully from where the responses from District/State Administration are received in matter of finalizing date and venue for the camp. This Ministry is focusing on the uncovered selected districts under RVY by writing D.O. letters to District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners for the awareness of the scheme and for getting proper coordination. For better implementation and to include more beneficiaries getting benefited under the scheme, this Ministry has now relaxed the criteria by including Senior Citizen whose monthly income from all sources not exceed than Rs. 15000/- per month.



**Recommendation (Para No.5.11)**

2.19 The Committee note that the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens is a good move in the direction of welfare of the Senior Citizens initiated by the Department during 2019-20 with the objectives of financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter and welfare, protection of life and property of Senior Citizens, etc., which are imperative for the healthy and happy ageing and safety and security of the Senior Citizens. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Department to ensure its proper and effective implementation in all the States/UTs in future and cover more and more beneficiaries under this Scheme. The Committee would like to know about the progress achieved by the Department in this regard at the end of this financial year.

**Reply of the Government**

2.20 The Committee is well aware that the National Action Plan for Sr. Citizens has been rolled out, recently during mid day October, 2019 only. As per the Action Plans envisaged in the National Action Plan for Sr. Citizens (NAPSrC), funds have been allocated to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, in accordance with the population for implanting of State Action Plans. State Governments/UTs have also been requested to share/ forward the State Action Plans to this Ministry. State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tripura, Sikkim, Mizoram, Odisha and Goa have forwarded their State Action Plans indicating following major activities /programmes being under taken for the welfare of Sr. Citizens:-

- Support for Day Care Centres, setting up of helpline for Sr. Citizens, support for Self Help Groups of Sr. Citizens—Awareness generation programmes and sensitization programmes for Youth, counseling of youth and Sr. citizens, Research and Study programme, creation of pool on trained geriatric caregivers etc.
- Consequent upon merger of scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior citizens (IPSrC) into National Action Plan for Sr. Citizens (NAPSrC) from the

financial year 2020-21, specific programmes to be implemented by the States. National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as well as converge of schemes of various Departments/Ministries for welfare of Sr. Citizens are being devised in this Ministry.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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**O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.**

**Dated May, 2020**

## CHAPTER III

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

#### Recommendation (Para No.3.13)

3.1 The Committee note that there are 100 slots every year to be filled by the selected candidates under National Overseas Scheme for SCs. The Committee fail to understand that in a country of around 1.37 billion people, how only 100 slots can be considered enough to fulfill the purpose of the Scheme. The Committee also feel that possibly all the 100 slots in a year are filled by the candidates of 3 or 4 States/UTs of the country as the candidates are selected on first come first serve basis. In this situation candidates from other States may suffer. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Department to consider fixing State-wise slots up to a time-limit and if the number of slots from that State/UT remains unfilled beyond that, then the candidates from other States could be offered the scholarship. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should also chalk out a calendar to be followed by all the States to ensure uniformity and prevent any delay in the process of application for the candidates.

#### Reply of the Government

3.2 The scheme has been revised recently for the selection year 2020-21. Under the new arrangement, some changes in the selection procedure as well as eligibility criteria has been carried out in order to provide scholarship to the prospective candidates swiftly. As per the revised guidelines effective from 2020-21, priority will be given to the candidates having unconditional offer letter from the top QS World Ranking institutions.

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

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### **Recommendation (Para No.3.14)**

3.3 The Committee observe that the Department have introduced online processing of application forms for the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship. The Committee feel that in rural areas where most of the time network connectivity is bad, filling an online application form may not succeed. Therefore, the Committee urge the Department to develop a suitable mobile Application through which the students can fill the form even if there is no accessibility to the computers or net connectivity. The Committee also feel that filling the applications offline in hardcopy at least for rural areas need to be continued so that those who have no ready access to mobile/computers could also fill the application forms for this Scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.4 The Candidates are required to take admission and make correspondence with the foreign Universities/Institutions through internet and extensive use of email. For further higher studies every students has to be conversant with the use of internet. Thus, the candidates who wish to pursue higher studies abroad would in any case, have the access and facilities of internet. The existing online portal is also accessible through the mobile phone.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.26)**

3.5 The Committee are sad to note that the procedure for filling the application forms as well as getting selected for the benefit under this Scheme is not so easy for the persons of the target group as they belong to the most vulnerable and economically, educationally and socially weaker sections of the society. In fact, there are quite a few instances where the MLIs have shown lack of support and cooperation in extending credit to SC entrepreneurs. The Committee, therefore, feel that there is an urgent need of simplification of procedures and more support to those who apply under Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme so that more and more people are able to apply and purpose of the Scheme is not defeated.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.6 As per the scheme, the procedure for filing up of the application is not obligatory. The SC entrepreneur can approach any Member Lending Institutions (MLI) (Banks) and provide the information as sought by the Bank for processing the application and Bank processes the application as per the one page format provided under the scheme and do the due diligence as provided under the scheme or the MLI can process the application as the formats already developed by it. The Banks have been sensitised to support and cooperate with SC entrepreneur from time to time by way of letters to their Chief Executive Officer (CEOs) as also at various forums such as State Level Banking Committees, conferences and meetings conducted/attended by Implementing Agency, Indian Financial Corporation Limited (IFCI). However, since the scheme provides for appraisal / evaluation of the proposal as per Bank norms, sometimes, the projects do not meet the criteria for sanctioning by Member Lending Institutions (MLI)

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### **Recommendation (Para No.3.27)**

3.7 The Committee are sad to note that the application procedure is very complicated under this Scheme and this deters many eligible candidates from availing this Scheme. The Committee feel that simplification of application form would benefit the target population and increase the number of applicants. The Committee also recommend the Department to introduce a Helpline for this Scheme which would be of great help to solve the queries of the applicants/beneficiaries.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.8 The answer is same as shown against Sl.No.11, Para No.3.26.

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Recommendation (S.No.16, Para No.4.10)**

3.9 The Committee note that National Fellowship Scheme for OBCs is a significant scheme which aims at providing financial assistance to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students in obtaining quality higher education leading to degrees such as M.Phil and Ph.D in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. The Committee find that the Department had utilized ₹ 20.00 crore in 2017-18 vis-à-vis BE and RE of ₹ 40.00 crore and ₹ 30.00 crore vis-à-vis ₹ 110.00 crore of BE and ₹ 30.00 crore of RE in 2018-19. In 2019-20 also BE of ₹ 70.00 crore has been allocated under this Scheme. The Committee note that ₹ 52.50 crore has been utilized by the Department till 31st October, 2019. The Committee learn that there are very less candidates selected under this Scheme despite a dedicated portal in UGC for the same and as the Scheme is implemented by University Grants Committee (UGC) the amount demanded by UGC is released by the Department to them for disbursement to the candidates. The Committee are constrained to note that only ₹ 30.00 crore have been demanded by the UGC in 2018-19 although ₹ 110.00 crore were allocated for the Scheme. Similarly, only ₹ 20.00 crore were demanded by UGC in 2017-18. As less number of applicants is the main reason behind under

utilization of funds under the Scheme and an evaluation study is already in process, the Committee would like to be apprised of its findings, and the final status of the Scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.10 A table showing year-wise B.E, R.E, amount released to University Grants Commission (UGC), slots allocated, no. of selected candidates, actual no. of candidates who joined the fellowship and amount of fellowship disbursed by UGC is given as under:-

(Rs in crore )							
Year	B.E	R.E	Amount released to UGC.	Slots	Selection	Actual Joining	Amount Disbursed
2017-18	40.00	40.00	20.00	300	300	193	25.09
2018-19	110.00	30.00	30.00	1000	1000	704	22.24
2019-20	70.00	52.50	52.50	1000	Selection of students yet to be done		16.77 <i>(till 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2019)</i>

- It may be noted that candidates were selected for all the allocated slots for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19. The selection for the year 2019-20 is due and UGC has been instructed to finalize the selection of 1000 JRFs for 2019-20 as per revised scheme guideline effective from April 2019.
- The payments of scholarship/fellowship schemes, for which selections are made by UGC, are done under DBT mode through UGC-Canara Bank Scholarship Portal. The payments are being generated and paid monthly on the basis of uploading of monthly confirmation certificate by the institution, on UGC-Canara Bank Scholarship Portal, where student/scholar is pursuing his/her studies. Under this system, timely disbursement of fellowship/scholarship is ensured automatically.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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### **Recommendation (Para No.5.8)**

3.11 The Department have utilized ₹ 106.51 crore in 2018-19 from the Senior Citizens Fund. The Committee would like to know about the break-up of these funds

in the areas of its utilization. The Committee also desire to know whether this Scheme is still in continuation or not.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.12 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) has released an amount of Rs. 106.51crore to Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) in the F.Y 2018-19 for implementation of the scheme. Being the sole implementing agency, ALIMCO utilises the amount in organising the assessment camps first and thereafter in the distribution camps in the districts. The scheme is still in continuation and the grant utilized in the camps under RVY may be seen in above table (**Recommendation 5.7**).

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## CHAPTER IV

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

#### Recommendation (Para No. 2.12)

4.1 The Committee note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been utilizing almost all funds allocated to them every year from 2016-17 till 2018-19. The Committee are happy that the Department is committed to reducing the pendency of arrears in Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs. The Committee have been informed that in the current fiscal, they have utilized 58.17 per cent till 31st October, 2019 i.e. ₹ 5169.03 crore out of the total fund allocation of ₹ 8885 crore. It is evident that the requirements of this Department are much more to provide Scholarships, than allocation actually provided to them, particularly since they have failed to receive their projected demand. The Committee find that the Department submitted its requirement of ₹ 14871.37 crore to the Ministry of Finance but received only ₹ 8885.00 crore for the year 2019-20 which adversely affected the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs. The shortfall were reportedly ₹ 4198.18 crore and ₹ 1140.00 crore respectively in both Schemes, which the Committee finds quite disappointing. The Committee learn that the Department have put forth extra demand of ₹ 4-5 thousand crore to the Ministry of Finance to fill this gap which was statedly not accepted till the Committee examined the subject. Hence they would like to know the status now. As there were reportedly huge arrears pending under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SCs and even though the Department had released ₹ 5928.15 crore upto 2017-18 to all the States/UTs, the arrears have not been completely cleared, therefore, the Committee expect that the Department must have vigorously pursued Ministry of Finance to grant the extra funds demanded by them to clear the arrears and to ensure smooth functioning of all the Schemes/programmes of the Department at the supplementary Demands for Grants stage. The Committee would like to be apprised of the additional funds allocated, if any, and the position of arrears at the action taken stage.

## **Reply of the Government**

4.2 With regard to Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC (PMS-SC) students, it is submitted that Central Assistance is released towards the demand under the scheme for a year over and above the respective committed liability of the States/UTs. Central Assistance of Rs. 3414 crore, Rs.5928 crore and Rs. 2711.31 crore have been released during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The entire arrears accumulated at the end of 2016-17 have been released to all States/UTs who had submitted their proposals/demand.

With regard Central Assistance due for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20, the same has been released to all States/UTs who had submitted their complete proposals under the scheme.

### **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

### **Recommendation (Para No.3.37)**

4.3 The Committee observe that under the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS), 42,303 Manual Scavengers were identified during National Survey of Manual Scavengers, 2018 but Skill Development Training has been imparted to only 1682 candidates in 2018-19 and 978 candidates in 2019-20. The Committee fail to fathom that why only 2660 manual scavengers have been imparted training, when Skill Development Training is an integral part of rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers. In the same way One Time Cash Assistance has also not been provided to all the identified Manual Scavengers but only to 298 in 2018-19 and 428 in 2019-20. Considering the above facts, the Committee exhort the Department to at least provide Skill Development Training to all the latest identified Manual Scavengers and also One Time Cash Assistance to all identified Manual Scavengers in order to fulfill the purpose of the Scheme. The Department should also ensure that they are gainfully employed in future in order to

totally prohibit Manual Scavengers from the country. The Committee are of the view that the Department should conduct a survey regarding the age, gender and qualification of Manual Scavengers and their counselling should be done before imparting Skill Development Training to them. For this purpose, the Department should develop a focused capsule for their reemployment.

### **Reply of the Government**

**4.4 Survey of manual scavengers:** “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” provides for the survey and identification of manual scavengers by the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality in urban areas and the Chief Executive Officer of the Gram Panchayat in rural areas if there are reasons to believe existence of manual scavengers in areas under their jurisdiction. Accordingly States and Union Territories have reported identification 14559 manual scavengers from 6.12.2013 upto 31.3.2020. In addition, A National survey of manual scavengers was also carried out during 2018-19 on the basis of data of insanitary latrines converted into sanitary latrines under Swachh Bharat Mission and inputs received from Social Organisation in 194 identified districts. The survey has been completed and 48687 manual scavengers have been identified upto 31.3.2020. Data of identified manual scavengers in respect of some districts is awaited. A total of 63,246 manual scavengers have been identified upto 31.3.2020

**Rehabilitation of Identified Manual Scavengers:** Rehabilitation benefits to the identified manual scavengers include (i) Onetime Cash Assistance (OTCA) of Rs. 40,000 each (ii) Skill Development Training with monthly stipend of Rs.3000 to those manual scavengers and their dependents who opt for such training (iii) subsidy up to Rs3,25,000 on loans availed for self employment projects.

As regards the observation of the Committee that only 298 manual scavengers in 2018-19 and 428 during 2019-20 have been provided Onetime cash assistance, it is clarified that these figures relate to the annual scavengers identified by the States as per the provisions of MS Act, 2013. 13 States and Union Territories have reported identification of 14559 manual scavengers of whom 13161 have been provided OTCA upto 31.3.2020. The remaining manual scavengers could not be provided due to deficiencies in the information like bank account details incomplete address of the

beneficiary etc., for which the States have been asked to provide complete information. As regards release of OTCA to the manual scavengers identified in the National Survey-2018, out of 48687 identified manual scavengers identified in the National survey 30246 have been provided OTCA upto 31.3.2020. The remaining manual scavengers could not be provided OTCA due to incomplete details of the beneficiaries. The matter has been taken up with the concerned State Government for providing deficient information.

As regards, skill development training which is voluntary, 9653 manual scavengers/ their dependents who have opted for training have been sanctioned such training. It is targeted to provide skill training to 15,000 beneficiaries during 2020-21. Awareness camps are organized in the areas of concentration of manual scavengers from time to time to motivate them to undergo skill training.

As regards, self employment projects, due to socio economic background and lack of entrepreneurial skills, there is very poor response from the target group to avail loans for undertaking such projects. 1074 beneficiaries who have availed loans for self employment project have been sanctioned subsidy as per the guidelines of the scheme. In order to encourage more people to undertake self employment, it is proposed to provide loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs with 50% subsidy for purchase of sanitation machinery/ equipment. A more positive response and greater acceptability to avail such loans is expected from the target group on account of their traditional skills.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

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O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

## **CHAPTER V**

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

#### **Recommendation (Para No.3.25)**

5.1 The Committee note that Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes in one of its kind Scheme initiated by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to enhance entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes through 31 banks, which is very important for their economic development. The Committee are distressed to note that only 13 candidates have been provided credit under this Scheme since its inception in 2016-17 till 30th September, 2019. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department to review its present mechanism for implementation of this Scheme and modify it accordingly to provide credit to more eligible candidates under this Scheme. For this, the Department should make efforts to publicize it more through electronic and print media and sensitize Banks/Financial Institutions to be supportive to the SC entrepreneurs who are Credit seekers. The Committee are also of the considered opinion that in order to increase the number of beneficiaries in this Scheme, the Ministry should plan an exclusive outreach programme for the target population. The Department should also make use of the promotional mobile audio vans to publicize this Scheme in rural as well as urban areas.

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

5.2 As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, the total number of beneficiaries who availed the benefits under the scheme is 21. Indian Financial Corporation Limited (IFCI) has been making all out efforts to promote the schemes at various levels such as State Level Banking Committee. Conferences are held at different cities and conferences organised by industry bodies viz. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce Industries (DICCI) are also being attended where the scheme is promoted.

Further, Indian Financial Corporation Limited (IFCI) has been regularly following up with all the Nodal Officers of the Banks requesting them to submit the proposals under the Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Caste (CEGSSC). IFCI has requested banks to advise their branches to identify and cover maximum SC beneficiaries under the Scheme on priority to achieve the Nobel

objectives of the Scheme. As suggested, more efforts through electronic and print media shall be made and Banks shall be sensitized to be supportive to the SC entrepreneurs. Exclusive outreach programmes as suggested by the Committee shall be undertaken for the target population.

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

**Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

**Recommendation (Para No.5.7)**

5.3 The Committee note that Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) is a Scheme run by the Department for the Welfare of Senior Citizens in which aids and assisted devices viz. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walker/crutches, tripods/quad pods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries. The Scheme was initiated in 2016-17 but there was „nil“ utilization of funds in that year and only ₹ 1.50 crore was utilized in 2017-18 and in 2018-19 ₹ 106.51 crore were utilized against the RE of ₹ 0.01 crore. In 2018-19, the Department have utilized ₹ 106.51 crore from Senior Citizen“s Welfare Fund and again 2019-20 only ₹ 0.01 crore have been allocated under this Scheme. The Committee note that there are only two Schemes run by the Department at present for the Welfare of Senior Citizens. In the other Scheme also there is „nil“utilization of funds in 2018-19 as it is a new Scheme launched in the year 2018-19. The Committee note that there is no separate allocation for this Scheme by the Department and the funds are utilized entirely from Senior Citizens“ Fund. The Committee wonder when whole expenditure of this Scheme is met by the Senior Citizens“ Fund what is the requirement of creating a separate Head for this Scheme. The Committee, therefore, feel that the Department should create a separate head for the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, so that the other aspects of the Scheme such as organizing camps, survey for selection of beneficiaries etc. may not suffer due to paucity of funds. The Committee also desire that the Members of Parliament should

be intimated while organizing camps for distributing aids and appliances to the Senior Citizens in their respective constituencies.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 As per the Budget announcement 2015-16, a new scheme namely „Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana“ (RVY) for providing physical aids and assisted living device to the senior citizens belonging to below poverty line has been formulated by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The source of funding of the scheme is from Senior Citizen“s Welfare Fund (SCWF). The SCWF has been established under the Finance Act, 2015, to be utilized for such schemes for the promotion of the Welfare of Senior Citizens, in line with the National Policy on Older Persons. The Fund is administered by an Inter Ministerial Committee with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the Nodal Ministry for administration of the Fund. Proposals are invited by this Ministry from Central Ministries/Departments for formulation of welfare Schemes for Senior Citizens to be directly funded from SCWF. IMC of this Ministry has approved RVY for getting entirely funded from the SCWF. The Scheme was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 with an objective to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age-related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. The Scheme is implemented through the „Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)“, (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) as the sole implementing Agency.

As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, a separate Head No. 2235.02.104.23.00.31 has already been created for the scheme of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). Under this Head, as per the requirement of funds of this scheme, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure provides the adequate funds from Senior Citizens Welfare Funds for organizing the camps, survey for selection of beneficiaries etc.

The Members of Parliament are being informed/ intimated on the direction of Hon'ble Minister, SJE while organizing the camps under RVY since the inception of the scheme for distributing aids and appliances to the Senior Citizens in their respective constituencies.

BE, RE are not made to the scheme of RVY, as it is funded from Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF), however, a token allocation as Rs. 1.00 lakh has been made to the scheme. Since inception, Rs. 124.01 Crore have been released to Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation India Ltd.(ALIMCO), out of which approximately Rs. **77.36 Crore** have been utilised under the scheme till date. The details are as below:

S.No.	Financial Year	Allocated from SCWF (Rs. In Cr)	Released to ALIMCO (Rs. In Cr)	Fund Utilized by ALIMCO in RVY (Rs. In Cr)
1.	2016-17	16.00	16.00	NIL
2.	2017-18	1.5	1.5	14.317
3.	2018-19	106.5	106.51 (Rs. 1 lakh token money)	45.027
4.	2019-20	0.00	0.00	<b>40.676</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>124.01</b>	<b>100.02</b>
5.	<b>2020-21**</b>	<b>200.88**</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)**

O.M. No. 1-7/2019- Parl.

Dated May, 2020

**Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

**NEW DELHI;**

**6 August, 2020**  
**15 Shravana, 1942 (Saka)**

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



### List of Beneficiaries under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students

<b>S.NO.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	660193
2	Assam	7606
3	Bihar	96189
4	Chandigarh	1089
5	Chhattisgarh	104900
6	Delhi	14057
7	Goa	280
8	Gujarat	127102
9	Haryana	123062
10	Himachal Pradesh	24949
11	Jammu & Kashmir	7159
12	Jharkhand	22629
13	Karnataka	302286
14	Kerala	146998
15	Madhya Pradesh	361268
16	Maharashtra	426506
17	Manipur	5516
18	Odisha	202917
19	Puducherry	6241
20	Punjab	200553
21	Rajasthan	339157
22	Sikkim	387
23	Tamil Nadu	761114
24	Telangana	272169
25	Tripura	16982
26	Uttar Pradesh	1274740
27	Uttarakhand	73920
28	West Bengal	450004
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6029973</b>

**YOGITA SWAROOP, IES**  
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Fax : +91-11-24369838  
E-mail : yogita.swaroop@gov.in



## Annexure-II

भारत सरकार  
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय  
पंडित दीनदयाल अंत्योदय भवन,  
सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स, लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
PANDIT DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA BHAWAN,  
C.G.O. COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

D.O.No. 16011/01/2020-SCD-IV (SRMS)

Dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020

*Dear Sir,*

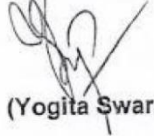
I am enclosing a copy of the recommendation made by the Standing Committee of the Parliament on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding manual cleaning of manholes.

2. I would request that the urban local bodies/municipal corporation may be directed to ensure that manual cleaning of sewers may be prohibited and machines be used for this purpose. Inspection may be carried out to ensure that the contractors comply with the provisions of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules 2013) and "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act 2013) in this regard and strong punitive action including black listing may be taken against the agency who violate the provisions of the rules and employ persons for hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

*With regards*

**Encl. As Above**

Yours sincerely,

  
(Yogita Swaroop)

The Principal Secretaries (Municipal Administration) of all States and Union Territories.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) HELD ON THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Main Committee Room Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Y. Devendrappa
3. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
4. Shri Akshaibar Lal
5. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

**RAJYA SABHA**

6. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
7. Shri Ashok Gasti
8. Shri P.L. Punia
9. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
10. Shri Ramkumar Verma

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri R. Subrahmanyam	Secretary
2.	Smt. Upma Srivastava	Additional Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon<sup>ble</sup> Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of four Draft Action Taken Reports of the Committee on “Demands for Grants 2019-20” and taking evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on “The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019”.

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

(i) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the First Report on “Demand for Grants 2019-20” of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

(ii) \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

(iii) \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

(iv) \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

4. The Committee adopted the aforesaid draft Reports without any amendment and authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports to Parliament or to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Speaker, Lok Sabha.

5. The Chairperson, thereafter, welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) to the sitting and drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of 'Directions by the Speaker' to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential' till a Report on the subject is presented to the House.

6. The Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment accordingly briefed the Committee on various provisions of the Bill. The broad issues discussed at the sitting are as follows:-

(i) Expansion of definitions of 'children', 'parent', 'relatives' 'maintenance' and 'welfare'.

(ii) Role of 'Conciliation Officer' and 'Maintenance Officer'.

- (iii) Establishment of 'Special Police Unit' in every district to address the grievances of senior citizens.
- (iv) Provision of 'National Help Line' for senior citizens.
- (v) Establishment and management of 'Senior Citizens' Care Homes' and 'Multi Service Day Care Centre' for senior citizens.
- (vi) Provision for 'Home Care Services' for such senior citizens who are not able to perform activities of daily life due to any physical or mental impairment.
- (vii) Minimum standards to be maintained by the private agencies while opening and running old age homes.
- (viii) Need for comprehensive awareness campaign for the effective implementation of "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" .
- (ix) Provision in Service Conduct Rules to motivate children in the Government service to take care of their old parents.
- (x) Formation of 'Old Age Groups' to provide certain jobs like giving tuitions to children, maintenance of parks etc. to those senior citizens, who are capable physically and mentally, to engage them in social causes.
- (xi) Need for sensitization of children from young age to give respect, care and support to senior citizens.

7. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson then directed the Department to furnish written replies to all the queries raised by Members to the Secretariat at the earliest.

8. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views on various issues raised by the Members.

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

*The witnesses then withdrew.*

***(The Committee then adjourned.)***

## APPENDIX

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20) OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	20	
II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Paragraph Nos. 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 3.12, 3.15, 3.16, 3.38, 3.43, 5.9 and 5.11)	10	50.00
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: (Paragraph Nos. 3.13, 3.14, 3.26, 3.27, 4.10 and 5.8)	6	30.00
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration: (Paragraph Nos. 2.12 and 3.37)	2	10.00
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: (Paragraph Nos. 3.25 and 5.7)	2	10.00