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

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2021-22)**

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2021/Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

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EMPOWERMENT (2020-21)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-22)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.03.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2021/Phalguna, 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 Yepthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
26. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
27. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
28. Shri Narayan Koragappa
29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
30. Shri Ramkumar Verma
31. Shri Ram Ji

* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 28.12.20120

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal Director
3. Shri Krishendra Kumar Deputy Secretary
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 present on their behalf this Twenty-second Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2021-22' pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 12th February, 2021. After obtaining their Budget related Documents and Explanatory Notes, the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Minority Affairs on 25th February, 2021. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 15th March, 2021.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for appearing before them and furnishing information in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)'.

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

NEW DELHI;

15 March, 2021
24 Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and Empowerment

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Ministry of Minority Affairs, created on 29th January, 2006 is mandated for formulation of policies, schemes and programmes for welfare and socio-economic development of six notified minority communities namely, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims. The Jain community was included as the sixth Minority community *vide* notification dated 27th January, 2014.

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

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

1.3 As per the literacy rate among these communities, the 2011 Census found out that among Muslims, it was lowest as 68.5% and highest in Jains, as 94.9%. In Christians, it was 84.5%, in Sikh 75.4% and in Buddhist it was 81.3%.

1.4 The welfare and development schemes of the Ministry focus on poor and deprived sections of the minorities. Majority of Schemes have devised an eligibility criteria on economic basis to ensure that the benefit reaches poor and deprived sections. The educational Schemes cover scholarships for all levels, fellowships and interest subsidy to promote higher education and support for providing good quality coaching to enable minorities to go for Government and private jobs. Following are the on-going Schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs:

A. Empowerment

I. Educational Empowerment:

- (i) Pre-matric scholarship Scheme.
- (ii) Post-matric scholarship Scheme.
- (iii) Merit-cum-means based scholarship Schemes.
- (iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students.
- (v) Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies.
- (vi) Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for candidates belonging to minority communities.
- (vii) Support for students clearing Prelims Conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.
- (viii) Scheme for education of Madars as and Minorities (SPEMM)(This scheme has been transferred from Department of School Education and Literacy).

II. Economic Empowerment/Access to credit and preservation of traditional Skills

- (i) Skill Development Initiatives
- (ii) Upgrading Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)
- (iii) Nai Manzil
- (iv) Equity Contribution to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

III. Special Initiatives for Empowerment

- (i) Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women
- (ii) Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community of Parsis
- (iii) Hamari Dharohar
- (iv) Research/studies, monitoring and evaluation of development scheme including publicity
- (v) Haj Management

B. Area/Infrastructre Development Programme

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(PMJVK)

C. Support to Institutions

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

D. Others

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

1.5 Autonomous/Subordinate Institutions under the Ministry are as under:

- (i) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM)
- (ii) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)
- (iii) National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
- (iv) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
- (v) Haj Committee of India (HCOI)
- (vi) Durgah Khawaja Saheb, Ajmer
- (vii) Central Waqf Council (CWC)
- (viii) National Waqf Development Corporation (NAWADCO)

CHAPTER II

BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2021-22 are given under Demand No.69. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid in Parliament on 12th February, 2021. The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and Actual Expenditure since 2018-19 alongwith BE for 2021-22 :-

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2018-19	4700.00	4700.00	3853.01
2019-20	4700.00	4700.00	4505.10
2020-21	5029.00	4005.00	1797.79 (upto 22.02.2021)
2021-22	4810.77	-	-

2.2 Providing the break-up of the Budget Estimate of 2020-21, the Ministry during evidence presented the following information:

Financial Resource 2021-22 (₹ 4810.77 crore)

Percentage allocation of budget during 2020-21

50.31% allocation is for Education

Empowerment

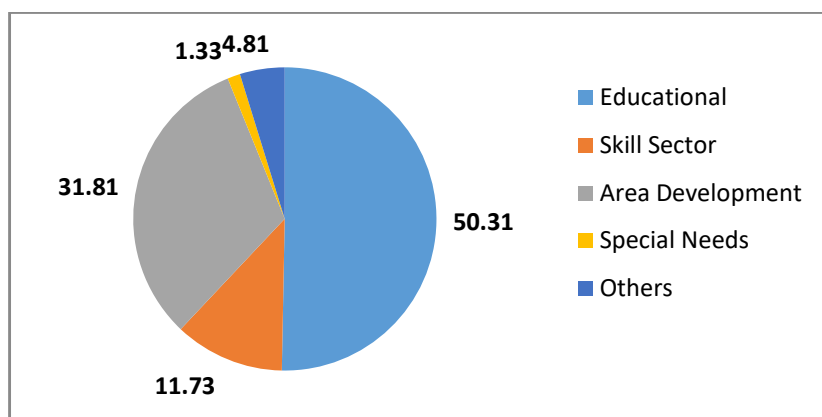
31.81% allocation is for Area

Development i.e. PMJVK

11.73% allocation is for Skill Sector.

4.81% allocation is for Supports for Institutions such as MAEF, Waqf, NCM, CLM, Sectt. including Haj Management.

1.33% allocation is for Special needs.



2.3 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing scheme-wise details of plan outlays and expenditure during the last three years (**Annexure B. Note, Pg.21**)

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/ Programme	2018-19			2019-20			2020-21			% of shortfall/ excess exp year-wise	BE 2021-22
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	BE	RE	Actual Exp. 31.12.20		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Contribution to equity of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	165.03	165.03	165.00	100.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	110.00	110.00	2018-19 -99.98% 2019-20 -100% 2020-21 -68.75%	153.00
2.	Grants-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation.	125.01	123.76	36.00	90.00	90.00	37.50	82.00	80.00	36.50	2018-19-28.80% 2019-20-41.67% 2020-21-44.51%	90.00
3	Research /studies, monitoring & evaluation of development schemes for Minorities including publicity	55.00	55.00	52.60	60.00	40.00	24.98	50.00	35.00	5.13	2018-19-95.63% 2019-20-41.63% 2020-21-10.26%	41.00
4	Merit cum means Scholarship	522.00	402.00	261.17	366.43	361.51	285.63	400.00	400.00	105.47	2018-19-50.03% 2019-20-77.94% 2020-21-26.37%	325.00
5	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for minorities	74.00	74.00	44.61	75.00	40.00	13.97	50.00	25.00	7.05	2018-19-60.28% 2018-19-18.62% 2020-21-14.10%	79.00
6	Grants in aid to state Channelizing Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme.	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.93	2.00	1.00	0.00	2018-19-100% 2019-20- 96.50%2020-21- 0%	2.00

7	Pradhan Mantri Jan VikasKaryakaram(Earlier MsDP)	1319.99	1319.99	1156.06	1470.00	1588.86	1698.29	1600.00	971.38	681.82	2018-19-87.58% 2019-20-15.52% 2020-21-42.61%	1390.00
8	Pre-matric scholarship	980.00	1269.00	1176.20	1220.30	1199.82	1324.85	1330.00	1330.00	204.27	2018-19-20.02% 2019-20-08.56% 2020-21-15.36%	1378.00
9	Post -matric scholarship	692.00	500.00	354.90	496.01	482.66	428.77	535.00	535.00	127.02	2018-19-51.28% 2018-19-86.44% 2020-21-23.74%	468.00
10	Secretariat	19.14	20.01	28.15	22.00	24.39	22.53	25.00	26.00	17.95		28.00
11	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	153.00	153.00	97.85	155.00	130.00	100.00	175.00	100.00	58.50	2018-19-63.95% 2019-20-64.52% 2020-21-33.43%	99.00
12	Qaum iWakf Board staraqquti Scheme.	16.94	16.94	11.89	17.50	15.00	11.83	18.00	9.00	0.08		14.00
13	Sahari Waq f Sampati VikasYojana(Earlier GIA to Waqf)	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.00	3.00	1.19	2018-19-100% 2019-20- 100% 2020-21- 39.78%	2.00
14	Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women.	15.00	17.00	13.83	15.00	10.00	7.10	10.00	6.00	3.98	2018-19-92.20% 2019-20-47.1% 2020-21-39.23%	8.00
15	Interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities.	24.00	45.00	45.00	30.00	25.00	14.43	30.00	22.00	9.97	2018-19-187.50% 2019-20-48.1% 2020-21-33.23%	24.00
16	Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community.	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.86	4.00	4.00	1.50	2018-19-00.00% 2019-20- 96.50% 2020-21-37.50%	3.00
17	Skill Development Initiative	250	250	175.73	250	250	175.52	250	190.00	116.83	2018-19- 70.33.% 2019-20- 70.23% 2020-21-46.73%	276.00
18	Support for students clearing Prelims	8.00	8.00	6.72	20.00	10.00	8.01	10.00	8.00	0.67	2018-19-84.00 % 2019-20-40.05 %	8.00

	conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Services Commissions etc.										2020-21-6.70%	
19	Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts /Crafts for Development (USTTAD)	30.00	50.00	31.26	50.00	60.00	54.48	60.00	60.00	12.98	2018-19-104.20% 2019-20-108.86% 2020-21-21.63%	47.00
20	Hamari Dharohar	6.00	6.00	1.64	8.00	3.00	0.70	3.00	5.20	2.49	2018-19-7.33 % 2019-20-8.75% 2020-21-83%	2.00
21	Nai Manzil	140.00	120.00	93.73	140.00	100.00	34.44	120.00	60.00	31.89	2018-19-66.95% 2019-20-24.55% 2020-21-26.58%	87.00
22	National Commission for Minorities	8.62	8.92	8.93	9.30	10.30	9.23	11.00	9.29	5.56	2018-19-103.48% 2019-20-99.25% 2020-21-50.55%	12.00
23.	Special officer for Linguistic Minorities	2.32	1.90	1.69	2.30	2.30	1.88	3.00	2.13	1.51	2018-19-73.28% 2019-20-81.73% 2020-21-50.33%	2.77
24	Haj Management	84.79	85.29	80.89	94.00	88.00	82.05	98.00	13.00	1.85	2018-19-95.40% 2019-20-87.28% 2020-21-1.88%	98.00
25	Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities(Transferred from Deptt. of Education and school Literacy)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		174.00
	Total	4700.00	4700.00	3853.01	4700.0	4700.00	4505.10	5029.00	4005.00	1544.21		4810.77

2.4 On being asked about reduction of around ₹ 1024 crore in the budgetary allocation from BE to RE stage during 2020-21, the Ministry in their written reply stated that the budget was reduced by Ministry of Finance at RE stage, although higher allocations were projected by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. However, the RE allocations under the Education Empowerment Schemes, namely, Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means was kept at the BE level. As a result of which, the budget was proportionately decreased at RE level under other Schemes of the Ministry.

2.5 On being enquired about the reasons due to which the Ministry could spent only 38.5% i.e. ₹ 1544.21 crore upto 31.12.2020 against RE of ₹4005.00 crore during the Financial Year 2020-21 and their future plan to spend remaining funds within the financial year, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that:

“An amount of ₹ 209.47 crore has been utilized during the period 01.01.2021 to 15.02.2021. The pace of expenditure could not pickup as the process of release of Scholarships to the beneficiaries under Scholarship Schemes could not commence as the process of the re-verification by the States/UT Governments is still underway. The Ministry would be able to spend the major part of the remaining 61.44 per cent of the RE funds within the current financial year as the process of the release of scholarships to beneficiaries under the scholarship scheme would be accomplished during the last week of February to March, 2021.”

2.6 On being further enquired about the status of the process of re-verification by States/UTs, the Ministry *inter-alia* submitted that the last date of application was extended on multiple occasions till 31.12.2020 for Pre-Matric and till 20.01.2021 for Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based scholarship schemes due to the ongoing COVID-19. Consequently the last date of Level-I verification (by school/institute) was also extended till 12.02.2021 and for Level-II verification (by State/District Nodal Officer) till 25.02.2021.

The process of application and verification was steadily completed and the process of payment started. The Ministry again stated that they were making all efforts and closely monitoring each and every action of the implementing agencies and is making all possible efforts to utilize the Budget Allocation for 2020-21 under all 3 Scholarship Schemes by the end of the fiscal.

2.7 in this context, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs deposed during the oral evidence that:

“हमारी मिनिस्ट्री में 20 फरवरी तक कुल खर्च आरई का करीब 44.89 प्रतिशत है। यद्यपि यह दूसरे विभागों की तुलना में कम है, लेकिन इसका कारण यह है कि हमारे बजट का आधा से ज्यादा पैसा स्कॉलरशिप के लिए जाता है। हम आगे चलकर आपको बताएंगे कि स्कॉलरशिप के खर्च में किस कारण से देरी होती है और हमारा स्कॉलरशिप का खर्च चौथे क्वार्टर में ही होता है। अभी हमारा इस साल का खर्च चालू हुआ है और रिन्युवल के खर्च के बाद जब फ्रेश स्कॉलरशिप के लिए पैसा खर्च होगा, तब स्कॉलरशिप का पूरा पैसा खर्च हो जाएगा। इसलिए अगर हम उसे छोड़ दें तो हमारा करीब 85 प्रतिशत पैसा खर्च हो जाता है। चर्चा के दरम्यान इसे हम आपको बताएंगे।”

2.8 On being further asked the reasons for sanctioning of Budgetary allocation of ₹4810.77 crore against the projection of ₹ 6031.36 crore for the year 2021-22 by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry *vide* written reply submitted that:

“The projections in respect of the various schemes of the Ministry are made on the basis of likely revision of the scheme for the next five years, corresponding to the 15th Finance Commission recommendations. The allocation for BE 2021-22 has been reduced in 13 Schemes such as Nai Manzil, Maulana Azad National Fellowship, Interest Subsidy and Education Loan, Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram. The reduced allocation will not significantly influence the ongoing schemes. Once the pace of expenditure is adequate, Ministry will seek higher funds if required.”

2.9 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their Detailed Demands for Grants have furnished the Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure Plan for the year 2021-22 as under:

(₹in crore)

Monthly/Quarterly	Expenditure Plan		Cumulative Total
BE (2021-22)	4810.77	% age w.r.t. BE	
April	80.00	1.66	80.00
May	120.00	2.49	200.00
June	150.00	3.12	350.00
Total (Ist Quarter)	350.00	7.28	
July	300.00	6.24	650.00
August	400.00	8.31	1050.00
September	500.00	10.39	1550.00
Total (IIInd Quarter)	1200.00	24.94	
October	530.00	11.02	2080.00
November	550.00	11.43	2630.00
December	600.00	12.47	3230.00
Total (IIIrd Quarter)	1680.00	34.92	
January	540.00	11.22	3770.00
February	540.00	11.22	4310.00
March	500.77	10.41	4810.77
Total (IVth Quarter)	1580.77	32.86	
Grant Total	4810.77	100.00%	4810.77

2.10 The Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry was not able to spend their Budgetary allocation fully during 2020-21 despite it being reduced by more than ₹ 1000 crore at the RE stage from ₹5029.00 to ₹4005.00, due to slow pace of expenditure in scholarship component. It reportedly happened as States/UTs could not complete re-verification process. The Committee, although, were informed that the said reduction was not for the Scholarship Schemes but for other Schemes of the Ministry, nonetheless feel that as compared to other Ministries implementing similar Scholarship Schemes, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has stood way behind in utilizing the allotted funds. This surely calls for some introspection. While the Ministry have convinced that they would be able to utilize their allocation fully during the remaining period of the Financial Year 2020-21, the Committee are skeptical about the same since the trend of previous years indicates that except under the pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, the Ministry always had funds remaining underutilized at the end of the year for the other two Schemes. The Committee are unable to comprehend as to how the Ministry would accomplish objectives of these Schemes unless all States/UTs complete their processes of re-verification in a very short time, which, in all probability, is not likely to happen. While the Ministry have furnished information on the actual number of beneficiaries exceeding the targets in previous years there is nil information for 2020-21. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of the position in 2020-21 at the action taken stage. As per the 15th Finance Commission Report, all the Schemes are likely to be reviewed for the next 5 years, hence, the Committee recommend that the monthly/quarterly expenditure plan of the Ministry for the year 2021-22 must also be executed strictly so that they are able to justify their Schemes and project the correct requirement of funds at RE stage too.

CHAPTER-III

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

3.1 The Ministry of Minority Affairs are implementing three Central Sector scholarship schemes with 100 percent Central Government funding viz. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Schemes for the educational empowerment of students belonging to the six centrally notified minority communities. These Schemes are quota driven and not demand driven. In the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, 30 lakh fresh Scholarship are awarded to the students, in addition to the renewal scholarships securing 50 percent marks in the previous examination and whose parents'/guardians' annual income does not exceed ₹ 1.00 lakh every year. 5 lakh Fresh scholarships are awarded under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme in addition to the renewals to the Students who secure 50% marks in the previous year's final examination and whose parents'/guardians' annual income does not exceed ₹ 2.00 lakh for studies in a Government/recognised private higher secondary schools/colleges/Universities including residential higher secondary schools/colleges within the country. In the Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme, 60,000 fresh scholarships are awarded every year in addition to the renewals to eligible students admitted in any of the 85 reputed premier institutes as well as for pursuing professional and technical courses at undergraduate and post-graduate levels, in institutions recognized by appropriate authority. Under these Schemes 30 percent of the scholarships have been earmarked for the girl students if an adequate number of eligible girl students are not available they may be utilized by eligible boy students under the Merit-cum-means based Scholarship Scheme.

3.2 The Budgetary allocations for last three years alongwith BE of 2021-22 and achievements under the Schemes are as follows:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme/Programme	2018-19			2019-20			2020-21			2021-22
		BE	RE	Actual Expn.	BE	RE	Actual Expn.	BE	RE	Actual Expn.	BE
i.	Pre-Matric Scholarships for Minorities	980.00	1269.00	1176.19	1220.30	1199.82	1324.85	1330.00	1330.00	204.27 Upto 31.12.2020	1378.00
ii.	Post-Matric Scholarships for Minorities	692.00	500.00	354.90	496.01	482.66	428.77	535.00	535.00	127.02 Upto 31.12.2020	468.00
iii.	Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship scheme	522.00	402.00	261.17	366.43	361.51	285.63	400.00	400.00	105.47 Upto 31.12.2020	325.00

3.3 In a Power Point Presentation before the Committee, the achievements under the three Schemes in the last 3 years were given as under:

SCHEME OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Year	Physical		Girls Beneficiaries (in Percentage)
	Targets (Fresh Cases)	Achievement (Fresh + Renewal)	
2016-17	30,00,000	41,53,524	52.44
2017-18	30,00,000	53,11,257	53.14
2018-19	30,00,000	56,91,854	53.54
2019-20	30,00,000	55,68,025	52.35
2020-21#	30,00,000	Yet to be disbursed	

SCHEME OF POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Year	Physical		Girls Beneficiaries (in Percentage)
	Targets (Fresh Cases)	Achievement (Fresh + Renewal)	
2016-17	5,00,000	6,24,990	56.01
2017-18	5,00,000	6,98,069	56.48
2018-19	5,00,000	6,84,265	56.83
2019-20*	5,00,000	7,43,141	55.80
2020-21#	5,00,000	Yet to be disbursed	

SCHEME OF MARIT-CUM-MEANS SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Year	Physical		Girls Beneficiaries (in Percentage)
	Targets (Fresh Cases)	Achievement (Fresh + Renewal)	
2016-17	60,000	1,21,937	35.07
2017-18	60,000	1,19,472	37.41
2018-19	60,000	1,17,771	38.52
2019-20*	60,000	1,18,359	41.50
2020-21	60,000	Yet to be disbursed	

3.4 On being enquired the reasons due to which the funds allocated for the year 2021-22 have been substantially reduced under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme, the Ministry submitted in a written reply that:

“As per the stipulations of the Schemes guidelines, it was also expected that the number of overall beneficiaries, including renewal beneficiaries, would be higher. However, the actual demand for renewal beneficiaries remained below the expectations during these years.”

3.5 On being enquired about the reasons due to which funds have not been released, the Ministry submitted that in a written reply that:

“The inherent nature of three Scholarship Schemes is such that the applications were invited from 16th August, 2020 and the last date of application was initially kept as 31.10.2020. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 implications and various requests received from the State/UTs, the last date of applications were extended on multiple occasions till 31.12.2020 for Pre-Matric and till 20.01.2021 for Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme for Minorities. Consequently the last date of Level-1 verification (by school/Institution) was also extended till 12.02.2021 and for Level-II verification (by State/District Nodal Officer) till 25.02.2021. However, the process of payment has already started.”

3.6 With regard to the malpractices reported from certain States in these Schemes, the Ministry have *inter-alia* submitted in a written reply that:

“The investigations in an incident was earlier reported from the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, wherein 474 students from the Kulgam District were reported as fake and they were disbursed scholarships under Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme in FY 2018-19 is still under process. The Ministry will take necessary action on the receipt of the Report of investigation from the States. In case of Chhattisgarh, students have been found genuine whereas in case reported from Assam, Punjab, Bihar and Jharkhand, investigation is at various stages.”

3.7 With regard to action taken to avoid such malpractices, the Ministry further stated that:

“The Ministry is in the process to engage Common Service Centre (CSC), MeitY for getting necessary support in implementation of the Scholarship Schemes on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) through CSCs in filling of the application forms especially under Pre-Matric Scholarship Schemes as well as Aadhaar authentication of applicants to minimize the risk of fraud. This may eliminate the role of the middleman in filing of application. The Ministry is also in the process to engage Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) for monitoring and detection of suspicious activities on NSP portal through the data analysis by fraud detection software/tools. The Ministry is also in the process to set up a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) for the rigorous monitoring of the implementation of the three Scholarship Schemes. Besides, the Ministry have also issued several directions as proactive measures to be taken in the Institute/District/State Nodal Officers with the approval of the Hon’ble Minister of Minority Affairs vide letter dated 18th November, 2020.”

3.8 The Secretary further clarified during the deliberation of the Committee that:

“हमने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को इस बार में बताया और इसमें स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की ओर से सीआईडी इनक्वायरी चल रही है। इसके साथ ही, एक-दो अन्य राज्यों में भी सीआईडी इनक्वायरी चल रही है, जैसे-जैसे यह पूरा मामला हमारी जानकारी में आया, हम लोगों ने इस मामले को सीबीआई में दे दिया है कि कौन-कौन से एलिमेंट्स ऐसा कर रहे हैं, इसकी जांच की जाए। इसके अलावा, हम लोगों ने प्रक्रिया में भी परिवर्तन किया, जिससे भविष्य में ऐसी कोई घटना होने से हम रोक पाएं और इसके लिए कई दिशानिर्देश भी हमने जारी किए हैं। मैं दो-तीन महत्वपूर्ण बातें बताना चाहूंगा, हालांकि हमने अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखकर दिया है। जो बच्चा अपनी एप्लीकेशन डालेगा, वह स्कूल में आएगा और स्कूल में हरेक साल की स्कॉलरशिप की एक फाइल बनाकर रखी जाएगी। ये फाइनेंशियल मैटर्स होते हैं। वहां सारे डॉक्यूमेंट्स के साथ फाइल मेनटेन होगी। वह कम से कम उस फाइल को पांच साल तक अपने पास रखेगा, ताकि कोई भी वहां जाकर कभी भी इंस्पेक्शन करना चाहे तो कर सकता है। यह कहा गया कि स्कूल के प्रिंसिपल को पता नहीं लगता था। हमने कहा कि टीचर वैरीफिकेशन के बाद फाइनेल रिपोर्ट भेजेगा और वह स्कूल के प्रिंसिपल के हस्ताक्षर से भेजेगा।”

मैडम, जहां पर शिकायत आती है, वहां उसका फिजिकल वैरीफिकेशन तो करते हैं, लेकिन ओवर ऑल जो एप्लीकेशंस आती हैं और जो अप्रूव्ड हैं, उनमें दो परसेंट का फिजिकल वैरीफिकेशन कराने

के लिए कहा है। हम इसके अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ कर रहे हैं। इसमें एक बात यह हो सकती है कि जब आधार एनेबल्ड काम होगा और मुझे यह जानकारी है कि स्कूल एजुकेशन डिपार्टमेंट का जो यूडाइज प्लेटफॉर्म है, उसमें अभी स्टूडेंट्स का डेटा नहीं है। स्टूडेंट्स के डेटा के बारे में ये लोग काम कर रहे हैं। वे कह रहे थे कि शायद साल भर में स्टूडेंट्स का डेटा बन जाएगा। वे वहां पर यूडाइजमें कम्युनिटीवाइज भी इन्फॉर्मेशन रखते हैं। जब यूडाइज में बच्चे की पूरी डिटेल्स आ जाएगी तो हमें शनलस्कॉलरशिप पोर्टल में बच्चे की पहचान के लिए और आसानी हो जाएगी।"

3.9 On being enquired about the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Evaluation Study conducted by IIT, Delhi, the Ministry *inter-alia* stated in a written reply that the recommendation with regard to change in eligibility criteria, increase in the rates and items of scholarship, incentives to the Institute Nodal Officers, increase in annual quota, increasing awareness and continuation of three scholarship scheme for another ten years, have been accepted and these may be considered in the proposed EFC note for the continuation of the 3 Scholarship Schemes.

3.10 The Ministry have also informed with regard to increase the awareness of minority communities and to strengthen the scholarship disbursement procedure, various SMS/Messages were sent to the Sarpanches through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and also to the District Collectors to spread awareness of the 3 Scholarship Schemes on local platforms.

3.11 Three Central Sector Scholarship Schemes namely Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means are being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for six centrally notified minority communities. The Committee are quite disturbed by cases reported about the alleged misappropriation of funds/funds going to fake students under these scholarship schemes for children belonging to underprivileged minorities in six States, which are under investigation/enquiry. In one State, after enquiry, the fraud is stated to have happened due to passwords leak by certain vested interests as well as other loopholes. Taking advantage of illiteracy/lack of awareness among parents and children of minorities is also exploited by such elements. While the Ministry representatives have always been claiming that the system is fail-safe due to all transactions/verifications done online, a dedicated Portal, cash transfer through DBT and similar measures, which are definitely the need of the hour, it is disconcerting for the Committee to observe that such instances of corruption happened. However minuscule, this must have deprived the genuine beneficiaries of Government Scholarship Schemes and may have lead to some children dropping out too being unable to afford the school fee/other expenses. During their evidence, the Ministry representatives informed the Committee about further safety measures under their consideration, for instance, preserving the files of scholarship-holder students for a period of 5 years, creation of an Aadhaar vault in coordination with MelTY, requirement of signatures of School Principals in verification report filed by teacher, at least 2% physical verification, creation of student data bank with the help of Department of School education etc. While the Committee desire the Ministry to plug all identified loopholes in the system, strengthening privacy of data and passwords and reduce all manual interventions, be it school personnel, banking intermediaries, NGOs or unauthorised persons, they are of the strong opinion that the Ministry should also counsel the State Governments to try to reach out to a sample size of beneficiary minority students directly to ascertain that they are not being duped in the pretext of Government scholarships, and that they are actually in receipt, through DBT, of the full amount of the entitled scholarship money for the term, as approved against their names in the Portal. Also the banks should ensure that the accounts of students do not get closed due to non-activity since minority children cannot do regular transactions, because some evaluation studies have shown that the scholarship money gets reverted also due to accounts being inactive/closed. The

Committee are convinced that such measures can lead to a major improvement and hence recommend that action should be taken on this aspect.

Now, as the COVID-19 vaccination is gaining speed, the Committee opine that the reopening of schools in full capacity and the resultant formalities and verifications etc. for disbursement of scholarships will pick up in the later part of the current Financial year. The Committee reiterate that fraudulent activity by unscrupulous elements in schools, banks, NGOs, VOs, etc., who find ways to circumvent the processes for their personal gains, must be stopped. In fact, the Committee learn that recently around 8000 NGOs have been delisted by the Government for various shortcomings in their functioning. Hence, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry should ensure that the online portal for scholarships should have enough security features/tools to detect any tampering/fraud in the passwords/codes, in consultation with NIC and persons/ organizations found guilty of malpractices should be removed with immediate effect. The Committee desire to be apprised of the progress in the Ministry's efforts as well as the outcome of the enquiries currently underway in some States on the matter.

CHAPTER - IV

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK)

4.1 Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, earlier known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme is being implemented in 870 Minority Concentration Blocks, 321 Minority Concentration Towns and 109 Minority Concentration Districts to provide socio economic infrastructure and basic amenities for improving quality of life of the people living in these areas. The priority sectors are Education, Health, Skill Development and Women Centric Projects. The projects are implemented on a fund sharing arrangement between the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration in the ratio of 60:40 for all States/UTs with legislature and 90:10 for North East & Hilly States/UTs (J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand) and 100 percent for UTs without Legislature. Proposals received from Central Government Organizations are supported 100 per cent. Though PMJVK end on 31.03.2020, it was extended upto 31.3.2021 as per directions of the Department of Expenditure.

4.2 The BE, RE and actual expenditure since 2018-19 is as follows:-

(₹in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
	A	B	C
2018-19	1319.99	1319.99	1156.06
2019-20	1470.00	1588.86*	1698.29
2020-21	1600.00	971.38	866.51 (upto22.02.2021)
2021-22	1390.00	-	-

* increased to ₹ 1700.00 crore by re-appropriation of savings from other Schemes of the Ministry.

4.3 Since, the budgetary allocation in 2021-22 has been significantly reduced in comparison to previous year the Ministry was asked to state the manner in which they propose to fill this gap. In this regard, the Ministry in their written reply *inter-alia* submitted as under:

“The Ministry have substantial committed liability in terms of already sanctioned projects where in 2nd and 3rd installments would be due for release in the year 2021-22. Besides, due to the reduction in the current year Budget from ₹ 1600

crore to ₹ 971.38 crore at RE stage, it is envisaged that the Division may not be able to consider all the proposals received from the States/UTs. Some of these proposals would be considered in the next financial year. Also, due to the reduced budget, Ministry could release only 50per cent of the amount due for release as 1st installment against the sanctioned projects to some States. The balance is proposed to be released in the next financial year (2021-22). It is therefore proposed that this Division would request for allocation of more funds in 2021-22 for PMJVK scheme at the RE stage. Also, in the proposal being submitted to the EFC on continuation of PMJVK scheme with revised framework in the 15th FC period i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26, Ministry have sought a budget outlay of ₹ 2185 crore for the year 2021-22.”

4.4 In this regard, the Secretary submitted during the deliberations of the Committee that

“प्रधानमंत्री जन विकास कार्यक्रम में इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चरडेवलपमेंट के लिए हम स्टेट्स को जो पैसा देते हैं, वह भी हम सामान्यतः क्वार्टरली देतेहैं, लेकिन इस बार हमने करीब-करीब हर महीने में पैसा दिया है, जैसे अप्रैल में 118 करोड़ रुपये दिए, मई में 58 करोड़ रुपये दिए, जून में 165 करोड़ रुपये दिए और जुलाई में 67 करोड़ रुपये दिए।”

4.5 With regard to the process adopted for approval for the proposals received, the Ministry inter-alia submitted in written reply that the type of projects considered and sanctioned under PMJVK are Residential Schools, Colleges, Hostels, Health Centers, Skill Centers, Sanitation projects, Drinking water project, Sports Facilities etc. as proposed by the State Govts/UT Administrations as per the need of the identified MCA. The projects are generally approved on the basis of the norms recommended by the concerned line Ministry. The proposals received from the States/UTs are referred to the Line Ministries for their comments and based on their comments, decision is taken by the Empowered Committee in the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The concerned Line Ministries are also invited to participate in the meetings of the Empowered Committee. Due to convergence with Ministries like Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Women and Child Development etc. projects like Navodaya Vidyalayas, Anganwadi Centres, PHCs, HSCs, CHCs etc have been sanctioned under PMJVK. Ministry have also sanctioned various components for Kendriya Vidyalayas.

4.6 Following is the Synopsis of projects approved under PMJVK, as per the PPT by the Ministry before the Committee:

Synopsis of projects approved under PMJVK				
Project Approved	No. of units Sanctioned in 2017-18	No. of Sanctioned in 2018-19	No. of Sanctioned in 2019-20	No. of Sanctioned in 2020-21 (as on 15.2.2021)
School Buildings	139	252	202	23
Residential Schools	41	27	64	9
Additional Class Rooms	4573	3995	463	720
Hostels	80	89	127	16
Degree Colleges	--	13	9	0
Toilets	604	567	404	2010
it is	01	18	16	-
Polytechnics	02	02	6	-
Health Related Projects	51	60	277	45
AWCs	1619	833	94	58
Drinking Water/Hand Pumps	2991	822	205	1089
Sadbhav Mandaps/Sadbhav Kendra	69	89	0	1
Common Service Centres	-	-	136	21
Market Sheds	22	36	1	-

4.7 On being enquired about the status of the proposals received for approval, the Ministry submitted in a written reply that:

“During the current year till 15.02.2021, proposals received from the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim, Haryana, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) etc. have been considered and

viable projects to the tune of ₹ 1236.74 crore having central share of ₹ 828.61 crore approved by the Empowered Committee. Proposals received from the States of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur etc amounting to approximately ₹ 1716 crore having central share component of ₹ 1113 crore, are yet to be considered by the Empowered Committee.”

4.8 On being enquired with regard to pendency of utilization certificates, the Ministry inter-alia submitted in a written reply:

“The UCs with respect to the amount of 3610.82 crore released upto 31st March, 2019 are pending. The Ministry have requested the defaulting States to identify the projects which have become unviable due to cost escalation or other issues like land litigation etc. and propose for dropping of such projects. In response, the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have informed that due to various reasons (viz. non-availability of suitable land, cost escalation, litigation) projects involving central share of 275.77 crore, released by Ministry as first installment, are proposed for surrender. The States have also submitted alternate proposals for sanction of the Ministry, which are in the process of consideration of the Empowered Committee.

The Ministry vigorously pursues with the States/UTs for early liquidation of UCs mainly during the meetings of Empowered Committee, during review meetings, through correspondences, discussion with States/UTs, visit by officers of the Ministry etc. Besides, the Ministry has also requested the defaulting States to identify the projects which have become unviable due to cost escalation or other issues like land litigation etc and propose dropping of such projects. The Ministry would sanction alternate projects against the dropped projects or request the State to refund the amount of central share to the Ministry.”

4.9 The Committee also observed that the Ministry have since revised their format for UCs in October, 2020 on which it was informed as under:

“With the objective to achieve financial discipline and ensure smooth operation of schemes and projects of the Government due to impact of Covid-19 and related impact on economic activities, the Ministry of Finance issued guidelines for Centrally Sponsored Schemes in May, 2020. It was desired that each

Ministry/Department exercise greater financial discipline and control over the expenditure under the Schemes and Projects. In this regard, attention was drawn to the provisions of Rule (232 (v) to (vii) of General Financial Rules 2017 which mandates, *interalia*, that before releasing funds to the State Government or Union Territories, it must be ensured that they have the capacity to actually spend the balance from the previous year and releases made during the current year. It further mandates Ministries and Departments to establish that funds released earlier have been effectively utilized and do not remain parked. In order to ensure availability of adequate funds to implement schemes and projects, it was proposed by MoF that Ministries and Departments collect information for each scheme or project in the manner which enables them to release funds only on need basis.

In view of the above, it was decided to seek inputs on release and utilisation of State share also along with details of utilisation of Central share. Accordingly, the format for submission of UCs has been revised to include the release and utilization of State share which was missing in the previous format. Details of release of State share was being collected from the States/UTs earlier through the Quarterly Progress Reports.

During the last four months UCs for an amount of ₹ 600 crore has been received in the revised format.”

4.10 On COVID vaccination component, it was informed as follows:

“Health is one of the priority sectors under the PMJVK scheme. Ministry has sanctioned 5585 Health projects since inception of the scheme in 2008-09 which includes Health Centres, Health Sub-centres, Community Health Centres, Hospitals, and many other additional facilities in existing hospitals etc. There is no separate component on COVID vaccination under the PMJVK scheme.”

4.11 PMJVK is a significant Scheme, being under the National Development Agenda, where projects to provide basic infrastructure/amenities for minority areas like toilets, AWCs, Drinking water/handpumps, classrooms, etc. are received from States/UTs and then sanctioned by an Empowered Committee in the Ministry of Minority Affairs after obtaining comments from respective line Ministries. The Committee are perturbed to note that the Ministry may not be able to consider several proposals received from States/UTs during the year 2021-22 under PMJVK as the budgetary allocation has been reduced from ₹ 1600 crore to ₹ 971.38 crore in the year 2020-21 at RE stage. Further, several proposals, having Central share component of ₹ 1113 crore, are yet to be considered by the Empowered Committee of the Ministry. The Committee are also disturbed with the fact that Utilization Certificates for a staggering amount of ₹3610.82 crore released upto March, 2019 are pending and some States have proposed to surrender projects involving share of ₹ 275.77 crore. The Committee cannot but conclude that the Ministry have not been able to shoulder the huge responsibility of this ambitious Scheme. While the Ministry would be requesting for more funds at RE stage to be released to fill the gap in the next Financial Year i.e. 2021-22, they are also statedly seeking an outlay of ₹2185 crore for the year 2021-22. The Committee feel that apart from changed format for UCs, the Ministry should find ways to speed up the procedural aspects, particularly seeking comments from line Ministries on the project proposals as this could be quite a time-consuming process. Overall, an appropriate mechanism needs to be developed to keep a track of the proposals so that there is no delay either in getting Utilization Certificates but also in timely consideration and sanction of the projects.

CHAPTER – V

Nai Manzil

5.1 Nai Manzil Scheme was launched on 8th August, 2015 and rolled out in 2016-17. The scheme aims to benefit the minority youth including girl students in the age group of 17-35 years who do not have a formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school-dropouts or educated in the community education institutions including Madarsas. It is an integrated education and skill development scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) empanelled for the purpose. The scheme offers education bridge program (class 8 or 10 certification) through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)/State Institute of open Schooling (SIOS) or other approved open schooling systems. Under the skill component, NSQF compliant courses of level 3 and above are provided as per the norms of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). After the completion of the integrated (Education and Skill) program, placement is provided to at least 70 per cent of the skill certified beneficiaries and they are tracked for a period of one year after the completion of the integrated program. The Scheme earmarks 30 percent of seats to women beneficiaries, 5 per cent seats to persons with disability. Further, 15 percent of candidates belonging to BPL families of non-minority communities can also be considered under the scheme for promoting inter-community solidarity. The World Bank is partnering with the Ministry by providing assistance up to 50 per cent of the Scheme's budget. The BE, RE and AE for the last three years alongwith BE for 2021-22 under the Scheme is as follows:-

(₹in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2018-19	140.00	120.00	93.73
2019-20	140.00	100.00	34.44
2020-21	120.00	60.00	31.89 (upto 31.12.2020)
2021-22	87.00	-	-

5.2 Since the Actual Expenditure was significantly less in 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Committee enquired reasons therefor from the Ministry. The Ministry submitted in a written reply that in financial year 2019-20 was due to delay in PIAs submitting claim documents linked deliverables such as tracking students for one year after completion the integrated program and challenges faced during assessment and certification of skills. Further in financial year 2020-21, almost 2/3rd expenditure of the revised allocation has been made and the remaining will be completed before 31st March 2021.

5.3 With regard to the number of persons benefitted under the Scheme since inception, the Ministry have submitted in a written reply that while the Scheme achieved its intended target with regard to enrolment, education and skill certification, the placement has been lagging due to non-availability of job opportunities in the vicinity of the beneficiaries, especially in cases of women who are not willing to take up jobs outside. The details with regard to the performance of the Scheme are as follows:

Enrolled	Education Certified		Skill Certified	Job Placement
	Class 8	Class 10		
98311	21086	24503	88173	26312
44892 (girls)	18108	9127	37404	7993

5.4 With regard to popularising the Scheme, the Ministry submitted in a written reply: "The scheme with the IEC and media outreach strategy is specifically tailored to cater to the minority communities. The PIAs at ground level undertake mobilization measures such as community meeting, hoardings, and distribution of pamphlets in local languages, announcement through loud speakers as well as advertisements in local news papers to popularize and provide publicity to the Scheme. At Ministry level, News Letters, promotional videos, creative advertisements, coffee table books were made to popularize the Scheme. The PIAs also strive to mobilize beneficiaries through local community leaders."

5.5 On being asked about the role of World Bank in this Scheme, the Ministry in their written reply submitted:

“The World Bank provides funding (50per cent of project cost) along with technical support in form of guidance to enhance the quality of outreach and the implementation and have contributed ₹ 246.87 crore since 2016-17. The World Bank have carried six-monthly Interim Support Missions with visits to the field to learn and review the implementation challenges. The report in the form of an Aide-memoire is submitted for necessary course correction/policy decisions.”

5.6 On being enquired about any evaluation study, the Ministry have submitted in a written reply that an Impact Evaluation of the Scheme was conducted between the months of September to December 2020 by M/s Mott Mac Donald where in it has been inter alia recommended that the Nai Manzil Scheme should be extended by providing the opportunities to the minority youth in the minority concentration areas to be brought into the mainstream economy after completing their education and skill training certification.”

The Ministry have further submitted that the Scheme has been success and effective and that the matter of its continuation is under examination.

5.7 The Committee find that the Nai Manzil Scheme aims to benefit the minority youths including girl students in the age group of 17 to 35 years who do not have a formal school leaving certificate i.e., those in the category of school dropouts or educated in the community education initiatives including Madarsas, who are not only education and skill certified but also placed in jobs. The Committee are disappointed to note that despite aid from the World Bank, the Scheme has been lagging mainly due to non-availability of job opportunities in the vicinity of the beneficiaries particularly for girls who are not willing to take up jobs outside. It is disappointing that out of 98311 persons enrolled, only 26312 persons have got job placement. The Committee, therefore, desire that the skill training programme may include on-line work, which can be done right from the home itself, particularly for girls from minority communities. The efforts to popularize Nai Manzil Scheme may be made through local bodies and local public representatives in order to convince the communities about benefits of sending their youth for education/skill training. Effective monitoring and audit would instill confidence further.

Chapter-VI

Skill Development Initiative for Minorities “Seekho aur Kamao” (Learn and Earn)

6.1 “Seekho aur Kamao” Scheme is a placement linked skill development scheme for minorities. It aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment. The Scheme is implemented in States through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). PIAs have been mandated to track the placed minority youth for a period of one year. The Scheme is targeted at school dropouts and economically poor segment of minorities, with a minimum eligibility for the Scheme being 5th pass. 15per cent of the beneficiaries can also belong to the BPL majority community to promote communal harmony. As per the evaluation study, carried out by independent third party, majority of the beneficiaries are BPL cardholders. Maximum respondents (90per cent) have ID cards like MGNREGA job card, Antodaya card, etc implying that they are dependent on State support for survival. The scheme provides for earmarking 33per cent of the target for girls.

6.2 The Budgetary allocation along with actual expenditure for the last three years alongwith BE for 2021-22 is as follows:

(₹in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual
2018-19	250.00	250.00	175.73
2019-20	250.00	250.00	175.52
2020-21	250.00	190.00	148.51 (Upto22.02.2021)
2021-22	276.00	-	-

6.3 On being enquired about the details of the skills covered under the Scheme, the Ministry informed that approximately 2500 courses are covered under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant norms which are reviewed and revised regularly by the Common Norms Committee, formed under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, based on inputs from experts, industry associations and Sector Skill Councils, vide notification dated 15th July 2015.

6.4 On the issue of the data of placement of the beneficiaries under the Scheme, the Ministry submitted that since most of the projects of last 3 years are yet to be completed, final data of placement is not presently available on the scheme portal. As the process of release of funds/commencement of training for the target year 2019-20 is still in operation, data related to previous 3 years upto target year 2018-19 along with number of beneficiaries is as follows: **(WR 4, Pg.29)**

Project Year	No. of Beneficiaries
2016-17	64574
2017-18	120000
2018-19	120500

6.5 The representative of the Ministry during the deliberations of the Committee elaborating on the process of placement stated that:

“सीखो और कमाओ 'स्कीम में जैसे ही एलोकेशन हुआ, तो हमने एक लाख, 20 हजार बच्चों को ट्रेनिंग के लिए सेलेक्ट किया। उन्हें एक साल तक ट्रेनिंग दी गई। उसके बाद उनका असेसमेंट करवाने में समय लगता है। एक साल का समय उनको पढ़ने में लगता है, चार-छः महीने का समय उनको स्किल सर्टिफिकेट टलेने में लगता है। उसके बाद हम उन्हें एक साल के लिए एम्प्लॉयमेंट दिलवा कर, उनकी मॉनिटरिंग करते हैं, तो इस पूरे प्रॉसेस में तीन साल का समय लग जाता है। वर्ष 2017-18 में 1 लाख 20 हजार और वर्ष 2018-19 में 1 लाख, 20 हजार 5 सौ का जो फीगर बताया गया है। हमने उन बच्चों को ट्रेनिंग के लिए सेलेक्ट किया। अल्टीमेटली उनको एम्प्लॉयमेंट मिलेगी, उसकी स्कीम गाइडलाइन यह कहती है कि 75 प्रतिशत

बच्चों को एम्प्लॉयमेंट देनी है, लेकिन उनको एम्प्लॉमेंट देने में तीन साल का समय लग जाता है। उनकी मॉनिटरिंग करने में टाइम लगता है, इसलिए उसमें गैप है।”

6.6 On being asked the criteria fixed for the selection of the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) for implementation of the Scheme, the Ministry stated in their written reply that the scheme is implemented through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), who are empanelled through an open transparent process by inviting Expression of Interest (EOIs). The advertisements for the purpose are published in the leading news papers all over the country and also uploaded on Ministry’s website. The EOIs received by the due date are evaluated on a pre-determined point based selection criteria as per Scheme guidelines such as having required infrastructure in the selected State, accreditation to the SMART portal and Sector Skill Councils of National Skill Development Corporation/Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. The skill courses need to be National Skills Qualifications Framework compliant. The PIAs have to provide Bank guarantee and blacklisted PIAs are not eligible to apply. The organizations receiving qualifying marks are placed before an inter-ministerial Sanctioning Committee consisting of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and NITI Aayog and officials of the Ministry which recommends PIAs to be empanelled. The PIAs are ranked based on past track record, trainings furnished, financial health of the organisation and quality of infrastructure available.

6.7 In this context, Secretary during evidence elaborated that:

“सर, आप जो कह रहे हैं, हम वह सारे काम करते हैं। एन.जी.ओज़. का सेलेक्शन हो गया, लेकिन आज का नियम यह है कि हम जब किसी एजेंसी को काम देते हैं, तो वह दर्पण पोर्टल जो कि नीति आयोग का एक पोर्टल है, उसमें वह दर्पण पोर्टल में रजिस्टर करता है और एक नंबर लेता है। फिर हम उसे सेलेक्ट कर लेते हैं। जब वह एम्पैनल्ड हो जाता है, तब हम हर साल उन्हें टारगेट देते हैं कि कौन सा एन.जी.ओ., पी.आइ.ए. किस प्रकार का ट्रेड करेगा और कितने बच्चों को ट्रेनिंग देगा। वह दो हजार बच्चों को ट्रेनिंग देगा या तीन हजार बच्चों को ट्रेनिंग देगा, यह वह टारगेट देने के बाद सेलेक्ट करता है। जैसा अभी ज्वाइंट

सेक्रेटरी ने बताया है कि वह एग्जाम के द्वारा बच्चों का सेलेक्शन कर लेता है। मैं आपको प्रक्रिया बता रहा हूँ, हम लोग यह सभी काम करते हैं।"

6.8 The scheme ensures placements of minimum 75per cent trainees, out of which at least 50per cent placement is in organized sector. When the Committee enquired whether the Ministry ensures that 75 per cent of trainees get placement every year after taking the benefits of this Scheme and asked to provide the year-wise details for the organized and unorganized sector since its inception, the Ministry, in this context submitted that the Ministry ensures 75per cent placement of target allocation given to each Project Implementing Agency (PIA). The 3rd and final instalment is released to the PIAs only after their submitting the details of placement of trainees including those in the organised and unorganised sector. The Scheme also mandates one year of post placement tracking of placed trainees by the PIAs.

The data pertaining to years 2014-15 to 2017-18 is contained in the respective physical files of the PIAs and as already been submitted earlier, details of placed trainees is stated below:

S.No.	Year	No. of placed trainees
1	2014-15	15,694
2	2015-16	45,490
3	2016-17	47,000
4	2017-18	83,000

Efforts are being made to cull out the breakup of those employed in organised and unorganised sectors. For target year 2018-19 and 2019-20, only the first instalment has been released as yet, with most PIAs in the process of completing trainings and assessments. The data of employment/placement is now being monitored on the portal itself and is not matured presently and shall be placed after completion of placement of the trainees and post placement tracking of one year.

6.9 On being asked about the initiatives taken by the Ministry to promote this Scheme so that the funds are fully utilized the Ministry in inter-alia submitted in a written reply that the ministry has been able to utilise 70per cent of the BE/RE allocated during last two years. In the current financial year, the Ministry shall be able to utilise 100per cent of the RE allocated. As on date i.e 18.02.2020, the Ministry has booked ₹160 crore expenditure out of total ₹190 crore allocated under the Scheme. The following initiatives have been taken to promote the scheme:

- a. All PIAs have been directed to issue an advertisement in prescribed size in leading National and Vernacular Newspapers mentioning the details of Seekho Aur Kamao Portal. The scheme is also popularised on Ministry's Website and Portals and Social Media handles besides broadcasting on TV and Radio Channels.
- b. All PIAs place banners at potential places in the cities besides the training centres.
- c. Media wing of Ministry is also advertising through banners, social media etc.
- d. In remote areas, the PIAs used word of mouth and also utilise community leaders for spreading awareness and instilling confidence in the minorities to join the scheme.
- e. Organising of convocations for awarding Skill Certificates at public venues, in presence of local community leaders, MPs, MLAs and local administrative authorities are proposed to spread awareness about the scheme.

6.10 On being asked the reasons due to which there has been an insignificant increase in number of beneficiaries in 2017-18 in comparison to 2016-17 and the ways in which the Ministry proposes to increase the number of beneficiaries in 2020-21, the Ministry submitted in a written reply:

“The modality of the Scheme was changed from Modular Employable Skills (MES) to National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), with all PIAs being told to get inspected and accredited by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and register on SMART/ Skill India Portal (SIP) of MSDE. Many hiccups and challenges were faced by the PIAs in shifting to the new evolving system, involving multiple government agencies namely - Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Skill development and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Most of the pending issues have now been resolved and the PIAs are now familiar with the entire skilling ecosystem. A target of skilling 10 lakh minority youth in the next five years, subject to approval by the Department of Expenditure and allocation of sufficient budget has been proposed.”

6.11 In their PPT before the Committee, the Ministry informed about some new initiatives under Seekho Aur Kamao, as under:

- (i) Tripartite Agreement with National Skill Development Corporation and National Skill Development Fund of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to implement Skill programmes in UTs of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh
- (ii) Skills training under S&K in line with the Common Norms of the MSDE for a period of three years through the NSDC with an annual target of 10000 trainees
- (iii) The objective is to provide high quality job oriented skill training to the local youth which will, inter-alia, bring down unemployment, create better livelihoods and mainstream local youth into the growing employment and economic market.

6.12 The Committee note that the actual expenditure on ‘Seekho aur Kamao Scheme’ was substantially less in comparison to the allocation during last three years. Further the Ministry do not have the data of number of placements after training on SAK portal of the same period, as according to them, three years are required to complete the whole process. The Committee feel that the time period of three years is too long for training and giving employment to the minority youth in the modern times where market trends are very dynamic. Hence, the Ministry should consider restructuring skill programmes in consultation of PIAs to curtail the training period and to get the youth jobs as early as possible even in the private sector/local entrepreneurs etc. so that the objectives of the Scheme for minority youth is achieved. The Committee find that changing modalities from MES to NSQF has proved to be a setback for several PIAs who found the procedures cumbersome hence the Committee feel that the Ministry should, therefore, consider the larger interest of the beneficiaries of the Scheme before making any drastic changes in the modalities as it disrupts the entire skill training ecosystem. The Committee strongly feel that the Scheme needs to be streamlined by synchronizing it at different levels. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend an evaluation study/social audit to assess the impact and effectiveness of the Scheme to identify the flaws of the Scheme and to ensure that the Budgetary allocation is fully utilized.

NEW DELHI;

**15 March, 2021
24 Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)**

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

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21) HELD ON THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 2021

The Committee met from 1215 hrs. to 1400 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Sangeeta Azad
3. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
4. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
5. Shri Y. Devendrappa
6. Shri Abdul Khaleque
7. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
8. Shri Vijay Kumar
9. Shri Akshaibar Lal
10. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
11. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

12. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
13. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
14. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
15. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

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

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Pramod Kumar Das	Secretary
2.	Shri S.K. Dev Verman	Additional Secretary
3.	Shri Manoj Sethi	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
4.	Shri C.P.S. Bakshi	Joint Secretary
5.	Ms. Nigar Fatima Husain	Joint Secretary
6.	Ms. Niva Singh	Joint Secretary
7.	Shri Md. Shahbaz Ali	CMD-NMDFC
8.	Shri B. Anand	Secretary-NCM

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to their Ministry. In her address, the chairperson *inter-alia* drew the attention of the representatives of the Ministry with regard to the under utilization of budget of 2020-21, special initiatives taken to reach beneficiaries during COVID-19, irregularities/fraud reported in distribution of scholarship, revision in income criteria for Scholarship Schemes. The Chairperson, thereafter, referring to the “Directions by the Speaker” to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential' till a Report on the subject is presented to the House, asked the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs to introduce his team and give an overview of the subject matter.

3. Thereupon, the Secretary, briefed the Committee about overall performance of the Ministry through Power Point presentation. The following issues were broadly discussed at the sitting relating to Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry:

- i. Physical and financial performance of the flagship Schemes of the Ministry.
- ii. Steps taken by the Ministry of ensure welfare of the socially and economically weaker sections of the Minority communities during Covid-19 Pandemic.

- iii. Educational empowerment of Minority communities through various Schemes such as Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means scholarship schemes.
 - iv. Evaluation of Scholarship Schemes and the irregularities reported in schemes.
 - v. Umbrella scheme for providing education in Madarsas/Minorities.
 - vi. Training of persons and their placement under "Seekho aur Kamao" Scheme.
 - vii. Evaluation of NGOs engaged in the implementation of Schemes.
 - viii. Rejection of proposals received under Hamari Dhrohar Scheme.
 - ix. Land acquisition issues in Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram.
4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible on the above mentioned issues.
5. The Chairperson desired that the Members of Parliament may be associated with the schemes being implemented in their areas for effective implementation. The Chairperson directed that a visit to some of the NGOs implementing Seekho aur Kamao Scheme may be arranged for the Committee in Delhi to have first hand information on their functioning.
6. Before concluding the meeting, the Chairperson directed the Ministry to furnish written replies to all the queries raised by Members for early finalization of the Report.

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

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21) HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2021

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairpersons Chamber, Room No. 113, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

16. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
17. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
18. Shri Y. Devendrappa
19. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
20. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
21. Smt. Supriya Sule

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
23. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
24. Shri Narayan Koragappa
25. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
26. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| 4. Smt. Anita B. Panda | Joint Secretary |
| 5. Smt. Mamta Kemwal | Director |
| 6. Shri Krishendra Kumar | Deputy Secretary |

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

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Reports of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (I. Department Social Justice and Empowerment and II. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

(The Committee then adjourned)

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3
1	2.10	<p>The Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry was not able to spend their Budgetary allocation fully during 2020-21 despite it being reduced by more than ₹ 1000 crore at the RE stage from ₹5029.00 to ₹4005.00, due to slow pace of expenditure in scholarship component. It reportedly happened as States/UTs could not complete re-verification process. The Committee, although, were informed that the said reduction was not for the Scholarship Schemes but for other Schemes of the Ministry, nonetheless feel that as compared to other Ministries implementing similar Scholarship Schemes, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has stood way behind in utilizing the allotted funds. This surely calls for some introspection. While the Ministry have convinced that they would be able to utilize their allocation fully during the remaining period of the Financial Year 2020-21, the Committee are skeptical about the same since the trend of previous years indicates that except under the pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, the Ministry always had funds remaining underutilized at the end of the year for the other two Schemes. The Committee are unable to comprehend as to how the Ministry would accomplish objectives of these Schemes unless all States/UTs complete their processes of re-verification in a very short time, which, in all probability, is not likely to happen. While the Ministry have furnished information on the actual number of beneficiaries exceeding the targets in previous years there is nil information for 2020-21. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of the position in 2020-21 at the action taken stage. As per the 15th Finance Commission Report, all the Schemes are likely to be reviewed for the next 5 years, hence, the Committee recommend that the monthly/quarterly expenditure plan of the Ministry for the year 2021-22 must also be executed strictly so that they are able to justify their Schemes and project the correct requirement of funds at RE stage too.</p>
2	3.11	<p>Three Central Sector Scholarship Schemes namely Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means are being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for six centrally notified minority communities. The Committee are quite disturbed by cases reported about the alleged misappropriation of funds/funds going to fake students under these scholarship schemes for children belonging to underprivileged minorities in six States, which are under investigation/enquiry. In one State, after enquiry, the fraud is stated to have happened due</p>

to passwords leak by certain vested interests as well as other loopholes. Taking advantage of illiteracy/lack of awareness among parents and children of minorities is also exploited by such elements. While the Ministry representatives have always been claiming that the system is fail-safe due to all transactions/verifications done online, a dedicated Portal, cash transfer through DBT and similar measures, which are definitely the need of the hour, it is disconcerting for the Committee to observe that such instances of corruption happened. However minuscule, this must have deprived the genuine beneficiaries of Government Scholarship Schemes and may have lead to some children dropping out too being unable to afford the school fee/other expenses. During their evidence, the Ministry representatives informed the Committee about further safety measures under their consideration, for instance, preserving the files of scholarship-holder students for a period of 5 years, creation of an Aadhaar vault in coordination with MelTY, requirement of signatures of School Principals in verification report filed by teacher, at least 2% physical verification, creation of student data bank with the help of Department of School education etc. While the Committee desire the Ministry to plug all identified loopholes in the system, strengthening privacy of data and passwords and reduce all manual interventions, be it school personnel, banking intermediaries, NGOs or unauthorised persons, they are of the strong opinion that the Ministry should also counsel the State Governments to try to reach out to a sample size of beneficiary minority students directly to ascertain that they are not being duped in the pretext of Government scholarships, and that they are actually in receipt, through DBT, of the full amount of the entitled scholarship money for the term, as approved against their names in the Portal. Also the banks should ensure that the accounts of students do not get closed due to non-activity since minority children cannot do regular transactions, because some evaluation studies have shown that the scholarship money gets reverted also due to accounts being inactive/closed. The Committee are convinced that such measures can lead to a major improvement and hence recommend that action should be taken on this aspect.

Now, as the COVID-19 vaccination is gaining speed, the Committee opine that the reopening of schools in full capacity and the resultant formalities and verifications etc. for disbursal of scholarships will pick up in the later part of the current Financial year. The Committee reiterate that fraudulent activity by unscrupulous elements in schools, banks, NGOs, VOs, etc., who find ways to circumvent the processes for their personal gains, must be stopped. In fact, the Committee learn that recently around 8000 NGOs have been delisted by the Government for various shortcomings in their functioning. Hence, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry should ensure that the online portal for scholarships should have enough

		<p>security features/tools to detect any tampering/fraud in the passwords/codes, in consultation with NIC and persons/organizations found guilty of malpractices should be removed with immediate effect. The Committee desire to be apprised of the progress in the Ministry's efforts as well as the outcome of the enquiries currently underway in some States on the matter.</p>
3	4.11	<p>PMJVK is a significant Scheme, being under the National Development Agenda, where projects to provide basic infrastructure/amenities for minority areas like toilets, AWCs, Drinking water/handpumps, classrooms, etc. are received from States/UTs and then sanctioned by an Empowered Committee in the Ministry of Minority Affairs after obtaining comments from respective line Ministries. The Committee are perturbed to note that the Ministry may not be able to consider several proposals received from States/UTs during the year 2021-22 under PMJVK as the budgetary allocation has been reduced from ₹ 1600 crore to ₹ 971.38 crore in the year 2020-21 at RE stage. Further, several proposals, having Central share component of ₹ 1113 crore, are yet to be considered by the Empowered Committee of the Ministry. The Committee are also disturbed with the fact that Utilization Certificates for a staggering amount of ₹3610.82 crore released upto March, 2019 are pending and some States have proposed to surrender projects involving share of ₹ 275.77 crore. The Committee cannot but conclude that the Ministry have not been able to shoulder the huge responsibility of this ambitious Scheme. While the Ministry would be requesting for more funds at RE stage to be released to fill the gap in the next Financial Year i.e. 2021-22, they are also statedly seeking an outlay of ₹2185 crore for the year 2021-22. The Committee feel that apart from changed format for UCs, the Ministry should find ways to speed up the procedural aspects, particularly seeking comments from line Ministries on the project proposals as this could be quite a time-consuming process. Overall, an appropriate mechanism needs to be developed to keep a track of the proposals so that there is no delay either in getting Utilization Certificates but also in timely consideration and sanction of the projects.</p>
4	5.7	<p>The Committee find that the Nai Manzil Scheme aims to benefit the minority youths including girl students in the age group of 17 to 35 years who do not have a formal school leaving certificate i.e., those in the category of school dropouts or educated in the community education initiatives including Madarsas, who are not only education and skill certified but also placed in jobs. The Committee are disappointed to note that despite aid from the World Bank, the Scheme has been lagging mainly due to non-availability of job opportunities in the vicinity of the beneficiaries particularly for girls who are not willing to take up jobs outside. It is disappointing that out of 98311 persons enrolled, only 26312 persons have got job</p>

		<p>placement. The Committee, therefore, desire that the skill training programme may include on-line work, which can be done right from the home itself, particularly for girls from minority communities. The efforts to popularize Nai Manzil Scheme may be made through local bodies and local public representatives in order to convince the communities about benefits of sending their youth for education/skill training. Effective monitoring and audit would instill confidence further.</p>
5	6.12	<p>The Committee note that the actual expenditure on 'Seekho aur Kamao Scheme' was substantially less in comparison to the allocation during last three years. Further the Ministry do not have the data of number of placements after training on SAK portal of the same period, as according to them, three years are required to complete the whole process. The Committee feel that the time period of three years is too long for training and giving employment to the minority youth in the modern times where market trends are very dynamic. Hence, the Ministry should consider restructuring skill programmes in consultation of PIAs to curtail the training period and to get the youth jobs as early as possible even in the private sector/local entrepreneurs etc. so that the objectives of the Scheme for minority youth is achieved. The Committee find that changing modalities from MES to NSQF has proved to be a setback for several PIAs who found the procedures cumbersome hence the Committee feel that the Ministry should, therefore, consider the larger interest of the beneficiaries of the Scheme before making any drastic changes in the modalities as it disrupts the entire skill training ecosystem. The Committee strongly feel that the Scheme needs to be streamlined by synchronizing it at different levels. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend an evaluation study/social audit to assess the impact and effectiveness of the Scheme to identify the flaws of the Scheme and to ensure that the Budgetary allocation is fully utilized.</p>