

23

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COAL AND STEEL (2020-2021)
SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF MINES

"DEMANDS FOR GRANTS(2021-2022)"

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the
Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)]



TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
AUGUST, 2021/SRAVANA, 1943(Saka)

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**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the
Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 06.08.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 06.08.2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
AUGUST, 2021/SRAVANA, 1943(Saka)**

CONTENTS

	Page
Composition of the Committee	(ii)
Introduction	(iv)
Chapter - I Report.....	1
Chapter - II Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by Government.....	15
Chapter - III Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.....	34
Chapter - IV Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.....	35
Chapter - V Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.....	37

ANNEXURES

I	Minutes of the sitting of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2020-21) held on 04.08.2021	39
II	Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)	41

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COAL AND STEEL(2020-2021)**

Chairperson - Shri Rakesh Singh

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Balubhau Dhanorkar *alias* Suresh Narayan
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak
4. Shri Kunar Hembram
5. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
6. Shri Saumitra Khan
7. Shri C. Lalrosanga
8. Shri S. Muniswamy
9. Shri Ajay Nishad
10. Shri Basanta Kumar Panda
11. Smt. Riti Pathak
12. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
13. Shri S.R. Parthiban
14. Shri Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy
15. Shri Chunni Lal Sahu
16. Shri Arun Sao
17. Shri Pashupati Nath Singh
18. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
19. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
20. Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi
21. Dr. Thirumaavalavan Thol

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Anil Desai
23. Dr. Vikas Mahatme
24. Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi
25. Shri Prashanta Nanda
26. Shri Ram Vichar Netam
27. Shri Samir Oraon
28. Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu
29. Shri Shibu Soren
30. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy
31. Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Pawan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Arvind Sharma - Director
3. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Additional Director
4. Smt. Madhu Tandon - Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Coal and Steel having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on "Demands for Grants (2021-2022)" relating to the Ministry of Mines.

2. The Seventeenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2021. Replies of the Government to all the observations/recommendations contained in the Report were received on 28.05.2021.

3. The Standing Committee on Coal and Steel considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 04.08.2021.

4. An analysis on the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given at **Annexure-II**.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Chapter-I of the Report.

**NEW DELHI;
04 August, 2021**

13 Sravana, 1943(Saka) Standing Committee on Coal and Steel

**RAKESH SINGH
Chairperson**

REPORT

CHAPTER I

This Report of the Standing Committee deals with Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on "Demands for Grants (2021-22)" relating to the Ministry of Mines which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.03.2021.

2. The Report contained 12 Observations/Recommendations. The Action Taken Replies have been received from the Ministry of Mines in respect of all the 12 observations/recommendations contained in the Report on 28.05.2021. These have been categorised as follows:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by Government:
Serial Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
Total : 10
Chapter-II
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:
Serial No. Nil
Total : 00
Chapter-III
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Serial No. 04
Total : 01
Chapter-IV
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited:
Serial No. 12
Total : 01
Chapter-V

3. The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. In case, where it is not possible for the Ministry to implement the

recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Notes to the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them within three months.

4. The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of their observations/recommendations made in the Seventeenth Report.

Recommendation Sl. No. 1
Geological Survey of India (GSI)

5. The Committee noted that though the Ministry of Mines had proposed a financial allocation of Rs.1828.70 crore for Budget Estimates, 2021-22, the Ministry of Finance approved Rs.1466.82 crore only. Moreover, the proposed outlay for 2021-22 is significantly lower if compared to plan outlays of Rs.1675.55 crore and Rs.1701.40 crore for financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. Evidently, there has been major curtailment in the funds proposed by GSI. GSI demanded for Rs.1421.06 crore in the budget estimate taking into consideration the requirement of funds for continuation of all of its activities especially for enhanced geological mapping and mineral exploration target compared to the financial year 2020-21, escalation of the operational expenditure, to meet the committed expenditure of the financial year 2021-22 and also to clear the pending dues of the financial year 2020-21. However, the budgetary grant has been reduced to Rs.1181.58 crore with overall reduction of Rs.239.48 crore. The Committee also noted that the organisations under Ministry of Mines could not fully utilise the budgetary grant during the previous years. While endorsing the Government view that there will be

demand for enhancing the outlay by the respective organizations at RE, 2021-22, the Committee expected these organisations to effectively utilise the approved grants in the first two quarters of 2021-22 so that fund allocations could be suitably stepped up at RE, 2021-22. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices to execute their various schemes/activities in an effective manner.

6. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

"The GSI is presently working in Mission-Region matrix mode with optimum capacity by implementing about 974 standard projects in Field Season (FS) 2021-22 throughout the country including survey & mapping, mineral exploration, projects of societal concern, technical assistance in heavy engineering projects, including rail, road and hydrological projects with the budget grant of Rs.1181.58 crore (Revenue - Rs.1115.68 crore, Capital -Rs.65.90 crore). During formulation of the FS projects for 2021-22, following aspects have been taken into consideration:-

Baseline Geoscience Data Generation: GSI has given thrust on generating baseline geoscience data e.g. geological, geochemical, geophysical and aero-geophysical which are of paramount importance for identifying potential areas for mineral exploration and accordingly the mapping targets for ground survey e.g. Specialized Thematic Mapping (STM), National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) have been suitably enhanced compared to the Financial Year 2020-21.

To identify more offshore potential areas for mineralization, GSI has considerably enhanced systematic mapping target within Territorial Water (TW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with enhanced swath bathymetry compared to the Financial Year 2020-21.

Implementation of Minerals Evidence of Mineral Contents (MEMC) Rules, 2015, (Amended MMDR Act 2015): After implementation of MEMC rule 2015, GSI has been mandated to carry out 'G2-Stage general exploration for non-energy minerals in addition to reconnaissance survey' [G4], 'preliminary exploration' [G3] with an aim to generate more resource bearing geological reports for auctioning of mineral concession. As on 31.3.2021, more than 130 resource bearing G2/G3 reports on various mineral commodities have been generated by GSI since 2015. To give thrust on resource augmentation, the mineral exploration projects have been increased from 217 nos. in FS 2020-21 to 250 nos. in FS 2021-

22 and accordingly the Large Scale Mapping (LSM), Detailed Mapping (DM) and drilling targets have been proportionately increased.

Implementation of National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016: As per the NMEP 2016, GSI is carrying out, Project Uncover (India) in association with Geoscience Australia to search for deep seated/ concealed mineral occurrences and National Aero-geophysical Mapping (NAGMP) to cover the OGP areas. In addition, GSI is carrying out Regional Mineral Targeting (RMT) programmes to gain insight into the process of finding mineral deposits starting with regional models.

GSI has implemented Online Core Business Integrated System (OCBIS) to enable all GSI geoscientists and administrators to collect, process, analyze, store and disseminate this vital geoscience data and information in an organized manner. It also enables the broader geoscientific community and other stakeholders to easily access, view and utilize GSI data & information (as per the Data sharing & accessibility policy of GSI, 2019). Furthering this, GSI is in process of setting up of the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) for benefit of all stakeholders wherein all mineral exploration data of the country will be made available at one platform.

Training & Capacity Building: GSI conducts various thematic training courses for upgradation of the skill of the scientific officers engaged in field activities. Various Introductory, refreshers, advanced thematic courses are being conducted by GSI-TI. Promotion linked training programmes on geoscience, management and administration are also conducted for all officers of the department. Further, special training programmes are conducted for the geoscience students, institutes, DGMs and other geo-science organization.

Modernization programme: GSI has planned to procure various instruments/ equipments for upgradation of the laboratories as well as field instruments in phased manner for quality output. The procurement of High Resolution Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer (HR-SIMS) is in the process. This unique instrument will be very relevant for contemporary research activities in the field of geoscience especially in dating of rock samples with high precision. The other major procurements include hydrostatic drilling rigs of various capacities, XRF, ICPMS, hand held XRF, LIBS, SEM, gravimeter, magnetometer etc. which will enhance both laboratory and field activities with quality data.

National and international collaboration: In every field season GSI takes up collaboration/sponsorship projects with different organizations like CSIR, ISRO, ISI, AMD, Ind. Railway, BRO, CWC, PWD etc. In international arena, GSI has existing

6
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bilateral activities under existing MoU with Geoscience Australia, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, British Geological Survey, U.K., Geological Survey of Brazil-CPRM, Brazil and GTK, Finland for different collaborative scientific works.

Synergy with other geoscience organization: The coordination between all exploration and exploitation agencies in the country including PSUs is mainly done through Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB). The CGPB is the apex body at the national level to overview the programme of geoscientific activities including mineral exploration in the country. During finalization of the FSP programme, GSI gives due consideration of the project requests received from all stakeholders.

The activities of GSI is under constant monitoring and evaluation by the Ministry of Mines and the details are summarized below:-

- a. The physical and financial achievements made by GSI have been regularly monitored through the monthly reports submitted to the Ministry. The achievements have been reviewed through the Senior Officers Meetings and remedial measures have been suggested as and when required. Besides this, the periodic review of the various activities has also been carried out by the Ministry for the betterment of the organization.
- b. The policy decisions taken by GSI have been reviewed and approved by the Ministry. Ministry plays an important role for inter-ministerial collaboration/ convergence as well as international collaboration.
- c. The contribution of GSI in different fields of activities especially in mineral exploration has been regularly monitored by the Ministry.
- d. The contribution of GSI is of immense importance in mining and mineral sector as it is the only organization, having capacity to take up exploration at the reconnaissance stage in green/ brown field area which may lead to future mineral discovery.

7. While observing that the organizations under the Ministry of Mines could not utilize the budgetary grant during the previous years, the Committee, in their original Report had expected that these organizations will effectively utilize the approved grants in the initial first two quarters of 2021-22 so that allocated funds during 2021-22 could be increased at RE stage. From the action taken reply of the Ministry, the Committee observe that GSI is presently working in Mission-

Region matrix mode with optimum capacity by implementing about 974 standard projects in Field Season (FS) 2021-22 throughout the country including survey & mapping, mineral exploration, projects of societal concern, technical assistance in heavy engineering projects, including rail, road and hydrological projects with the budgetary grant of Rs.1181.58 crore (Revenue – 1115.68 crore, Capital – Rs. 65.90 crore). The action taken reply of the Ministry is, however, silent on effective utilization of allocation during the first two quarters paving the way for seeking more funds at RE stage 2021-22. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating their earlier recommendation desire that the Ministry should come out with a specific action plan with physical targets set to be accomplished in a time bound manner to ensure utilization of allocated funds so that more allocation can be sought at RE stage. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Recommendation Sl. No.4

INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES (IBM)

8. The Committee observed that IBM was allocated funds of Rs.124.31 crore and Rs.128.31 crore at BE, 2019-20 and BE 2020-21, respectively. The allocation was, however, reduced substantially at RE 2019-20 and 2020-21 to Rs.109.11 crore and Rs.94.00 crore, respectively. The Committee observed that IBM was not able to utilize even the reduced allocations and the actual expenditure during these years remained Rs.94.55 crore and Rs.74.12 crore (upto 31st January, 2021), respectively. Some of the reasons for reduction in the allocated funds at RE, 2020-21 like non-filling up of vacant posts, less numbers of official tours and inspection of mines due to COVID -19, less requirement of funds towards maintenance and up keeping of residential and official building of IBM and less requirement towards

procurement of vehicles as well as machinery & equipments are found to be justifiable. However, less allocation of funds for IBM at RE, 2019-20 and then under-utilisation of funds allocated at RE, 2019-20 depict a different picture and speaks clearly on the lack of efforts on the part of IBM to optimally utilize the funds allocated. The Committee would therefore desire IBM to avoid recurring under-utilisation of allocated funds and work towards utilizing the allocated budget in a prudent manner. The Committee had, however been assured that the amount of Rs.94.00 crore allocated at RE, 2020-21 would be fully utilized except the funds available under the object head Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TASP), Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCPSC) and Other Capital Expenditure (OCE) (NER), as IBM has no scope of incurring expenditure under these object heads. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the actual expenditure by IBM during 2020-21.

9. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

"The actual expenditure of IBM during the financial year 2020-21 is Rs.86.98 crore as against the RE of Rs.94.00 crore. The shortfall of Rs.7.02 crore is mainly, as already recorded by the Committee in Para 4 above, due to no scope of incurring expenditure under the object heads Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TASP), Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCPSC) and Other Capital Expenditure (OCE) (NER) [amounting to Rs.3.86 crore] and also due to non-payment to implementing agency M/s WIPRO & Project monitoring Unit NISG for Mining Tenement System due to legal dispute; non-filling of vacant posts by DR as process of revival of posts is going on; non-completion of procurement process through GeM as vendors could not deliver the items due to COVID-19 restrictions, etc. [amounting to Rs.3.16 crore]."

10. The Committee had noted that against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 124.31 crore and Revised Estimates of Rs. 109.11 crore during 2019-20, the actual utilization was Rs.

94.55 crore only. During 2020-21 against Budget Estimates of Rs.128.31 crore and Revised Estimates of Rs.94.00 crore, IBM could utilize only Rs. 74.12 crore upto 31st January, 2021. The Committee in their Original Report desired to avoid recurring under-utilisation of allocated funds by IBM and to utilise the allocated budget in a prudent manner. The Ministry has stated in their action taken reply that the actual expenditure of IBM during 2020-21 was Rs.86.98 crore and the shortfall of Rs. 7.02 crore during 2020-21 is mainly due to no scope of incurring expenditure under the object heads Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TASP), Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCPSC) and other Capital expenditure (OCE) (NER) and also non-payment to implementing agency M/s WIPRO & Project monitoring Unit NISG for Mining Tenement System due to legal dispute; non filling of vacant posts by direct recruitment as process of revival of posts is going on; non-completion of procurement process through Government-e-Marketplace(GeM) as vendors could not deliver the items due to COVID-19 restrictions, etc.

Despite the above, Committee would like to impress upon the Ministry/IBM to make more concerted efforts to resolve the issues responsible for constant under-utilisation of allocated funds. The Committee trust that the Ministry would take all desired steps to fully utilize the allocated funds by resolving identified constraints and apprise them of the progress made in the matter.

Recommendation SI. No.9

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

11. In their Action Taken Report on the 47th Report "Implementation of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Pradhan Mantri Khanij

Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)", the Committee had observed from the statement furnished to them with regard to auditing of DMF in respect of mineral rich States since 2015-16 to 2018-19 that audit status of DMF in respect of certain States was furnished for the year 2015-16 to 2018-19 and also in respect of certain States, it was missing for some particular year/s. Besides, the Ministry of Mines had not furnished the information on action taken by them against the defaulting States. The Committee would hence desire to be informed about the status of action taken with regard to their above mentioned observation in order to ensure that audits of DMF in all the mineral rich States are completed at the earliest. Action taken by the Ministry in respect of the defaulting States may also be furnished.

12. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

"Audit status has been received by the Ministry upto year 2019-20 is as under:-

State wise Audit Report

Sl. No.	State	No. of Districts with DMF	FY 2015 - 16	FY 2016 - 17	FY 2017 - 18	FY 2018 - 19	FY 2019 - 20
1	Andhra Pradesh	13	-	Completed - 7 In Progress - 6	Completed - 7 In Progress - 6	Completed - 6 In Progress - 5 Not Started - 2	In Progress - 1 Not Started - 12
2	Chhattisgarh	28	Completed - 20 Not Started - 8	Completed - 27 Not Started - 1	Completed - 27 Not Started - 1	Completed - 22 Not Started - 6	Completed - 8 Not Started - 20
3	Goa	2	-	-	-	-	-
4	Gujarat	32	Not Applicable	Completed - 32	Completed - 32	Completed - 31 In Progress - 1	Completed - 31 In Progress - 1
5	Jharkhand	24	Not Applicable	Completed - 21 Not Started - 3	Completed - 23 Not Started - 1	Completed - 20 Not Started - 4	Completed - 12 Not Started - 12
6	Karnataka	30	Completed - 30	Completed - 30	Completed - 30	Completed - 29 In Progress - 1	Completed - 25 In Progress - 5
7	Maharashtra	35	-	Completed - 7 In Progress - 28	Completed - 7 In Progress - 28	Completed - 7 In Progress - 28	Not Started - 35
8	Madhya Pradesh	51	Completed - 9 Not Started - 42	Completed - 9 Not Started - 42	Completed - 9 Not Started - 42	Completed - 11 Not Started - 40	-

9	Odisha	30	Completed - 18 In Progress - 12	Completed - 19 In Progress - 11	Completed - 19 In Progress - 11	Completed - 2 In Progress - 28	
10	Rajasthan	33	-	Completed - 17 In Progress - 16	Completed - 17 In Progress - 16	Completed - 4 In Progress - 29	Completed - 1 In Progress - 32
11	Tamil Nadu	30	Not Started - 30	Not Started - 30	Completed - 29 In Progress - 1	Completed - 28 In Progress - 2	Completed - 11 In Progress - 19
12	Telangana	32	-	-	-	-	-
13	Assam	33	-	-	-	-	-
14	Bihar	38	-	-	-	-	-
15	Himachal Pradesh	12	-	-	-	-	-
16	Jammu & Kashmir	20	-	-	-	-	-
17	Kerala	14	-	-	-	-	-
18	Meghalaya	6	-	-	-	-	-
19	Uttarakhand	13	-	-	-	-	-
20	Uttar Pradesh	75	-	-	-	-	-
21	West Bengal	22	-	-	-	-	-

-: Indicates that Information has not been received from the State

Status as on May 2021

Audit of FY 2020-2021 State Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh replied indicated that due to ongoing pandemic situation, audit for 2020-2021 is delayed.

State Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh indicated that due to ongoing pandemic situation, audit for 2020-21 is delayed. Ministry of Mines has been reiterating to the States the need and urgency of getting the auditing of DMF. Repeated reminders have been sent to the States, the exigency of the same was also communicated in the Video Conferences held with the States. In addition to this, the Central PMU has been coordinating with the States for the data related to DMF as well as sending reminders regarding the regular audit of the DMF funds."

13. The Committee, in their earlier Report had observed that audit of District Mineral Foundation(DMF) in respect of mineral rich States from 2015-16 to 2018-19 was missing for some particular year(s). The Committee in their Original Report had, therefore, desired that the audit of DMF in all

mineral rich States be completed at the earliest and they be apprised of the same. The Ministry in its action taken reply has informed that Audit status has been received upto the year 2019-20. Further, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh have indicated that due to ongoing pandemic situation, audit for 2020-21 is delayed. Ministry of Mines has been reiterating to the States the need and urgency of getting the auditing of DMF and repeated reminders are stated to have been sent to the States. The exigency of the same was also communicated in the Video Conferences held with the States. While appreciating the Ministry of Mines for taking up the issue of regular audit of DMF more vigorously, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that more sincere efforts be made to ensure that audits of DMF by all the concerned States be completed within the stipulated time frame henceforth. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

Recommendation Sl. No.10

HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED (HCL)

14. The Committee noted that during 2019-20, against BE and RE of Plan outlays of Rs.600 crore, HCL was able to spend Rs.452.96 crore only because under its Expansion Projects at RE stage, the target was retained as Rs.402.00 crore and amount could not be spent due to delay in awarding of some of the tenders related to mine expansion. Further, during 2020-21, against BE and RE of Rs.600 crore, the actual expenditure upto December, 2020 is Rs.283.13 crore only and the likely expenditure up to March, 2021 will be Rs.360 crore. The reasons adduced for expected under-utilisation of funds viz. stoppage & slow-down of operation of all CAPEX projects for maintaining COVID-19

protocol in underground as well as in open cast mines; Contract for Mine Development, Production Drilling and Ore Production from Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP) underground mine, could not commence as mobilization of resources/equipments by the contractor were held up due to COVID-19; Delay in getting Environmental Clearance (EC) of Surda mine, the targeted CAPEX expenditure of Surda mine could not be met, etc. Now, Plan outlays (BE) of Rs.350 crore has been made for the year 2021-22. The Committee had been informed that keeping in view the present financial condition of the company, HCL has planned to focus on such CAPEX which will give immediate production and will help in revenue generation and to continue those development works which are required in order to sustain production in the coming years. Appreciating the initiatives being taken by HCL for the growth of the Company, the Committee desire that HCL should earnestly strive towards optimal utilization of the Plan outlays of Rs.350 crore during 2021-22.

15. The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has submitted as under:-

a. **"Reasons for shortfall in Plan Expenditure during the year 2019-20"**

Actual Plan Expenditure of HCL during the year 2019-20 was Rs.452.96 crore (audited) as compared to target of Rs.600.00 crore at RE stage. The scheme wise breakup of the expenditure is given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	2019-20 Expenditure		
	BE	RE	Actual
Renewal & Replacement	8.00	8.00	18.24
Mine Development	180.00	180.00	225.05
Mine Expansion	402.00	402.00	205.86
Green Field Exploration	10.00	10.00	3.81
Total	600.00	600.00	452.96

The shortfall was mainly under its mine expansion projects both at BE and RE stage since it was not possible to achieve the desired

target due to delay in awarding some of the tenders related to mine expansion.

b. Reasons for shortfall in Plan Expenditure during the year 2020-21

Expected Plan Expenditure of HCL during the year 2020-21 will be Rs.360.00 crore as compared to target of Rs.600.00 crore at BE stage. The reasons for expected underutilization of funds are:-

- i. Stoppage & slowdown of operation of all CAPEX projects for maintaining COVID-19 protocol in underground as well as in open cast mines;
- ii. Contract for Mine Development, Production Drilling and Ore Production from Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP) underground mine could not commence as mobilization of resources /equipment by the contractor were held up due to COVID-19;
- iii. Delay in getting Environmental clearance (EC) of Surda mine thereby the targeted CAPEX expenditure of Surda mine could not be met; and
- iv. Also, since majority CAPEX of HCL is being met through long term and medium term loans from banks, and because of high debt equity ratio of 4.21:1 at the end of the financial year 2019-20, it has increasingly become difficult to get loans from banks/financial institutions.

Keeping in view the present financial condition of the company, HCL has planned to focus on such CAPEX which will give immediate production and will help in revenue generation and only to continue those development works which are required in order to sustain production in the coming years.

The company will strive towards fully optimal utilization of the plan outlays prepared for financial year 2021-22. The Plan Expenditure for the year 2021-22 is as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)	
Scheme	BE
Renewal & Replacement	10.00
Mine Development	160.00
Mine Expansion	170.00
Green Field Exploration	10.00
Total	350.00

16. The Committee, in their original Report, had noted that HCL could utilize only Rs. 452.96 crore against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 600 crore during 2019-20. Further, during 2020-21, against BE and RE of Rs.600 crore, the actual expenditure upto December, 2020 was Rs.283.13 crore only and HCL was likely to utilize Rs.360 crore upto March, 2021. The shortfall in Plan Expenditure during the year 2020-21 was stated to be due to stoppage & slowdown of operation of all CAPEX projects for maintaining COVID-19 protocol in the underground as well as in open cast mines; Contract for Mine Development, Production Drilling and Ore Production from Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP) underground mine could not commence as mobilization of resources/equipment by the contractor were held up due to COVID-19; Delay in getting Environmental clearance (EC) of Surda mine; and also due to the reason that majority CAPEX of HCL was being met through long term and medium term loans from banks and because of high debt equity ratio of 4.21:1 at the end of the financial year 2019-20. Although, the Ministry in the action taken reply has informed the Committee that HCL has planned focus on such CAPEX which will give immediate production and will help in revenue generation and only to continue those development works which are required in order to sustain production in the coming years, the Committee desire that Ministry/HCL should take immediate steps to utilize the entire funds of Rs. 350 crore earmarked for the year 2021-22. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action Plan of the Ministry/HCL for utilising these funds.

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

Recommendation Sl. No.1

The Committee note that though the Ministry of Mines had proposed a financial allocation of Rs.1828.70 crore for Budget Estimates, 2021-22, the Ministry of Finance approved Rs.1466.82 crore only. Moreover, the proposed outlay for 2021-22 is significantly lower if compared to plan outlays of Rs.1675.55 crore and Rs.1701.40 crore for financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. Evidently, there has been major curtailment in the funds proposed by GSI. GSI demanded for Rs.1421.06 crore in the budget estimate taking into consideration the requirement of funds for continuation of all of its activities especially for enhanced geological mapping and mineral exploration target compared to the financial year 2020-21, escalation of the operational expenditure, to meet the committed expenditure of the financial year 2021-22 and also to clear the pending dues of the financial year 2020-21. However, the budget grant has been reduced to Rs.1181.58 crore with overall reduction of Rs.239.48 crore. The Committee also note that the organisations under Ministry of Mines could not fully utilise the budgetary grants during the previous years. While endorsing the Government view that there will be demand for enhancing the outlay by the respective organizations at RE, 2021-22, the Committee expect these organisations to effectively utilise the approved grants in the first two quarters of 2021-22 so that fund allocations could be suitably stepped up at RE, 2021-22. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices to execute their various schemes/activities in an effective manner.

Action Taken

Geological Survey of India (GSI)

The GSI is presently working in Mission-Region matrix mode with optimum capacity by implementing about 974 standard projects in Field Season (FS) 2021-22 throughout the country including survey & mapping, mineral exploration, projects of societal concern, technical assistance in heavy engineering projects, including rail, road and hydrological projects with the budget grant of Rs.1181.58 crore (Revenue - Rs.1115.68 crore, Capital -Rs.65.90 crore). During

formulation of the FS projects for 2021-22, following aspects have been taken into consideration:-

Baseline Geoscience Data Generation: GSI has given thrust on generating baseline geoscience data e.g. geological, geochemical, geophysical and aero-geophysical which are of paramount importance for identifying potential areas for mineral exploration and accordingly the mapping targets for ground survey e.g. Specialized Thematic Mapping (STM), National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) have been suitably enhanced compared to the Financial Year 2020-21.

To identify more offshore potential areas for mineralization, GSI has considerably enhanced systematic mapping target within Territorial Water (TW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with enhanced swath bathymetry compared to the Financial Year 2020-21.

Implementation of Minerals Evidence of Mineral Contents (MEMC) Rules, 2015, (Amended MMDR Act 2015): After implementation of MEMC rule 2015, GSI has been mandated to carry out G2-Stage 'general exploration' for non-energy minerals in addition to reconnaissance survey' [G4], 'preliminary exploration' [G3] with an aim to generate more resource bearing geological reports for auctioning of mineral concession. As on 31.3.2021, more than 130 resource bearing G2/G3 reports on various mineral commodities have been generated by GSI since 2015. To give thrust on resource augmentation, the mineral exploration projects have been increased from 217 nos. in FS 2020-21 to 250 nos. in FS 2021-22 and accordingly the Large Scale Mapping (LSM), Detailed Mapping (DM) and drilling targets have been proportionately increased.

Implementation of National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016: As per the NMEP 2016, GSI is carrying out, Project Uncover (India) in association with Geoscience Australia to search for deep seated/ concealed mineral occurrences and National Aero-geophysical Mapping (NAGMP) to cover the OGP areas. In addition, GSI is carrying out Regional Mineral Targeting (RMT) programmes to gain insight into the process of finding mineral deposits starting with regional models.

GSI has implemented Online Core Business Integrated System (OCBIS) to enable all GSI geoscientists and administrators to collect,

process, analyze, store and disseminate this vital geoscience data and information in an organized manner. It also enables the broader geoscientific community and other stakeholders to easily access, view and utilize GSI data & information (as per the Data sharing & accessibility policy of GSI, 2019). Furthering this, GSI is in process of setting up of the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) for benefit of all stakeholders wherein all mineral exploration data of the country will be made available at one platform.

Training & Capacity Building: GSI conducts various thematic training courses for upgradation of the skill of the scientific officers engaged in field activities. Various introductory, refreshers, advanced thematic courses are being conducted by GSI-TI. Promotion linked training programmes on geoscience, management and administration are also conducted for all officers of the department. Further, special training programmes are conducted for the geoscience students, Institutes, DGMs and other geo-science organization.

Modernization programme: GSI has planned to procure various instruments/ equipments for upgradation of the laboratories as well as field instruments in phased manner for quality output. The procurement of High Resolution Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer (HR-SIMS) is in the process. This unique instrument will be very relevant for contemporary research activities in the field of geoscience especially in dating of rock samples with high precision. The other major procurements include hydrostatic drilling rigs of various capacities, XRF, ICPMS, hand held XRF, LIBS, SEM, gravimeter, magnetometer etc. which will enhance both laboratory and field activities with quality data.

National and international collaboration: In every field season GSI takes up collaboration/sponsorship projects with different organizations like CSIR, ISRO, ISI, AMD, Ind. Railway, BRO, CWC, PWD etc. In international arena, GSI has existing bilateral activities under existing MoU with Geoscience Australia, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, British Geological Survey, U.K., Geological Survey of Brazil-CPRM, Brazil and GTK, Finland for different collaborative scientific works.

Synergy with other geoscience organization: The coordination between all exploration and exploitation agencies in the country

including PSUs is mainly done through Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB). The CGPB is the apex body at the national level to overview the programme of geoscientific activities including mineral exploration in the country. During finalization of the FSP programme, GSI gives due consideration of the project requests received from all stakeholders.

The activities of GSI is under constant monitoring and evaluation by the Ministry of Mines and the details are summarized below:-

- e. The physical and financial achievements made by GSI have been regularly monitored through the monthly reports submitted to the Ministry. The achievements have been reviewed through the Senior Officers Meetings and remedial measures have been suggested as and when required. Besides this, the periodic review of the various activities has also been carried out by the Ministry for the betterment of the organization.
- f. The policy decisions taken by GSI have been reviewed and approved by the Ministry. Ministry plays an important role for inter-ministerial collaboration/ convergence as well as international collaboration.
- g. The contribution of GSI in different fields of activities especially in mineral exploration has been regularly monitored by the Ministry.
- h. The contribution of GSI is of immense importance in mining and mineral sector as it is the only organization, having capacity to take up exploration at the reconnaissance stage in green/ brown field area which may lead to future mineral discovery.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 7 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation Sl. No.2

Geological Survey of India (GSI)

While appreciating the mission-wise activities of GSI, the Committee are happy to note that GSI has also generated more than Rs.38 lakh as internal resources by way of undertaking various commercial activities such as sponsored commercial geotechnical works; sharing of data, multi disciplinary & fundamental research etc.

The Committee note that during 2019-20, against BE and RE of Rs.1322.93 crore and Rs.1241.59 crore, GSI could utilise Rs.1139.64 crore (91.79% of RE). During 2020-21, against BE and RE of Rs.1349.98 crore and Rs.1115.01 crore, GSI has been able to expend Rs.975.29 crore (87.47% of RE) upto 31st January, 2021. The Committee have been informed that for timely implementation of 967 projects taken up during 2020-21, GSI has taken necessary steps to execute bulk of activities under all missions during 3rd and 4th quarters (October, 2020 to March, 2021) and achieve the targets with optimum utilization of the funds. The supervisory level officers are constantly monitoring the progress of field achievements and Term Review of all projects involving external experts have been conducted to ensure target achievement leading to quality output of field work. The Committee hope that much needed constant monitoring and supervision along with term review of all the projects would yield the desired results. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actual expenditure of GSI against the allocated funds (RE) during 2020-21.

Action Taken

Geological Survey of India (GSI)

- a. During the Financial Year 2020-21, GSI received BE grant of Rs.1349.98 crore and accordingly GSI made activity-wise outlay for carrying out all activities. However, the BE grant was reduced to Rs.1116.24 crore at RE stage.
- b. In the first two quarters of the Financial Year - 2020-21, there was a restriction on the overall budget of GSI and only 5% monthly and 15% quarterly budget was provided to meet the committed expenditure including field work. In spite of the same, GSI has judiciously distributed the budget and ensured its optimum utilisation.
- c. In view of reduction of fund at RE stage, GSI has judiciously reallocated fund for different activities under revenue and capital heads with an aim to achieve physical targets for F.S 2020-21 under various missions especially survey & mapping, mineral exploration, fundamental research, specialized investigation etc.
- d. In spite of challenge caused by Covid-19 pandemic, GSI has given all efforts to complete of the targets set under various missions with optimum utilization of the fund. During the Financial Year 2020-21, GSI has utilized total Rs.1110.94 crore

(99.53% of RE grant) and all the mapping and exploration targets have been fully achieved.

e. The details of fund allocation and expenditure for the Financial Year 2020-21 is given below-

(Rs. in crore)

Budget Heads (2020-21)	Approved BE	Approved RE	Actual Expenditure	% of expenditure
Revenue	1241.68	1063.82	1059.22	99.57 %
Capital	108.30	52.42	51.72	98.65 %
Total	1349.98	1116.24	1110.94	99.53 %

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Recommendation SI. No.3

The Committee note that GSI has been provided the budgetary allocation of Rs.1181.58 crore only during the year 2021-22 and it has been downsized as compared to BE, 2019-20 and BE, 2020-21 of Rs.1322.93 crore and Rs.1349.98 crore, respectively. The Committee have been apprised that GSI has judiciously allocated the budgetary grant in all heads giving priority on the committed expenditures and for execution of operational activities so that physical targets of the financial year 2021-22 can be achieved with the available fund. Mindful of the significant role and functions of the GSI in creation and updation of national geoscientific information and assessment of mineral resources and its contribution to the economic growth of the country and having regard to the fact that GSI had demanded for Rs.1421.06 crore in the budget estimates for the year 2021-22 for continuation of its various activities, the Committee recommend that allocation for GSI should be enhanced to the required level at RE, 2021-22 subject to judicious utilisation of funds in first two quarters of the financial year. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry/GSI in this regard.

Action Taken

Geological Survey of India (GSI)

During the Financial Year 2021-22, GSI received BE grant of Rs.1181.58 crore (Revenue- Rs.1115.68 crore, Capital- Rs.65.90 crore). Out of this total allocated budget grant of Rs.1181.58

crore, Rs.63.90 crore has been allocated for GSI activities of NER as per mandatory allocation guidelines of Ministry of Finance. The outlay for revenue and capital budget has been finalized for all heads and accordingly the fund has been allocated to all Mission/Region/State unit offices for execution of all mission activities of field season 2021-22.

The following steps have been taken by GSI to ensure optimum utilisation of funds with an aim to achieve the set target for field season 2021-22:-

- a. GSI has critically reviewed the demand of fund submitted by the operational units for execution of all activities under different missions during the Financial Year 2021-22 and budget grant has been judiciously allocated in all heads giving priority on the committed expenditures and for execution of operational activities so that physical targets of the Financial Year 2021-22 can be achieved on priority.
- b. For effective planning and management of funds, the heads of the regions/ missions/support systems have been communicated well in advance about the budget grant allotted for execution of all activities of GSI under revenue and capital heads during the Financial Year 2021-22.
- c. Monitoring of fund utilization under different heads is done periodically by making synergy with all region/missions of GSI, Controller of Accounts and Ministry of Mines. In practice, monthly/periodic returns on expenditure as well as physical target achievements of GSI are being sent to Ministry of Mines.
- d. Priority has been given to clear the pending dues of the Financial Year 2020-21 immediately with the approved budget grant of the Financial Year 2021-22 for smooth functioning of GSI activities.
- e. Periodic review of the utilisation of budget grant will be undertaken with regional/mission/support system for effective utilisation of funds.
- f. Keeping in view of the change in requirement of fund for execution of all activities during the Financial Year 2021-22, GSI will submit the revised demand of budget (both revenue & capital) after completion of second quarter for optimum utilization of the fund.

- g. All financial transactions are being done electronically under PFMS module of Government of India so that status of fund utilization can be monitored by all concerned authorities.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Recommendation Sl. No.5

The Committee, further note that a budgetary allocation of Rs.110 crore has been made for IBM for the year 2021-22 and it has been downsized if compared to BE of Rs.124.31 crore and Rs.128.31 crore during 2019-20 and BE 2020-21, respectively. The Committee have been informed that in order to fully utilize the budgeted outlays during the year, all concerned have been advised to indicate action for utilization of funds and percentage of expenditure is being monitored at IBM Level so as to comply with the provisions of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. While observing the responsibility entrusted to IBM for promotion of scientific development of mineral resources of the country, conservation of minerals, protection of environment in mines (other than coal, petroleum and natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals), besides undertaking scientific, techno-economic, research-oriented studies in various aspects of mining, geological studies, ore beneficiation and environmental studies, the Committee hope and desire that the works that remained pending due to COVID-19 would be completed and the funds of Rs.110 crore allocated to IBM during 2021-22 would be fully utilised and if need be, more funds may be demanded at RE, 2021-22.

Action Taken

INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES (IBM)

As directed by the Committee, all out efforts would be made from IBM side to utilise the funds of Rs.110 crore allocated to IBM during the financial year 2021-22, to the extent possible subject to improvement of prevailing Covid-19 situation in the country. The expenditure review would be made at RE stage and if any additional funds required under any object head, the same will be requisitioned by IBM at RE stage.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Recommendation Sl. No.6

NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION TRUST (NMET)

The Committee have been informed that the utilisation of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) budget depends on the progress of work of NMET funded exploration projects executed by various Notified Exploration Agencies (NEAs). Besides, base-line geoscience survey work by GSI, other exploration agencies i.e. MECL, NMDC Ltd., KIOCL Ltd., DMG offices, TSMDC etc. are also carrying out NMET funded exploration projects. However, the Committee note under-utilization of funds of NMET during 2019-20, where against BE and RE of Rs.150 crore and Rs.110 crore, respectively, only Rs.68.31 crore were utilized. During 2020-21, against BE and RE of Rs.150 crore and Rs.90 crore, respectively, only Rs.66.07 crore have been utilized up to 31st January, 2021. The Committee understand under-utilization of NMET funds during 2020-21 due to reduction in expenditure as exploration work got affected by COVID-19 pandemic. In respect of National Airborne Geophysical Mapping Programme (NAGMP) project, Phase-III (Block 9 to 12) work was severely affected due to COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, due to litigation issue, aerial survey by international project implementation agencies could not be conducted which led to non-commencing of work on Phase-II (Block 5 to 8) of the aero-geophysical survey project of GSI. However, the Ministry has expected that reduced allocation will be utilized in 2020-21. The Committee would like to be informed of the actual utilization of NMET funds during 2020-21.

Action Taken

NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION TRUST (NMET)

The total expenditure in respect of NMET for the financial year 2020-21 is Rs.83.11 crore. The following measures are being taken by NMET to ensure optimum utilisation of plan outlays for 2021-22:-

- a. NEA's have been asked to provide period-wise phasing of projections regarding work to be carried out along with milestones and corresponding cost.
- b. Periodic progress reports of ongoing projects are being obtained from NEA's for regular monitoring of project work.
- c. Technical reviews of the ongoing projects are being carried out on regular basis through Technical-cum-Cost Committee of NMET.

- d. Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMET has been implemented w.e.f. 01.04.2020 to facilitate exploration work by notified exploration agencies for reimbursement of cost of project work.
- e. For Base metals & Precious Metals, Strategic and Fertilizer Minerals, provision of Exploration Incentive (EI) of 10% of project cost, if project is upgraded from G4 to G3 stage included in Schedule of Charges (SoC) to encourage NEAs to submit exploration proposals for these minerals.
- f. To streamline and expedite the process of evaluation of new project proposals submitted by NEA's, Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) meetings are held every month.
- g. NMET is organising a series of workshops on mineral exploration initiatives of NMET for the benefit of State Departments of Mining & Geology and State Mineral Development Corporations. Three such workshops have been conducted between January to March, 2021. The 1st workshop was held at Jaipur (covering Rajasthan and Gujarat), 2nd workshop was held at Lucknow [covering Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT)] and 3rd workshop (covering Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra) was held at Bhopal. Similar workshops have been planned for eastern states, north eastern states and southern states, thereby covering all mineral producing states in the country.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Recommendation Sl. No.7

The Committee further note that BE, 2021-22 has been downsized to Rs.100 crore, as compared to BE, 2019-20 and BE, 2020-21 of Rs.150 crore. The Committee have been informed that this is done keeping in view the uncertainty of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and limitations in mobility of international agencies associated with the advanced geoscience projects due to COVID. Considering the importance attached to the NMET funds for exploration projects, the Committee recommend that adequate corrective measures should be taken by the Ministry of Mines/NMET to ensure optimum utilization of plan outlays of Rs.100 crore during 2021-22 and they be apprised of the same.

Action Taken

NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION TRUST (NMET)

The total expenditure in respect of NMET for the financial year 2020-21 is Rs.83.11 crore. The following measures are being taken by NMET to ensure optimum utilisation of plan outlays for 2021-22:-

- a. NEA's have been asked to provide period-wise phasing of projections regarding work to be carried out along with milestones and corresponding cost.
- b. Periodic progress reports of ongoing projects are being obtained from NEA's for regular monitoring of project work.
- c. Technical reviews of the ongoing projects are being carried out on regular basis through Technical-cum-Cost Committee of NMET.
- d. Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMET has been implemented w.e.f. 01.04.2020 to facilitate exploration work by notified exploration agencies for reimbursement of cost of project work.
- e. For Base metals & Precious Metals, Strategic and Fertilizer Minerals, provision of Exploration Incentive (EI) of 10% of project cost, if project is upgraded from G4 to G3 stage included in Schedule of Charges (SoC) to encourage NEAs to submit exploration proposals for these minerals.
- f. To streamline and expedite the process of evaluation of new project proposals submitted by NEA's, Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) meetings are held every month.
- g. NMET is organising a series of workshops on mineral exploration initiatives of NMET for the benefit of State Departments of Mining & Geology and State Mineral Development Corporations. Three such workshops have been conducted between January to March, 2021. The 1st workshop was held at Jaipur (covering Rajasthan and Gujarat), 2nd workshop was held at Lucknow [covering Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT)] and 3rd workshop (covering Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra) was held at Bhopal. Similar workshops have been planned for eastern states, north eastern states and southern states, thereby covering all mineral producing states in the country.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Recommendation Sl. No.8

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

The Committee note that at present State Governments are empowered to decide on the composition of District Mineral Foundation. The Committee have been apprised that the Ministry of Mines has moved a Cabinet Note on 13.01.2021 for proposal to empower the Central Government to issue directions to the State Governments with respect to composition and functions of DMF and a Bill may be brought in the upcoming Parliament Session for bringing Amendment to MMDR Act, 1957 for provisions related to DMF. As has been submitted, as soon as the Act is amended, existing PMKKKY guidelines will be amended. The Committee would like to be kept updated on the status of the above Cabinet Note from time to time.

Action Taken

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

It has been stated that that the bill [Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021] is to be introduced in the upcoming parliament session. The committee would like to be updated on the status of the cabinet note from time to time.

In this regard, it is to inform that above said Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 17.03.2021 and Rajya Sabha on 22.03.2021 respectively and the same has been passed in both the houses. The Hon'ble President of India gave his assent to the Bill on 28.03.2021 and the same has been notified vide Gazette Notification dated 28.3.2021 except sub - clause (i) of clause (v) of section 3 of the said Act. The said amendment empowers the Central Government to issue directions to the State Governments with respect to composition and functions of DMF, further necessary action will be taken up accordingly.

It is also informed that Section 9 B of the principal Act (MMDR Act, 1957) has been amended and a proviso has been added wherein it has been stated that the Central Government may give directions regarding composition and utilization of fund by the DMF. Instructions regarding inclusion of Members of Parliament/ MLA/MLC in the governing Council of DMF Trust has been issued by the Ministry of Mines on 23.04.2021. A copy of the order is given below:-

F. No.7/9/2021 -

M.IV

Government of
India
Ministry of Mines

New Delhi,
Shastri Bhawan,
Dated the 23rd
April, 2021

ORDER

WHEREAS sub-section (1) of Section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), mandates that the State Governments shall, by notification, establish a District Mineral Foundation in every district in the country affected by mining related operations.

AND WHEREAS sub-section (3) of Section 9B of the Act provides that the composition and functions of the District Mineral Foundation shall be as may be prescribed by the State Government.

AND WHEREAS the proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 9B of the Act, states that the Central Government may give directions regarding composition and utilization of fund by the District Mineral Foundation.

AND WHEREAS it is observed that composition of Governing Council and Managing Committee of District Mineral Fund (DMF) varies from State to State, especially with respect to Chairman of Governing Council and Managing Committee as well as inclusion of Members of Parliament in the Governing Council.

AND WHEREAS, the DMF is meant to work for interest and benefit of persons and area affected by mining related operations within the district, it is necessary that the administrative head of the district is the Chairman of the DMF and the elected representatives of mining affected area in the district are included as members of Governing Council.

THEREFORE, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred under the proviso of sub-section (3) of Section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, hereby directs the State Governments and Union Territories to incorporate the following in the rules regulating the composition of

Governing Council and Managing Committee of District Mineral Foundation with immediate effect.

1. The Chairman of Governing Council and Managing Committee shall be District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner/ District Collector, of the district. No other person can function as Chairman of the Governing Council and Managing Committee.
2. Member of Parliament (MP), Lok Sabha of the district shall be a member of the Governing Council. In case, there are more than one MPs of Lok Sabha in district, all MPs of Lok Sabha of the districts shall be members of the Governing Council.
3. In case, the constituency of one MP of Lok Sabha falls in more than one districts, the MP of Lok Sabha shall be member of the Governing Council of all such districts.
4. MP of Rajya Sabha from a State shall be a member of the Governing Council of one district selected by him/her. *(The Rajya Sabha MP shall intimate name of the **district** selected by him/her to the Secretary in-charge of Mining Department of the State who in turn shall inform the concerned District Magistrate/ Deputy **Commissioner**/District Collector.)*
5. The Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of the district shall be members of the Governing Council.
6. The Members of Legislative Council of the State (MLC) shall be a member of the Governing Council of one district selected by him/her. *(**The MLC** shall intimate name of the district selected by him/her to the Secretary in-charge of Mining Department of the State who in turn shall inform the concerned District Magistrate/ Deputy **Commissioner**/ District Collector.)*

Any meeting of Governing Council or Managing Committee of District Mineral Foundation of a district held after issue of this order will be held with composition as mandated above.

(Sanjay Lohiya)
Additional Secretary to the
Government of India

To,

1. Chief Secretaries of all States,
2. Administrators of Union Territories,

Copy for information to: PS to Minister for Mines; PPS to Secretary (Mines)

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Recommendation Sl. No.9

In their Action Taken Report on the 47th Report "Implementation of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)", the Committee had observed from the statement furnished to them with regard to auditing of DMF in respect of mineral rich States since 2015-16 to 2018-19 that audit status of DMF in respect of certain States was furnished for the year 2015-16 to 2018-19 and also in respect of certain States, it was missing for some particular year/s. Besides, the Ministry of Mines had not furnished the information on action taken by them against the defaulting States. The Committee would hence desire to be informed about the status of action taken with regard to their above mentioned observation in order to ensure that audits of DMF in all the mineral rich States are completed at the earliest. Action taken by the Ministry in respect of the defaulting States may also be furnished.

Action Taken

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

Audit status has been received by the Ministry upto year 2019-20 is as under:-

State wise Audit Report

S. No	State	No. of Districts with DMF	FY 2015 - 16	FY 2016 - 17	FY 2017 - 18	FY 2018 - 19	FY 2019 - 20
1	Andhra Pradesh	13		Completed - 7 In Progress - 6	Completed - 7 In Progress - 6	Completed - 6 In Progress - 5 Not Started - 2	In Progress - 1 Not Started - 12
2	Chhattisgarh	28	Completed - 20 Not Started - 8	Completed - 27 Not Started - 1	Completed - 27 Not Started - 1	Completed - 22 Not Started - 6	Completed - 8 Not Started - 20
3	Goa	2					
4	Gujarat	32	Not Applicable	Completed - 32	Completed - 32	Completed - 31 In Progress - 1	Completed - 31 In Progress - 1
5	Jharkhand	24	Not Applicable	Completed - 21 Not Started - 3	Completed - 23 Not Started - 1	Completed - 20 Not Started - 4	Completed - 12 Not Started - 12
6	Karnataka	30	Completed - 30	Completed - 30	Completed - 30	Completed - 29 In Progress - 1	Completed - 25 In Progress - 5
7	Maharashtra	35		Completed - 7 In Progress - 28	Completed - 7 In Progress - 28	Completed - 7 In Progress - 28	Not Started - 35
8	Madhya Pradesh	51	Completed - 9 Not Started - 42	Completed - 9 Not Started - 42	Completed - 9 Not Started - 42	Completed - 11 Not Started - 40	
9	Odisha	30	Completed - 18 In Progress - 12	Completed - 19 In Progress - 11	Completed - 19 In Progress - 11	Completed - 2 In Progress - 28	
10	Rajasthan	33		Completed - 17 In Progress - 16	Completed - 17 In Progress - 16	Completed - 4 In Progress - 29	Completed - 1 In Progress - 32
11	Tamil Nadu	30	Not Started - 30	Not Started - 30	Completed - 29 In Progress - 1	Completed - 28 In Progress - 2	Completed - 11 In Progress - 19
12	Telangana	32					

13	Assam	33	-	-	-	-
14	Bihar	38	-	-	-	-
15	Himachal Pradesh	12	-	-	-	-
16	Jammu & Kashmir	20	-	-	-	-
17	Kerala	14	-	-	-	-
18	Meghalaya	6	-	-	-	-
19	Uttarakhand	13	-	-	-	-
20	Uttar Pradesh	75	-	-	-	-
21	West Bengal	22	-	-	-	-

-: Indicates that Information has not been received from the State

Status as on May 2021

Audit of FY 2020-2021 State Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh replied indicated that due to ongoing pandemic situation, audit for 2020-2021 is delayed.

State Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh indicated that due to ongoing pandemic situation, audit for 2020-21 is delayed. Ministry of Mines has been reiterating to the States the need and urgency of getting the auditing of DMF. Repeated reminders have been sent to the States, the exigency of the same was also communicated in the Video Conferences held with the States. In addition to this the Central PMU has been coordinating with the States for the data related to DMF as well as sending reminders regarding the regular audit of the DMF funds.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 13 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation Sl. No.10

HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED (HCL)

The Committee note that during 2019-20, against BE and RE of Plan outlays of Rs.600 crore, HCL was able to spend Rs.452.96 crore only because under its Expansion Projects at RE stage, the target was retained as Rs.402.00 crore and amount could not be spent due to delay in awarding of some of the tenders related to mine expansion. Further, during 2020-21, against BE and RE of Rs.600 crore, the actual expenditure upto December, 2020 is Rs.283.13 crore only and the likely expenditure up to March, 2021 will be Rs.360 crore. The reasons adduced for expected under-utilisation of funds viz. stoppage & slow-down of operation of all CAPEX projects for maintaining COVID-19

protocol in underground as well as in open cast mines; Contract for Mine Development, Production Drilling and Ore Production from Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP) underground mine, could not commence as mobilization of resources/equipments by the contractor were held up due to COVID-19; Delay in getting Environmental Clearance (EC) of Surda mine, the targeted CAPEX expenditure of Surda mine could not be met, etc. Now, Plan outlays (BE) of Rs.350 crore has been made for the year 2021-22. The Committee have been informed that keeping in view the present financial condition of the company, HCL has planned to focus on such CAPEX which will give immediate production and will help in revenue generation and to continue those development works which are required in order to sustain production in the coming years. Appreciating the initiatives being taken by HCL for the growth of the Company, the Committee desire that HCL should earnestly strive towards optimal utilization of the Plan outlays of Rs.350 crore during 2021-22.

Action Taken

HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED (HCL)

a. Reasons for shortfall in Plan Expenditure during the year 2019-20

Actual Plan Expenditure of HCL during the year 2019-20 was Rs.452.96 crore (audited) as compared to target of Rs.600.00 crore at RE stage. The scheme wise breakup of the expenditure is given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	2019-20 Expenditure		
	BE	RE	Actual
Renewal & Replacement	8.00	8.00	18.24
Mine Development	180.00	180.00	225.05
Mine Expansion	402.00	402.00	205.86
Green Field Exploration	10.00	10.00	3.81
Total	600.00	600.00	452.96

The shortfall was mainly under its mine expansion projects both at BE and RE stage since it was not possible to achieve the desired target due to delay in awarding some of the tenders related to mine expansion.

b. Reasons for shortfall in Plan Expenditure during the year 2020-21

Expected Plan Expenditure of HCL during the year 2020-21 will be Rs.360.00 crore as compared to target of Rs.600.00 crore at BE stage. The reasons for expected underutilization of funds are:-

- v. Stoppage & slowdown of operation of all CAPEX projects for maintaining COVID-19 protocol in underground as well as in open cast mines;
- vi. Contract for Mine Development, Production Drilling and Ore Production from Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP) underground mine could not commence as mobilization of resources /equipment by the contractor were held up due to COVID-19;
- vii. Delay in getting Environmental clearance (EC) of Surda mine thereby the targeted CAPEX expenditure of Surda mine could not be met; and
- viii. Also, since majority CAPEX of HCL is being met through long term and medium term loans from banks, and because of high debt equity ratio of 4.21:1 at the end of the financial year 2019-20, it has increasingly become difficult to get loans from banks/financial institutions.

Keeping in view the present financial condition of the company, HCL has planned to focus on such CAPEX which will give immediate production and will help in revenue generation and only to continue those development works which are required in order to sustain production in the coming years.

The company will strive towards fully optimal utilization of the plan outlays prepared for financial year 2021-22. The Plan Expenditure for the year 2021-22 is as follows:-

Scheme	BE
Renewal & Replacement	10.00
Mine Development	160.00
Mine Expansion	170.00
Green Field Exploration	10.00
Total	350.00

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 16 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation Sl. No.11
NATIONAL ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD. (NALCO)

The Committee express satisfaction over the performance of NALCO during 2020-21 as against the plan outlay of Rs.1012.21 crore, the company has achieved CAPEX of Rs.856 crore (84.57%) till January, 2021 and assured to achieve 100% of approved capital plan outlay target by March, 2021 and thus, no projects/schemes will be affected for less utilization of funds during 2020-21. The Committee have been informed that funds of Rs.1500 crore projected for 2021-22 are based on requirement of various ongoing projects keeping in view the progress of each projects and hence would be sufficient. As submitted, NALCO has taken slew of measures for proper utilization of funds and timely completion of various ongoing schemes during 2021-22 which include formation of dedicated teams to steer head the tendering and execution of different ongoing projects, preponement of tenders, squeezing of time schedule for tendering, undertaking evaluation and award of contracts, etc. The Committee are hopeful that NALCO would pursue the current measures more diligently and optimally achieve the targeted CAPEX during 2021-22.

Action Taken

NATIONAL ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD. (NALCO)

For the Financial Year 2020-21, the CAPEX achievement till the month of February, 2021 has been Rs.922.91 crore i.e. 91.2% achievement of the BE target will be achieved by March, 2021.

As noted in the observation of the Committee, the Company is taking all necessary actions to achieve the targeted CAPEX for the year 2021-22.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

CHAPTER-III

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER-IV
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF
WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT
HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation Sl. No.4

INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES (IBM)

The Committee observe that IBM was allocated funds of Rs.124.31 crore and Rs.128.31 crore at BE, 2019-20 and BE 2020-21, respectively. The allocation was, however, reduced substantially at RE 2019-20 and 2020-21 to Rs.109.11 crore and Rs.94.00 crore, respectively. The Committee observe that IBM was not able to utilize even the reduced allocations and the actual expenditure during these years remained Rs.94.55 crore and Rs.74.12 crore (upto 31st January, 2021), respectively. Some of the reasons for reduction in the allocated funds at RE, 2020-21 like non- filling up of vacant posts, less numbers of official tours and inspection of mines due to COVID -19, less requirement of funds towards maintenance and up keeping of residential and official building of IBM and less requirement towards procurement of vehicles as well as machinery & equipments are found to be justifiable. However, less allocation of funds for IBM at RE, 2019-20 and then under-utilisation of funds allocated at RE, 2019-20 depict a different picture and speaks clearly on the lack of efforts on the part of IBM to optimally utilize the funds allocated. The Committee would therefore desire IBM to avoid recurring under-utilisation of allocated funds and work towards utilizing the allocated budget in a prudent manner. The Committee have, however been assured that the amount of Rs.94.00 crore allocated at RE, 2020-21 would be fully utilized except the funds available under the object head Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TASP), Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCPSC) and Other Capital Expenditure (OCE) (NER), as IBM has no scope of incurring expenditure under these object heads. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the actual expenditure by IBM during 2020-21.

Action Taken

INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES (IBM)

The actual expenditure of IBM during the financial year 2020-21 is Rs.86.9822 crore as against the RE of Rs.94.00 crore. The shortfall of Rs.7.02 crore is mainly, as already recorded by the Committee in Para 4 above, due to no scope of incurring expenditure under the object heads Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TASP), Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCPSC) and Other Capital Expenditure (OCE) (NER) [amounting to Rs.3.86 crore] and also due to non-payment to implementing agency M/s WIPRO & Project monitoring Unit NISG for Mining Tenement System due to legal dispute; non-filling of vacant posts by DR as process of revival of posts is going on; non-completion of procurement process through GeM as vendors could not deliver the items due to COVID-19 restrictions, etc. [amounting to Rs.3.16 crore].

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 10 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER-V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation Sl. No.12

BHARAT GOLD MINES LIMITED (BGML)

The Committee note that BGML is closed since 1st March, 2001. Later, though the Cabinet took a decision in 2006 to dispose-of the assets and liabilities of the Company through an open tender, it could not be implemented due to litigation and amendments to MMDR Act in 2015. It was then decided to explore the possibilities of revival of BGML after Techno-Economic Feasibility Study (TEFS). The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Mines is getting the exploration of Kolar Gold Field (KGF) mining lease area and processing of tailing dumps through Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) and Non-Ferrous Technology Development Centre (NFTDC), respectively. MECL has started the exploration in Betraswamy Block of BGML. NFTDC has done preliminary processing of the tailing dumps of BGML and found gold and wolframite with associated rare earth elements. Pilot plant processing of BGML tailings started operations on 6th November, 2020 and first result of 10 tons sample processing is expected very soon. Any future course of action in respect to BGML, however, can be decided only based on the results of exploration/beneficiation results of mine tailings report and subsequent techno-commercial feasibility report. Further, the field activities entailing the mapping of Betraswamy Block of BGML lease areas and exploratory drilling activities by MECL has already been completed. Also, the geological report preparation is underway and scheduled to be submitted by the end of March, 2021. The Committee feel that since MECL is entrusted with the responsibility of Programme Manager for engagement of a management consultant for BGML, the Ministry of Mines should ensure that all exploratory drilling activities for which geological reports are submitted be brought to mineral exploitation stage. The Committee would like to be apprised of the monitoring mechanism available with the Ministry of Mines in this regard. They would like to be kept informed of the developments in the matter from time to time.

Finally, the committee express their satisfaction over various steps taken by the Ministry of Mines, such as National Mineral Policy 2019, measures taken to control illegal mining, Mining Monitoring System (MSS), Mineral Concession System, Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020, minerals auction etc. and expect that these steps would make the country self-reliant in mineral production.

Action Taken

BHARAT GOLD MINES LIMITED (BGML)

- a. The Ministry constituted a Monitoring Committee on 18.04.2019 consisting of representatives from GSI, IBM, CMD of MECL, a

- Director from Department under the chairmanship of present MD, BGML (Addl. Charge) to suggest a way forward for BGML by getting done legal review, valuation of BGML, Techno Economic Feasibility Study, appointing a financial consultant who will suggest best option available for BGML based on all above.
- b. MECL has been entrusted the responsibility of Programme Manager for engagement of a Management Consultant for BGML. Management Consultant is mandated to review the legal status, undertake valuation of the assets, and financial due diligence for recommending possible alternatives for future course of the BGML. *The exploration reports by MECL and the TEFR by Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC) will be the inputs for the Management Consultant.* M/s DMT has been hired as Management Consultant for the aforesaid purpose.
 - c. Ministry under S&T Scheme of M/o Mines had awarded a Research Project to NFTDC, Hyderabad for extraction of Gold from dumps. NFTDC has done a pilot plant stage beneficiation study of BGML tailings. NFTDC has submitted the TEFR on 09.03.2021. The report outlines presence of Palladium and Rhodium along with Gold and possible extractive metallurgical process. The report has been given to M/s DMT, Management Consultant for review and adoption in the study.
 - d. MECL was assigned exploration works in the Betraswamy block and Doddabeta Area of BGML. The field activities entailing geological mapping and exploratory drilling have been completed. After completion of the field activities followed by chemical analysis and Geological Assessment, MECL has submitted the Geological Report. The exploration results reveal that no potential gold bearing reef (ore zone) has been intersected or reported in the exploratory drilling.
 - e. The exploration report submitted by MECL and TEFR submitted by NFTDC has been given to M/s DMT, Management Consultant to review and for recommending possible alternatives for future course of the BGML. The report of the Management Consultant is scheduled to be submitted **by June 2021.**

Any future course of action in respect to BGML can be decided only after the Management Consultant Report.

[Ministry of Mines O.M. No.5/2/22-IF(530) dated 28.05.2021]

NEW DELHI;
04 August, 2021
13 Sravana, 1943(Saka)

RAKESH SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Coal and Steel

ANNEXURE-I

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COAL AND STEEL (2020-2021) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE
4TH AUGUST, 2021 FROM 1530 HRS. TO 1630 HRS. IN HON'BLE
CHAIRPERSON'S CHAMBER, ROOM NO. '210', B-BLOCK, PHA
EXTENSION BUILDING, NEW DELHI.**

PRESENT

Shri Rakesh Singh - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Balubhau Dhanorkar *alias* Suresh Narayan
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak
4. Shri Kunar Hembram
5. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
6. Shri Saumitra Khan
7. Shri S. Muniswamy
8. Shri Ajay Nishad
9. Shri Basanta Kumar Panda
10. Smt. Riti Pathak
11. Shri S.R. Parthiban
12. Shri Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy
13. Shri Chunni Lal Sahu
14. Shri Arun Sao
15. Shri Pashupati Nath Singh
16. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
17. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
18. Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi

Rajya Sabha

19. Shri Anil Desai
20. Dr. Vikas Mahatme
21. Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi
22. Shri Ram Vichar Netam
23. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy
24. Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Pawan Kumar | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Arvind Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Additional Director |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee thereafter considered and adopted the following Reports without any amendments:-

- (i) ** ** ** **
- (ii) ** ** **
- (iii) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 17th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2021-22) relating to the Ministry of Mines;
- (iv) ** ** **
- (v) ** ** **
- (vi) ** ** **

2. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present/lay the same in both the Houses of Parliament.

3. ** ** **

The Committee, then, adjourned.

ANNEXURE-II
(Vide Para IV of Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE
SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COAL AND STEEL**

I.	Total No. of Recommendations made:	12
II.	Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. Nos. 1,2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8,9,10 and 11):	10
	Percentage of total	93.34%
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies (<i>vide</i> Recommendation at Sl. No. Nil):	00
	Percentage of total	0%
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. No. 4):	01
	Percentage of total	8.33%
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. No. 12):	01
	Percentage of total	8.33%

1970-1980
1980-1990

1990-2000
2000-2010

2010-2020

2020-2030

2030-2040

2040-2050

2050-2060

2060-2070

2070-2080

2080-2090

2090-2100