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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2020 - 21)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

[Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs]

SEVENTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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EMPOWERMENT
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Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.02.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
4. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
5. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
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 Vijay Kumar
14. Shri Akshaibar Lal
15. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
16. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
17. Shri Arjun Singh
18. Smt. Supriya Sule
19. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
20. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
21. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

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. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
- *28. Shri P. L. Punia
29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
30. Shri Ramkumar Verma
31. Vacant

Shri Biswajit Daimary, MP (RS) resigned his seat in Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 21.11.2020.

* Shri P.L. Punia, MP (RS) retired on 25.11.2020.

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
3. Smt. Madhu Bhutani - Deputy Secretariat
4. Smt. Shashi Bisht - Assistant Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2020-21) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Seventeenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 16th March, 2020. The Ministry of Minority Affairs have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 8th June, 2020. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 10th November, 2020.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth 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;
10 Novemer, 2020
19 Kartika, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants for the year 2020-21 pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1.2 The Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.3.2020. It contained 27 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :
Paragraph Nos.-2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 5.11, 5.12, 6.10, 7.9, 7.10, 8.7, 8.8, 9.8 and 9.18.
(Total :20, Chapter II)
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government :
Paragraph No. -9.14
(Total :1,Chapter-III)
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration:
Paragraph Nos. -3.24, 3.25 and 3.26.
(Total :3, Chapter-IV)
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature:
Paragraph Nos.- 5.13, 7.8 and 7.11.
(Total :3, Chapter- V)

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

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

A. Scholarship Schemes

Recommendation (Para No.3.24)

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

“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.”

1.6 The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in their action taken note, have submitted as under:

“The key dates of application, verification, re-validation, payment and other allied processes on the National Scholarship Portal are scheduled as per the timelines designed at the highest level by the DBT Mission, Cabinet

Secretariat and are intimated to all stakeholders well in advance. Nevertheless, the extensions are sought by various States/UTs in completing any or all of the above processes due to one or other reason, primarily to accommodate more and more applicants from their States/UTs. The Ministry, examines such requests on merit and sends them to the DBT Mission for taking appropriate action.

As regards disbursement of scholarships to girl students by relaxing marks percentage norms, it is stated that during the year 2019-20, 52.57% of scholarships have been sanctioned/disbursed to girl students.”

Recommendation (Para No. 3.26)

1.7 The Committee, in their Eighth Report, had recommended as follows:

“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.”

1.8 The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in their action taken reply, have stated as under:

“The approval of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance was obtained by this Ministry for exemptions in respect of the permissible limits of expenditures during the last quarter/month of 2019-20 (**Annexure-II**)

As regards advancement of the timelines for implementation of three Scholarship Schemes for minorities is concerned, it is stated that the key dates of application, verification, re-validation, payment and other allied

processes on the National Scholarship Portal are scheduled as per the timelines designed at the highest level by the DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and are intimated to all stakeholders well in advance. Nevertheless, the extensions are sought by various States/UTs in completing any or all of the above processes due to one or other reason, primarily to accommodate more and more applicants from their States/UTs. The Ministry, at the apex, has to look into each and every request rationally and most of the time favourably as it may have an implication on some or the other group of applicants, coming from the economically weaker sections from the six notified minority communities, leading to some needy beneficiary being left out of the disbursement process.”

1.9 The Committee, being very concerned about the delay in disbursement of the scholarships to the applicants, had noted that it led to a major chunk of the allocation under various scholarship schemes being spent in just the last quarter of the year. Hence, they had recommended in their Eighth Report that the disbursement of the amount may be streamlined with specific deadlines. They had also recommended that academic calendars needed to be studied thoroughly by the Ministry to see if the timelines could be advanced under the scheme. The Ministry, in their Action Taken Reply have merely stated that all the key dates of various processes on the National Scholarship Portal are scheduled as per the timelines by the DBT Mission and that any extension sought by various States/UTs are examined by the Ministry on merit, primarily to accommodate more applicants favourably. The Committee acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry to accommodate maximum number of minority students for providing them scholarships, however, addressing the issue of delay in disbursement is important not merely for bringing the requisite financial discipline but also because there could be innumerable instances, where a poor minority student is compelled to discontinue education, owing to non-payment of fee due to late receipt of scholarship amount by the disbursing authority. In this connection, the Committee would refer to the Guidelines of the three Scholarship Schemes for Minority students as available in the National Scholarship Portal, from which the following points emerge, which empower the Ministry to undertake any exercise for streamlining the processes for maximum benefits of the students; viz:

- (i) The monitoring of financial and physical performance of the Scheme would be done by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.**
- (ii) Minor modifications, if any, in the Scheme may be made by the Ministry of Minority Affairs “without seeking recourse to SFC/EFC/Cabinet”, but with the consultation of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.**
- (iii) The regulation can be changed at any time at the discretion of the Government of India.**

From the above, it is clear that the Ministry can suggest changes in view of the pressing need to enhance the financial and physical performance of various Scholarship Schemes and achieve their objectives in the most effective manner. The Committee feel that it, perhaps, would not be desirable to put the entire onus solely on the timelines designed by the DBT Mission. Besides, the monitoring aspect can be reinforced by the Ministry to ensure that minimal scope is left for the State/UTs Governments to seek extensions, since availability of such an opportunity of seeking extension, perhaps, brings down the level of seriousness required to adhere to the set timelines. Hence, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry may take a fresh look at the three Scholarship Schemes in order to streamline those, more so, as by now the two time registration process of the Institutes is statedly over and the UTs of J&K and Ladakh have also come into the ambit of the beneficiaries under the Scheme.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.25)

1.10 The Committee, in their Eighth Report, had recommended as follows:

“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.”

1.11 The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in their action taken note, furnished the following information:

“Year-wise details of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditures under the three Scholarship Schemes for minorities for the last five years are as under:

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
Year	Budget Estimates (In ₹Crore)	Revised Estimates (In ₹Crore)	Actual Expenditure (In ₹Crore)
2015-16	1040.10	1040.10	1015.72
2016-17	931.00	931.00	585.94
2017-18	950.00	1001.15	1108.13
2018-19	980.00	1269.00	1176.19
2019-20*	1220.30	1199.82	1324.84
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	580.10	580.10	552.83
2016-17	550.00	550.00	287.11
2017-18	550.00	561.29	479.72
2018-19	692.00	500.00	354.89
2019-20#	496.01	482.66	428.77
Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	335.00	335.00	315.00
2016-17	335.00	395.00	220.54
2017-18	393.54	393.54	388.79
2018-19	522.00	402.00	261.17

2019-20 [^]	366.43	361.51	285.63
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* - Final Grant, after re-appropriation of funds, was ₹1341.23 crore.

- Final Grant, after re-appropriation of funds, was ₹433.86 crore.

^ - Final Grant, after re-appropriation of funds, was ₹307.65 crore.

The year-wise details of the total number of applications received, the number of applications rejected and the number of students who were sanctioned the scholarships under the three Scholarship Schemes for minorities during the last five years are as under:

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
Year	Total number of applications received	Number of applications rejected	Number of students sanctioned scholarships
2015-16	6982276	*	5178779
2016-17	8635428	192726	4153524
2017-18	9650248	89622	4874220
2018-19	10867611	475253	5691854
2019-20	8868738	412050	5427190
			25325567
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	1730089	*	666840
2016-17	1803649	120265	624990
2017-18	1735596	56669	621321
2018-19	2007378	228941	684235
2019-20	1557700	111195	681478
			3278864
Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	6982276	*	133582
2016-17	280639	26561	121858
2017-18	9650248	89622	116452
2018-19	10867611	475253	117771
2019-20	8868738	412050	115346

* - Data not collated.

1.12 The Committee find from the data furnished by the Ministry on the three important scholarship schemes, i.e., Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means for students of minority communities, that a large number of applicants are not being considered for scholarships every year . In 2019-20, under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, out of 88,68,738 applications received, 4,12,050 were rejected, 54,27,190 were sanctioned Scholarships and 30,29,498 students were left out. The Committee also note that the Ministry had utilized ₹1324.84 crore out of final Grant of ₹1341.23 crore in the year 2019-20 under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The status is same in regard to other two scholarship schemes. The Committee desire the Ministry to clarify as to whether all those applicants who were neither rejected nor sanctioned any scholarships were considered ineligible or were found eligible but could not be accommodated, alongwith reasons therefor. The Committee observe that efforts need to be made by the Ministry to get the number of scholarship slots increased in consonance with demand as well as full utilization of funds . This is essential in view of the existing low level of literacy and high rate of school dropouts among minorities. The Committee feel that in order to support talent and merit at the post-matric level and to promote excellence in specialized courses, the Ministry must strive for availability of sufficient scholarship slots as well as for 100 per cent utilisation of funds so that every bright student from the minority community is able to get adequate education to become a valued member of society.

B. SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ‘SEEKHO AUR KAMAO’

Recommendation (Para No. 5.13)

1.13 The Committee in their Eighth Report had recommended as follows:

“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 in-charge 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.”

1.14 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their action taken note have stated as under:

“The scheme guidelines recognize that monitoring is a continuous measurement of progress while the project is on-going which involves checking and measuring progress, analysing the situation and reacting to new events, opportunities, and issues. There existed provisions for the Ministry to authorize concurrent monitoring and random checking of physical and financial reports on the MIS. The Ministry accordingly engaged services of an agency for running a Call Centre which randomly calls the beneficiaries and takes their inputs. The reports are made available on the Scheme portal. The expenditure on this account has however been lower than estimated. Ministry’s officials also monitor the projects by field visits. Inspections are also undertaken by State government officials and Maulana Azad Education

Foundation (MAEF) inspectors. The second installment of grants are released only after satisfactory inspection report of training is received by the Ministry. The Ministry is in process of hiring agency for independent evaluation of the Scheme. The Expression of Interest (EOI) has already been floated for the same. There is another proposal for establishing a Project Monitoring Unit for the Scheme to augment the manpower requirement of the Scheme for more effective monitoring. There is another proposal for improving the Scheme portal and integrating it with Skill India Portal and PFMS portal so that effective online monitoring can be strengthened. The MIS of the scheme portal is proposed to be further strengthened. The measures would ensure that the funds under the Head are utilized fully and effectively giving right impetus to the scheme.”

1.15 The Committee, in their original Report, had observed low utilisation of funds for hiring professional services for inspecting Seekho-aur-Kamao Scheme for skill development of Minorities which had led to surrendering of funds under the Head. They had recommended action on this aspect. The Ministry, in their action taken reply, have stated that for monitoring and random checking of physical and financial reports on the MIS, an agency has been hired for running a Call Centre which randomly takes inputs from beneficiaries under the Scheme. Further, the Committee were apprised of several proposals for effective monitoring of the Scheme like establishment of a Project Monitoring Unit, hiring an agency for evaluation of the Scheme, improvising the Scheme Portal and its integration with Skill India Portal and PFMS. The Committee appreciate these initiatives which are to be taken up by the Ministry for effective monitoring and implementation of the Scheme particularly integration of Scheme Portal with Skill India Portal. However, the Committee feel that these are only proposals with no approval status or target dates and action plans, as nothing concrete has been apprised to them. Therefore, the Committee desire that the process of finalization and implementation of these proposals should be completed in a time bound manner and they may be apprised of the action taken.

C. Computerization and GIS Mapping of Waqf Properties

Recommendation (Para No. 7.11)

1.16. The Committee, in their Eighth, Report had recommended as follows:

“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.”

1.17 The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in their action taken note, submitted as under:

“The GIS mapping of the Waqf Properties was one of the main objectives of the Computerization of the records of the State Waqf Boards and Automation of the activities to prevent the encroachment of the Waqf Properties. Consequently, The GIS mapping of the Waqf properties was taken up at war footing level in all the State Waqf Boards and immediate action are taken up to engage specialized institutes such as IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, AMU Aligarh, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and other private reputed agencies. As per laid down target, the 50% work was to be completed by March 2020. In order to achieve the target, regular Meetings and conferences were organized to impress upon all State Waqf Boards to support and cooperate the agencies rendered for the task, However, owing to Nationwide lockdown and other field problems the target to complete the 50% of the Waqf Properties could not be achieved, however the Geo tagging of 96000 Waqf properties have been completed so far and the work is steadily progressing and amidst lockdown the progress is being monitored through video conferencing and zoom conferencing. The time plan to complete the overall work the Schedule period is March 2022. The CWC office is regularly and diligently pursuing the matter with the agencies entrusted the task and the State Waqf Boards to accomplish the laid down work.”

1.18 The Committee note the steps taken by the Ministry towards GIS mapping of Waqf Properties and creation of computerized data base of various activities conducted by the State Waqf Boards. The Ministry have stated in their reply that due to Nationwide lockdown and other field problems, the target of GIS mapping of 50 per cent waqf properties by March, 2020 could not be achieved . The reply does not hold much ground since the Committee were already aware of the impractical target as stated in their original recommendation and the lockdown, which was imposed only in March, 2020, can only be partially made responsible for the delay. The Committee now note that the target date has been revised as March, 2022, which seems to be more realistic. The Committee hope that the work will continue despite the current challenges, particularly since all the properties have been geotagged. In so far as the Committee's recommendation on holding of elections of State Waqf Boards/Councils at regular intervals is concerned, the Ministry has furnished no reply. Therefore, the Committee desire to know position of all State Waqf Boards/Councils at present, as well as, measures taken to expedite the matter at the Ministry's level.

CHAPTER – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Recommendation (Para 2.11)

2.1 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.

Reply of the Government

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram

2.2 During the year 2019-20, the Ministry regularly pursued with the States/UTs covered under PMJVK for submission of proposals for their respective identified MCAs and liquidation of pending Utilisation Certificates. The interaction with States/UTs on these issues was initiated with a meeting by the Secretary (MA) with the Principal Secretaries of the States/UTs at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 17.07.2019 and continued throughout the year during Empowered Committee meetings, visit of officers to States/UTs, through written correspondence etc.

With sustained efforts by the Ministry during 2019-20, proposals were received from several state governments and Central Government organisations e.g. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Meghalaya, Kerala, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tripura, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chattisgarh and also from the States included in the scheme in May 2018 namely Nagaland, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh as well as from Central Government Organisations like Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Aligarh Muslim University, Kerala University etc. The Ministry sanctioned projects to the tune of ₹4531.90 crore

having Central share component of ₹3181.60 crore during 2019-20. The funds released under PMJVK during 2019-20 was the highest ever under the scheme since its inception i.e. ₹1698.29 crore, which was 115.5% of the BE allocation which was only ₹1470 crore. The savings from other schemes of the Ministry was utilised in PMJVK as the requirement exceeded the budget allocation.

Scholarship Schemes

During the year 2019-20, against the Budget provision of ₹2082.74 crore, a total of ₹2039.24 crore was released against the three Scholarship Schemes for minorities, which is about 98%. Almost 100% of the Budget provision, allocated against DBT Heads, was utilised. However, some minor saving was observed due to receipt of fewer claims of administrative expenses from States/UTs.

Seekho Aur Kamao

During the year 2019-20, Seekho Aur Kamao Division regularly pursued the matter with PIAs for submission of Accreditation Certificates for the training centres engaged in training of minority youth under the Scheme so that the Ministry could release funds to them. However, there were issues with (NSDC) Smart India portal due to which accreditation process was delayed in the initial days of the year. Towards the end of the year, the Smart India portal was stable and the process of accreditation picked up enabling release of funds under the Scheme for the fresh allocations. The release of 2nd installment could still not be taken up as the training has already completed even before the PIAs could get accreditation from NSDC. The releases are likely to be rationalized with even distribution throughout the year henceforth as the process of Accreditation appears to be smooth.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 2.12)

2.3 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.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Exemption from Ministry of Finance was obtained for incurring expenditure beyond the prescribed expenditure ceilings i.e. 25% of BE in the final quarter of the year. As a result, the Ministry has successfully booked an expenditure of ₹ 4505.12 crore in 2019-20 (**Annexure-I**).

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram

The expenditure booked under PMJVK in 2019-20 was ₹1698.29 crore, which is 115.5% of the BE allocation of ₹1470 crore. The savings from other schemes of the Ministry were diverted to this Scheme. During 2020-21, efforts to adhere to the Annual Plan are afoot. An expenditure of ₹118.87 crore has already been incurred under PMJVK in the month of April, 2020. As regards the direction of the Committee on deployment of officers to States with large Minority Concentration Areas, it is informed that the Ministry has already drawn a roster in February, 2020 for visit of officers to States/UTs for monitoring schemes implemented by the Ministry including PMJVK. Besides, the officers and staff working in the PMJVK Division are also deputed from time to time to specific States/UTs to visit project sites and interact with the State/UT officials with the idea to expedite completion of ongoing projects, submission of Utilisation Certificates, submission of fresh proposals etc.

Scholarship Schemes

Due to the very nature of the three Scholarship Schemes, for which most of the expenditures happen during third and fourth quarters of a financial year, timely intervention was made by this Ministry to seek necessary exemptions from the Department of Expenditure for expending more than the permissible limit during the last quarter/month of financial year 2019-20. Thus, with necessary permission from the Department of Expenditure, this Ministry has been able to expend 98% of the allocated amount under the three Scholarship Schemes.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 2.13)

2.5 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.

Reply of the Government

2.6 There already exists a robust mechanism for monitoring of sanctioned projects including utilisation of funds under the PMJVK. Besides the normal chain of monitoring through the Block Level Committee, District Level Committee and State Level Committee, the Ministry continuously reviews the progress of construction and commissioning of the sanctioned projects and utilisation of funds. Such reviews are conducted during the Empowered Committee meetings with the State/UT authorities, through written communications, through Conferences/ Meetings/Discussions with Stake Holders etc. At the Ministry level, there is a dedicated Division dealing with the Scheme which scrutinises proposals and organises meetings of Empowered Committee for consideration of fresh cases. There is no delay at the Ministerial level in consideration of fresh proposals and release of funds after the same are received from the States/UTs/Central Agencies. With a view to monitor implementation of the projects at the State/UT level, there is a robust mechanism of monitoring through the Block Level Committee, District Level Committee and the State Level Committee. The Empowered Committee at the Ministry level also acts as Oversight Committee and monitors/reviews the construction and commissioning of projects from time to time. There also exists a system in the scheme for periodic reporting of financial and physical status of sanctioned projects by the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports and during submission of Utilisation Certificates. Officers and staff working in the PMJVK Division are also deputed time to time to select States/UTs to visit specific project sites and interact with the State/UT officials with the view to expedite completion of ongoing projects, submission of Utilisation Certificates, submission of fresh proposals etc. In addition, as stated in reply to the recommendation in Para 2.12, the Ministry has also separately drawn a roster in February, 2020 for visit of officers to States/UTs for monitoring implementation of the schemes implemented by the Ministry including PMJVK.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 2.14)

2.7 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.

Reply of the Government

2.8 Under the PMJVK, proposals are formulated at the Block/Town level with the approval of the Block Level Committee (BLC), then recommended to the District Level Committee (DLC) and State Level Committee (SLC) before it is finally recommended to the Ministry for consideration of the Empowered Committee. The BLC, DLC and SLC are the same Committees which consider proposals under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme. These Committees are also responsible for monitoring of projects sanctioned under the PMJVK scheme.

All Member of Parliament and all Member of Legislative Assembly representing the District are members of the District Level Committee. Further, one Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha representing the State is nominated by the Central Government on the DLC.

The SLC is represented by two Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and one Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha representing the State, nominated by the Central Government and two Members of the Legislative Assembly nominated by the State Government. Further, one of the member included in the SLC from Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly should have been elected from any of the Minority Concentration District in the State.

It could be seen from the above that there is adequate representation of public representatives involved in implementation of the PMJVK scheme at the District and State level. Further, the Hon'ble Minister for Minority Affairs has written to all the Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors in August 2019 to ensure that the MPs who have been nominated to the SLC and DLC are timely invited for the SLC and DLC meetings without fail and also that the meetings are conducted regularly by the States/UTs.

It is also brought to the kind notice of the Committee that sufficient proposals are received from NE states under the PMJVK scheme. During the year 2019-20, against the Budget allocation of ₹212.55 crore for the NE Areas, projects sanctioned in the NE was to the tune of ₹1192.85 crore, having Central Share of ₹1073.32 crore.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 3.21)

2.9 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.

Reply of the Government

2.10 During the year 2019-20, against the Budget provision of ₹1220.30 crore for the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, a total of ₹1324.84 crore was released, which is about 108.57%.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 3.22)

2.11 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.

Reply of the Government

2.12 During the year 2019-20, against the Revised Estimates of ₹482.66 crore for the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, a total of ₹428.77 crore was released, which is about 88.83%. Some saving was observed due to receipt of fewer claims of Scholarship payments from the National Scholarship Portal as some doubtful applications, in respect of the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, remained pending for re-validation. The re-validation process has now been completed on 24th April, 2020 and the payment of scholarships is under process during 2020-21.

The remaining eligible applicants are being disbursed their scholarship amounts during 2020-21.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 3.23)

2.13 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 on 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 action against fake applications and saving time to speed up processing of applications form valid and deserving candidates.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The schools/Institutions are an important stakeholder on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) as they verify the credentials of their applicants on NSP. However, over the past few years, it was observed that there were several doubtful schools/ institutions/universities, registered on NSP, enabling some ineligible applicants to avail scholarships. As such, it was decided that a school/institution can verify the applications of its applicants only when it has a valid U-DISE/AISHE/NCVT/SCVT code and its nodal officer is registered on NSP through the respective designated State/District Nodal Officer with proper proof of identification. Thus, about 10 lakh institutes got eliminated in the process while the number of applications sent to States for re-validation came down by about 8 lakh.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 4.7)

2.15 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.

Recommendation (Para 4.8)

2.16 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.

Recommendation (Para 4.9)

2.17 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, Rs` 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.

Recommendation (Para 4.10)

2.18 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT(Para 4.7 to 4.10)

2.19 The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee regarding constant communication with PIAs has been noted. Keeping in view the trend of expenditure under the scheme till Feb,2020,it was decided to re-appropriate an amount of ₹52.62crore to Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK), thereby reducing the final grant to ₹22.63 crore. Keeping in view the likely expenditure under the scheme the exemption of Ministry of Finance was not required under the scheme. The expenditure to the tune of ₹13.97 crore only was booked under the scheme during 2019-20.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 5.11)

2.20 “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 i.e. 70.29% 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 access 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.

Reply of the Government

2.21 During the year 2019-20, the Seekho Aur Kamao Division regularly pursued the matter with PIAs for submission of Accreditation Certificates for the training centres engaged in training of minority youth under the Scheme so that the Ministry could release funds to them. However, there were issues with NSDC’s Smart India portal due to which accreditation process was delayed in the initial days of the year. Towards the end of the year, the Smart India portal was stable and the process of accreditation picked up enabling release of funds under the Scheme for the fresh allocations. The release of 2nd installment could still not be taken up as the training has already completed even before the PIAs could get accreditation from NSDC. This release shall be initiated only after a policy decision regarding exemption of requirement of accreditation for trainings already completed is taken. Some payments to PIAs were held up due to observation of Internal Audit team. This issue has already been partly cleared by delinking the cases of non-audit years for these PIAs and the payments are already in process of getting released. With these

measures, the releases are likely to be rationalized with even distribution throughout the year henceforth full utilization of allocated budget under the Scheme.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 5.12)

2.22 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.

Reply of the Government

2.23 (i) The data on BE, RE and actual from 2013-14 to 2016-17(year wise)

Achievements of the previous years		
Year	Budget Estimate (₹in Crore)	Actual Expenditure (₹inCrore)
2013-14	17.00	17.00
2014-15	46.23	46.21
2015-16	192.45	191.96
2016-17	210.00	204.93

(ii) The number of beneficiaries trained, employed, self-employed since the inception of the scheme – separately and year wise

Achievements of the previous years		
Year	Trained	Placed (employed)
2013-14	19524	15247
2014-15	20686	15694
2015-16	96494	45496
2016-17	53240	47947

* The figures do not include self-employed as there is no data on self employed figures post training.

(iii) note on the mechanism to monitor the employment status of the beneficiaries

The placement status of the beneficiaries is entered on Seekho Aur Kamao Portal by the PIAs. This does not include self-employed status.

As the focus of this Scheme is to provide meaningful employment, the general placement conditions which must be met by PIAs include placement assistance and counselling to all candidates. There is provision of Post Placement Support (PPS) to help the candidates in settling down and taking care of their needs in the starting months of employment. Preferably, placement should be in organized sector with associated benefits like PF, ESI etc. But as some sectors like construction are not very organized but payments mostly exceed the organized sector, hence informal sector jobs are also considered subject to the stipulations that a particular job recognizes skills acquired by the candidate and offers a valid future progression. The placement in the informal sector is considered only if the following conditions are met:

- (a) A offer letter assuring the minimum wages of the state.
- (b) Certificate from the employer that wages have been paid as per the minimum wages.
- (c) The jobs should not be purely temporary and must have stability.

Further, the candidate is treated as placed only if he/she continues to be in job for at least 3 continuous months after training.

One of the following documents is taken as proof of placement:

1. Salary slips issued by employer.
2. Account statement of bank account of candidate with credits of salary.
3. Letter with name of candidate and salary details.

The PIAs have to ensure Post placement tracking and monitoring the extent of retention in the new jobs for a period of one year.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 6.10)

2.24 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.

Reply of the Government

2.25 With reference to the recommendation of the Committee, it is informed that the restructured PMJVK has been implemented with effect from May 2018. The priority sectors under the PMJVK scheme are Education, Health and Skill Development. During the year 2018-19 projects to the tune of ₹2506.53 crore having central share of ₹1551.54 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry. The projects sanctioned in the priority sectors during 2018-19 constituted 74.76% of the amount of total projects. This includes 57 Health Centres, 833 Anganwadi Centres, 13 Colleges and 18 ITIs. The expenditure of ₹68.48 crore during 2018-19, observed by the Committee, was only for three types of Health projects namely Hospital Buildings, Health Centres and Anganwadi Centres. During the year 2019-20, the Ministry sanctioned projects to the tune of ₹4378.54 crore having central share of ₹3104.08 crore out of which projects in the priority sectors was to the tune of ₹2578.67 crore, which was 83.07% of the value of total projects. The projects sanctioned includes 03 Hospital Buildings, 273 Health Centres, 94 Anganwadi Centres, 9 Colleges and 16 ITIs. It can also be seen that there has been no under utilisation of allocated resources.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 7.9)

2.26 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.

Reply of the Government

2.27 With a view to complete 100% Digitization of the record of the Waqf Estates was implemented on war footing level in all the State Waqf Boards and the progress was updated on weekly basis, for onward submission to the Cabinet Secretary's Office. The work has been completed as per the target plan and the Documents of 330 Waqf Estates had been Digitized and entered in WAMSI online portal. As regard financial assistance to the new component added in the computerization Scheme, the funds amounting to ₹ 6.91 crore have been release to 23 State Waqf Board for automation of the activities and strengthen of the infrastructural facilities. Under the program, the personnel as Assistant Programmer, Office Cum Legal Assistant, Accountant, Legal Support Officer, Survey Assistant, and Zonal Waqf Officer have been provided to the State Waqf Boards. The overall progress with regard to the functioning is taking place in the State Waqf Boards as Boards have now imbibed the IT application in their functioning. The CWC is regularly monitoring the Utilization of the funds and its outflow by periodical review meetings in different zone of the country, organizing all India Waqf conference in Delhi and also through Video Conferencing facility. Consequently, the council regularly with diligent and steadily monitoring the overall progress of the scheme and assessing the impact made their own.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 7.10)

2.28 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.

Reply of the Government

2.29 The matter with regard to discrepancies in the number of Waqf Estates available in State Waqf Board and the number entered on WAMSI portal of the Ministry was taken up with 9 State Waqf Boards, seeking Clarification. The concerned Boards were advised to thoroughly scrutinize the record of the Waqf Estates with the record available in the WAMSI portal. The Boards have been instructed to tally the figure to set aside the discrepancies as pointed out. The concerned State Waqf Boards have been reminded also and through Video Conferencing they have apprised to clarify the issue matter is under regular persuasion and Boards have been asked to resolve the issue by July 2020.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 8.7)

2.30 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.

Reply of the Government

2.31 The observations of the Committee have been duly noted for compliance. As regards the financial year 2019-20, expenditure under the USTTAD scheme was Rs.54.48 Crore which is 90.80% of the Rs.60.00 Crore budget allocation at the R.E. stage. Given that unprecedented situation arose due to the spread of COVID-19, the fund utilization fell only marginally short of 100% utilization. The Ministry has regularly taken up multi-media campaign to spread awareness of welfare schemes meant for minorities, including USTTAD Scheme, through print and electronic media, All India Radio Network including FM Channels, and websites all over the country. Pocket booklets and pamphlets on various schemes / programmes of the Ministry are published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other regional languages. Regional Coordination & Review Conferences are also held with State Governments from time to time where, inter-alia, information about the Ministry's schemes is provided. In addition, outdoor publicity is also being done by organizing Hunar Haats. The Ministry also supports workshops and seminars organized by NGOs and State Organisations for creating awareness about its programmes and schemes.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 8.8)

2.32 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.

Reply of the Government

2.33 The additional funds are sought in the final batch of supplementary Demands for Grants as a token supplementary for any particular financial year, which normally become available at the closure of financial year i.e. in the last week of March only after approval by the Parliament in the Budget Session. Accordingly, the additional funds to the tune of Rs.20.00 Crore & Rs.10.00 Crore for FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 became available only in March, 2019 and March, 2020 respectively. The exemption of Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs was duly obtained for incurring expenditure beyond the prescribed limit of 25% in the last quarter of financial year 2019-20. As a result thereof expenditure under the USTTAD scheme for financial year 2019-20 was Rs.54.48 Crore which is 90.80% of the Rs.60.00 Crore budget allocation at the R.E. stage. Given that unprecedented situation arose due to the spread of COVID-19, the fund utilization fell only marginally short of 100% utilization. The expenditure for the financial year 2018-19 was Rs. 31.26 crore which is actually more than 100% of BE and 62% of RE. The fund for the year 2018-19 was not released due to coming into force of election code of conduct announced by Election of India on 10.03.2019. The copy of communication received from Ministry of Finance is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-II**.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 9.8)

2.34 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.

Reply of the Government

2.35 The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) gives utmost priority and importance for creating awareness on different schemes being implemented by the M/o Minority Affairs for the socio-economic development of the minorities. The Members of NCM regularly reach out to the general public directly to create awareness on various schemes. However, the recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance and necessary steps would be taken to identify areas which need research for upliftment of minorities in various fields. During the financial year 2019-20, an amount of ₹1,38,600/- was spent for this purpose. The NCM will take all possible action to utilize the full budget from the Publication Head during the current financial year (2020-21).

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 9.18)

2.36 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.

Reply of the Government

2.37 The CLM office takes up all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities which are brought to the notice of CLM by individuals /groups/associations/organisations. For this purpose, discussions are held, where required, with Chief Ministers, Governors/Lt. Governors of the States/Union Territories and the concerned officials. The CLM is assisted by the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in the matter. So far 52 Reports i.e. up to June 2015 have been presented by the CLM.

The data regarding the status of implementation of the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities by the States/UTs, has been collected through a Questionnaire and it has been compiled up to 2018. The data for the period up to July, 2019 is being collected and this is likely to be finalized shortly. However, the submission of the report to the Hon'ble President of India as per proviso under Article 350 B (2) would be done after the regular CLM is appointed.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

CHAPTER – III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government

Recommendation (Para 9.14)

3.1 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.

Reply of the Government

3.2 It is submitted that Article 350B of the Constitution provides that

- (1) There shall be a Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President.
- (2) It shall be duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matter relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this Constitution and report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament and sent to the Governments of the States concerned.”
- (3) The Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities is known as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM), and the post was created in 1957. Till the year 2015, the Office of CLM was functioning from Allahabad and it was shifted to New Delhi w.e.f. 1st June, 2015 and it is functioning presently from Building No. 14/11 and 15/11, Jamnagar House, New Delhi. A proposal for renovation of the office and also procurement of new furniture and computers for the staff was under consideration of the then CLM during the year 2015-16. However, the then CLM relinquished his charge in April, 2016 and the post is presently vacant. In addition, the staff strength of CLM has also reduced as the vacant posts (which are non-cadre posts) are required to be filled on transfer/deputation basis as per the existing Recruitment Rules and filling up of such posts is generally time-consuming, especially also because few officers are interested in coming on deputation to CLM.
- (4) In view of the aforesaid circumstances, the funds allocated, during the last five years have not been fully utilized. The observation made by the Hon'ble Committee has been noted, and it is assured that due care shall be taken in working out the realistic requirement of funds by CLM at the BE stage itself.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

CHAPTER – IV

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

Recommendation (Para 3.24)

4.1 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.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The key dates of application, verification, re-validation, payment and other allied processes on the National Scholarship Portal are scheduled as per the timelines designed at the highest level by the DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and are intimated to all stakeholders well in advance. Nevertheless, the extensions are sought by various States/UTs in completing any or all of the above processes due to one or other reason, primarily to accommodate more and more applicants from their States/UTs. The Ministry, examines such requests on merit and sends them to the to the DBT Mission for taking appropriate action.

As regards disbursement of scholarships to girl students by relaxing marks percentage norms, it is stated that during the year 2019-20, 52.57% of scholarships have been sanctioned/distributed to girl students.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 3.26)

4.3 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.

Reply of the Government

4.4 The approval of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance was obtained by this Ministry for exemptions in respect of the permissible limits of expenditures during the last quarter/month of 2019-20 (**Annexure-II**)

As regards advancement of the timelines for implementation of three Scholarship Schemes for minorities is concerned, it is stated that the key dates of application, verification, re-validation, payment and other allied processes on the National Scholarship Portal are scheduled as per the timelines designed at the highest level by the DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and are intimated to all stakeholders well in advance. Nevertheless, the extensions are sought by various States/UTs in completing any or all of the above processes due to one or other reason, primarily to accommodate more and more applicants from their States/UTs. The Ministry, at the apex, has to look into each and every request rationally and most of the time favourably as it may have an implication on some or the other group of applicants, coming from the economically weaker sections from the six notified minority communities, leading to some needy beneficiary being left out of the disbursement process.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.9 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para 3.25)

4.5 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.

Reply of the Government

4.6 The year-wise details of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditures under the three Scholarship Schemes for minorities for the last five years are as under:

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
Year	Budget Estimates (In ₹Crore)	Revised Estimates (In ₹Crore)	Actual Expenditure (In ₹Crore)
2015-16	1040.10	1040.10	1015.72
2016-17	931.00	931.00	585.94
2017-18	950.00	1001.15	1108.13
2018-19	980.00	1269.00	1176.19
2019-20*	1220.30	1199.82	1324.84
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	580.10	580.10	552.83
2016-17	550.00	550.00	287.11
2017-18	550.00	561.29	479.72
2018-19	692.00	500.00	354.89
2019-20#	496.01	482.66	428.77
Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	335.00	335.00	315.00
2016-17	335.00	395.00	220.54
2017-18	393.54	393.54	388.79
2018-19	522.00	402.00	261.17
2019-20^	366.43	361.51	285.63

* - Final Grant, after re-appropriation of funds, was ₹1341.23 crore.

- Final Grant, after re-appropriation of funds, was ₹433.86 crore.

^ - Final Grant, after re-appropriation of funds, was ₹307.65 crore.

The year-wise details of the total number of applications received, the number of applications rejected and the number of students who were sanctioned the scholarships under the three Scholarship Schemes for minorities during the last five years are as under:

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
Year	Total number of applications received	Number of applications rejected	Number of students sanctioned scholarships
2015-16	6982276	*	5178779
2016-17	8635428	192726	4153524
2017-18	9650248	89622	4874220
2018-19	10867611	475253	5691854
2019-20	8868738	412050	5427190
			25325567
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	1730089	*	666840
2016-17	1803649	120265	624990
2017-18	1735596	56669	621321
2018-19	2007378	228941	684235
2019-20	1557700	111195	681478
			3278864
Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme			
2015-16	6982276	*	133582
2016-17	280639	26561	121858
2017-18	9650248	89622	116452
2018-19	10867611	475253	117771
2019-20	8868738	412050	115346

* - Data not collated.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.12 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

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

Recommendation (Para 5.13)

5.1 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 appraised of the measures taken to abate the practice of surrendering funds.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The scheme guidelines recognize that monitoring is a continuous measurement of progress while the project is on-going which involves checking and measuring progress, analysing the situation and reacting to new events, opportunities, and issues. There existed provisions for the Ministry to authorize concurrent monitoring and random checking of physical and financial reports on the MIS. The Ministry accordingly engaged services of an agency for running a Call Centre which randomly calls the beneficiaries and takes their inputs. The reports are made available on the Scheme portal. The expenditure on this account has

however been lower than estimated. Ministry's officials also monitor the projects by field visits. Inspections are also undertaken by State government officials and Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) inspectors. The second installment of grants are released only after satisfactory inspection report of training is received by the Ministry. The ministry is in process of hiring agency for independent evaluation of the Scheme. The Expression of Interest (EOI) has already been floated for the same. There is another proposal for establishing a Project Monitoring Unit for the Scheme to augment the manpower requirement of the Scheme for more effective monitoring. There is another proposal for improving the Scheme portal and integrating it with Skill India Portal and PFMS portal so that effective online monitoring can be strengthened. The MIS of the scheme portal is proposed to be further strengthened. The measures would ensure that the funds under the head are utilized fully and effectively giving right impetus to the scheme.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.15 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para 7.8)

5.3 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.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The scheme is being implemented through Central Waqf Council (CWC), a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Under the scheme GIA is released to CWC who provide financial assistance to State/UT Waqf Boards on receipt of viable proposal and utilization certificate of previous financial assistance from SWBs. Financial assistance is under the scheme

for deployment of manpower, computerization of records of waqf properties, efficient administration of Waqf Boards (SWBs). During the FY 2019-20 due to non-receipt of Utilization certificate of previous financial assistance from SWBs an amount of ₹11.85 crore released under the scheme.

This is a continuing process and the Scheme is steadily progressing as per the modules for automation of the activities and for strengthening of the State Waqf Boards. As on date 329937 Waqf Estates, 652169 immovable properties, 95438 GPS Survey, 87220 photography, 16602 Movable properties have been done having entered. The GIS mapping of the Waqf properties has been taken up in the State Waqf Boards through reputed institutes such as IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, AMU Aligarh, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi and other private reputed agencies specialized in the specific line of the mapping of the Waqf properties. As per laid down target the 50% work was to be completed by March 2020 in order to achieve the target the regular Meetings and conferences were organized to impress upon all State Waqf Boards to support and cooperate the agencies rendered for the task, However, Owing to Nationwide lockdown and other unseen field problems the Geo tagging of 96000 Waqf properties have been completed. As per the time plan to complete the overall work the Schedule period is March 2022. The CWC office regularly, diligently perusing the matter with the agencies entrusted the task and the State Waqf Boards to accomplish the laid down work. The State Waqf Boards have been advised to create awareness for unregistered Waqf so that subsequently their digitization should be done to prevent the encroachment. In order to create interest of the Muthawalli to manage the affairs of the waqf superbly the Scheme of The Award of Excellence in management Waqf Institutions was introduced with certain criterion. In this regards nomination were invited through the concern State Waqf Boards. The first Award Ceremony was organized in Delhi and deserving Muthawalli and Waqfs were awarded appropriately.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 7.11)

5.5 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.

Reply of the Government

5.6 The GIS mapping of the Waqf Properties was one of the main objectives of the Computerization of the records of the State Waqf Boards and Automation of the activities to prevent the encroachment of the Waqf Properties. Consequently, The GIS mapping of the Waqf properties was taken up at war footing level in all the State Waqf Boards and immediate action are taken up to engage specialized institutes such as IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, AMU Aligarh, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi and other private reputed agencies. As per laid down target the 50% work was to be completed by March 2020 in order to achieve the target the regular Meetings and conferences were organized to impress upon all State Waqf Boards to support and cooperate the agencies rendered for the task, However, owing to Nationwide lockdown and other field problems the target to complete the 50% of the Waqf Properties could not be achieved, however the Geo tagging of 96000 Waqf properties have been completed so far and the work is steadily progressing and amidst lockdown the progress is being monitored through video conferencing and zoom conferencing . The time plan to complete the overall work the Schedule period is March 2022. The CWC office regularly and diligently perusing the matter with the agencies entrusted the task and the State Waqf Boards to accomplish the laid down work.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2020 Budget dated 08th June, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.18 of Chapter-I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;

10 November, 2020
19 Kartika 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

Annexure-I**Statement showing BE &RE 2019-20 and actual expenditure 2019-20 in respect of M/o Minority Affairs**

S. No	Scheme	BE 2019-20	RE 2019-20	Exp. 31.03.2020 (provisional)	% of BE	% of RE
1	Seekho aur Kamao	250	250	175.52	70.20%	70.20%
2	USTTAD (Hunar Haat)	50	60	54.48	109.00%	90.80%
3	Nai Manzil (skill to 8th to 10th)	140	100	34.44	24.60%	34.40%
4	Research/ Studies, Monitoring, Evaluation and Publicity	60	40	24.97	41.60%	62.50%
5	Secretariat	22	24.39	22.53	102.40%	92.40%
	Sub Total	522	474.39	311.95	59.80%	65.80%
6	Equity of NMDFC	100	160	160	160.00%	100.00%
7	Maulana Azad Education Foundation	90	90	37.5	41.70%	41.70%
8	Grants to SCAs of NMDFC	2	2	1.93	96.50%	96.50%
9	Shahari Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana	3.16	3.16	3.16	100.00%	100.00%
10	Haj CGI Jeddah	85	80	75.23	88.50%	94.00%
11	Haj Secretariat	9	8	6.82	75.80%	85.30%
12	Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati	17.5	15	11.82	67.50%	78.80%
	Sub Total	306.66	358.16	296.46	96.70%	82.80%
13	Pre-Matric Scholarship	1220.3	1199.82	1324.84	108.60%	110.40%
14	Post-Matric Scholarship	496.01	482.66	428.77	86.40%	88.80%
15	Merit-cum-Means	366.43	361.51	285.63	77.90%	79.00%
16	MANF Fellowship	155	130	100	64.50%	76.90%
17	Padho Pardesh -Interest subsidy	30	25	14.43	48.10%	57.70%
18	Containing Population- Jiyo Parsi	4	4	3.86	96.50%	96.50%
19	Hamari Dharohar	8	3	0.7	8.80%	23.30%
	Sub Total	2279.74	2205.99	2158.23	94.70%	97.80%
20	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)	1470	1588.86	1698.29	115.50%	106.90%
21	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme	75	40	13.97	18.60%	34.90%
22	Support for students for UPSC	20	10	8.02	40.10%	80.20%
23	National Commission for Minorities	9.3	10.3	9.23	99.20%	89.60%
24	Comm. for Linguistic Minorities	2.3	2.3	1.88	81.70%	81.70%
	Sub Total	1576.6	1651.46	1731.39	109.80%	104.80%
25.	Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority women	15	10	7.1	47.30%	71.00%
	Grand Total	4700	4700	4505.12	95.90%	95.90%

Exemption letters in respect of the permissible limits of expenditures during the last quarter/month of 2019-20

**Ministry of Finance
Department of Economic Affairs
(Budget Division)**

**Refer M/o Minority Affairs
F/No.G-220111/2020/Budget**

The proposal received from M/o Minority Affairs regarding relaxation of expenditure ceilings of 15% during January and February, 2020 and 10% during March, 2020 as well as revision of QEP/MEP ceilings with respect to a large number of Schemes being run by the Ministry has been seen in Budget Division. It has accordingly been decided that:-

- (a) Relaxation of MEP/QEP ceilings will be allowed only for Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme.
 - (b) As for the remaining Schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) Scheme, the Ministry is requested to provide details of quarterly expenditure over the last three years is re-examined in Budget Division.
2. This issues with the approval of Secretary (Expenditure).

**Sd/-
(Sanjay Rawat)
Under Secretary (Budget)**

**JS&FA, M/o Minority Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
M/o Finance (DEA), Computer No.964693 Dated 29th February, 2020**

Ministry of Finance
Department of Economic Affairs
(Budget Division)

Ref. notes of M/o Minority Affairs

F.No.G-22011/1/2020/Budget

The proposal of M/o Minority Affairs for relaxation of 25% - 10% in last quarter – last month of the current financial year has been examined in the Budget Division. DEA and it has been decided to allow relaxation of ceiling only on the schemes pending claims/liabilities viz scheme related to Interest Subsidy, Research/Studies, Monitoring, Evaluation and Publicity, USTAAD, Nai Manzil etc. so as to keep the last quarter expenditure within Rs.2737.05 crore.

2. This issues with the approval of Secretary (Expenditure)

Sd/-
(Sanjay Rawat)
Under Secretary (Budget)

(JS&FA), M/o Minority Affairs, New Delhi
MOF, DEA, Computer No.(964693) dt. 16/03/2020

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21) HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1430 hrs. in Committee Room No. 2, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
3. Shri Y. Devendrappa
4. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
5. Smt. Geeta Kora
6. Shri Akshaibar Lal
7. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
8. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
10. Shri N. Chandrasegharan
11. Shri P. L. Punia
12. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

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

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and congratulated Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras, MP (LS) for his nomination to this Committee. The Chairperson, then informed the Committee that the term of Shri P.L. Punia, MP (RS) was ending on 25th November, 2020 and expressed appreciation for his support and valuable contribution to the functioning of the Committee to which Shri Punia reciprocated. Thereafter, the Committee paid their humble tribute to Shri Durga Prasad Balli and Shri Ashok Gasti, Members during the previous term of the Committee (2019-20) on their sad demise. All the Members and officers of the Committee stood in silence for one minute in honour of the departed souls.

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

- (i) *****
- (ii) *****
- (iii) 16th Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 8th Report of the Committee on “Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.”
- (iv) *****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. Then the Reports were adopted without any modifications. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports to both the Houses of Parliament in the next Session.

- 5. *****
- 6. *****
- 7. *****
- 8. *****
- 9. *****
- 10. *****
- 11. *****

12.

(The Committee then adjourned.)

*** Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE EIGHTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2020-21)' OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	27	
II. Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 5.11, 5.12, 6.10, 7.9, 7.10, 8.7, 8.8, 9.8 and 9.18)	20	74.08%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government (Paragraph No. - Paragraph No. 9.14)	1	03.70%
IV. Observations/Recommendations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration (Paragraph Nos. 3.24, 3.25 and 3.26)	3	11.11%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph No. 5.13, 7.8 and 7.11)	3	11.11%