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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
LOK SABHA**

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
(2021-2022)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SIXTH REPORT

**'EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BETI BACHAO - BETI PADHAO SCHEME'**

[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2021-2022) on 'Empowerment of Women Through Education with Special Reference To Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao Scheme']



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2022 / Sravana, 1944 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 04.08.2022

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 04.08.2022



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN (2021-2022)**

Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit - Chairperson

**Members
Lok Sabha**

2. Ms. Locket Chatterjee
3. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
4. Ms. Ramya Haridas
5. Smt. Karunanidhi Kanimozhi
6. Smt. Malothu Kavitha
7. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
8. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
9. Smt. Jyotsna Charandas Mahant
10. Smt. Jaskaur Meena
11. Smt. Queen Oja
12. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
13. Smt. Riti Pathak
14. Smt. Navnit Ravi Rana
15. Smt. Satabdi Roy
16. Smt. Gomati Sai
17. Smt. Sarmistha Sethi
18. Smt. Geetha Viswanath Vanga
19. Shri Jasbir Singh Gill*
20. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

21. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
22. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi
23. Ms. Sushmita Dev
24. Ms. Indu Bala Goswami
25. Dr. Fauzia Khan
26. Dr. Sonal Mansingh
27. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
28. Ms. Saroj Pandey
29. Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu
30. Dr. Ameer Yajnik

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma - Director

**Shri Jasbir Singh Gill nominated w.e.f 7th February, 2022.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Empowerment of Women having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Empowerment of Women through Education with Special Reference to Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao Scheme'.

2. The Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women was presented to Lok Sabha on 9th December, 2021 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 2021. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy) have furnished the action taken replies to all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report.

3. The Committee on Empowerment of Women (2021-2022) considered and adopted the Draft Report at their sitting held on 26th July 2022. Minutes of the sitting are given at Appendix I.

4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI:
02 August, 2022
Sravana 11, 1944 (Saka)

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT
Chairperson,
Committee on Empowerment of Women

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'Empowerment of Women through Education with Special Reference to Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao Scheme' pertaining to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy).

2. The Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 9th December, 2021 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09 December, 2021. The Report contained 14 observations/recommendations.

3. Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 13 observations/ recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been categorised as follows:-

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :

Serial Nos.: 3,4,5,7,8,9,10,10a & 11

Total: 09

Chapter-II

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

Serial No.:

Total: 00

Chapter-III

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Serial Nos.: Nil

Total: 00

Chapter-IV

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Serial No. : 1,2,6,12 & 13

Total: 05

Chapter-V

4. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes on the observations/ recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Report and final reply to the observations/ recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Report in respect of which Government has submitted interim reply, may be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of the observations/ recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

A. Need for more efficient allocation and release of funds

[Recommendation Serial No. 2.1]

6. The Committee in their Original Report recommended as under:-

“The Committee find that the Beti Bachao–Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched to address the decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls over a life cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial scheme of the of Ministries of Women and Child Development (as Nodal Ministry), Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy). The Committee find that since the inception of the scheme in 2014-15 till 2019-20, the total budgetary allocation under BBBP scheme was Rs. 848 crore, excluding the COVID stricken financial year of 2020-21. During the above period, an amount Rs. 622.48 crore was released to the States. However, to the Committees’ dismay, only 25.13% of the funds, i.e. Rs. 156.46 crore have been spent by the States reflecting not upto the mark performance of the scheme. Even C&AG had made references to the scheme’s implementation and very less spending by States in 2016-17.

The Committee also find that despite funds left unspent with the States in a particular year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been releasing additional funds. The Committee also find that the nodal Ministry has no disaggregated information on the spending by the States/UTs on education, health and other interventions under BBBP. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Women and Child Development should immediately take up with the States/UTs, the issue of poor utilisation of the central funds and ensure proper utilisation of BBBP funds for the benefit of the girl child. The nodal Ministry should release funds to the States/UT strictly on the basis of actual utilisation of earlier release and after proper scrutiny of expenditure/ utilisation of the previous funds. The nodal Ministry must have a target oriented approach for the States and must act in a time-bound manner.”

7. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, in their action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation stated as under:-

“BBBP scheme was launched in 2015, initially the funds were released through State governments/UT Administration for implementation of the Scheme at

State/UT Level and District levels. From F.Y. 2016-17, provision of funds for State Level activities under BBBP was discontinued and all the States/UTs were requested to surrender the unspent amount available with them for State Level Activities. Since 2016-17 the funds are being released with 100% central assistance directly to the dedicated account of District Magistrate/District Collector. The total budget of the District is Rs.50 lakh per district per annum. The fund is released in two installments as per the BBBP guidelines. The unspent amount (of the previous installment) is adjusted before the release of subsequent installment. Funds are released upon submission of District Action Plan of the current year duly approved by the District Task Force and UC, SoE and Physical Report of the previous year. Out of the total Rs. 50 lakh earmarked per district, 10% i.e. Rs 5 lakh is earmarked for sectoral activities of Health and Education each.

Fund utilization in the initial years was low as districts took some time to know the modalities of the scheme. However, utilization has improved in districts after initial years. The Ministry has noted the suggestion of the Committee for taking up the issue of poor utilization of funds under the Scheme with Concerned States/UTs and conducted review meeting through Video Conferencing with States/UTs. Further, the Ministry has conducted series of web meetings with Districts to review the progress of the Scheme including poor utilization of funds under the BBBP Scheme. It is also informed that the Ministry has created a dedicated email id mwcd-ucsoe-bbbp@gov.in at the central level to collect UCs/SOEs and other scheme related documents from the Districts. For disaggregated data MIS system is being developed to capture details from Districts.”

Comments of the Committee

8. From the Action Taken Reply furnished by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Committee note that since 2016-2017 funds are being released by Ministry with 100% central assistance directly to the dedicated account of District Magistrate/District Collector. Rs. 50 lakh is given in two installments of Rs. 25 lakh each. Second installment is released after adjusting the unspent amount from the first installment. The Committee have been informed that the low utilization of funds under BBBP Scheme in the initial years was largely due to unfamiliarity with BBBP Scheme with the stakeholders and the position has improved thereafter. It has also been stated that the Ministry is regularly monitoring the implementation of the scheme and utilization of funds through various web meetings, conferences and has created dedicated e-mail IDs at the Central Level to collect UCs/SOEs and other schemes related documents from the districts. For disaggregated data, Management Information System (MIS) is being developed to capture details from districts. The Committee find that though the Ministry has taken steps for monitoring the progress of scheme including utilization of funds, however the reply is incomplete as it does not give details of funds spent vis-à-vis central assistance granted, in the absence of which it is not clear as to the extent of utilization of funds by the districts under the scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the

Ministry come up with a detailed statement containing district wise data on work completed, being implemented alongwith the targets set and money spent during the last three financial years. The Committee also recommend that a timeframe may be fixed for developing the said Management Information System (MIS) so as to capture disaggregated information on spending by States/UTs on education, health and other intervention under the scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken in this regard within 3 months of presentation of this Report to the Parliament.

B. Need for Regular Review and Monitoring

[Recommendation Serial No. 2.6]

9. The Committee in their Original Report recommended as under:-

“The Committee find that a well structured monitoring system has been conceived under BBBP right from National, State, District, Block and Village levels to track the progress of targets, outcomes and process indicators. There is a National Task Force headed by Secretary, MWCD, State Task Force headed by Chief Secretary/UT Administrator and District Task Force headed by DCs/DMs to guide and monitor the intermediary targets of the scheme. As per the BBBP guidelines, regular or quarterly meetings are to be conducted to review the progress at the district level. Regular process of documentation of all activities conducted at the district/block and gram panchayat level is required to be undertaken through regular reports, MIS and photographic documentation at the district level. However, the Committee find that there is a lapse in undertaking required number of Task Force meetings and collecting monthly reports or statement of expenditure from districts on time. Such examples of non-compliance of the guidelines are clear indicators that the scheme is not being reviewed or monitored properly. Regular audits and real time updation of activities are necessary to ensure compliance. The Committee also find that records of the activities held for Information, Education & Communication (IEC) at the State/district level with the national task force authorities are not maintained. The Committee therefore recommend as under:

- (i) Being the Nodal Ministry of the Beti Bacho – Beti Padho Scheme, the Ministry of Women and Child Development must ensure that review meetings of NTF, STF and DFT are conducted as per the BBBP guidelines. The Committee may be apprised through action taken replies about the yearly review meetings conducted at the national and State levels during the last five years.
- (ii) Documentation of all activities conducted at the District, Block and Gram Panchayat level related to scheme and campaign may be completed at the earliest.
- (iii) In order to achieve better oversight, Ministry should develop without further

delay the online Management Information System (MIS) portal for monitoring and supervision at State, District, Block and Village level and to make available the data in the web portal for transparency and real time monitoring.

- (iv) Social Audit of BBBP should compulsorily be got done either by the civil Society Group or third party/expert at the district level and the outcome may be communicated to this Committee.”

10. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, in their action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation stated as under:-

“At National level, a National Task Force (NTF) for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao headed by Secretary, WCD is constituted with representation from concerned ministries namely Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Registrar General of India, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, representatives from State governments and district administration, Gender Experts and Civil Society representatives. The Task Force provides national level guidance and support; finalize training content; review State plans and monitor effective implementation. Recently, 8th National Task Force Meeting was held on 16th February, 2022 to review the progress of implementation of BBBP scheme. Details of the review meetings conducted at the National and State levels during the last five years is at Annexure I.

Ministry has initiated the process for development of an online MIS under proposed Mission Shakti to capture the data at the ground level for documentation and regular review.

Regular review meeting of BBBP are held at various level. At the Central Level, Review meeting with all the States/UTs was held in the month of December, 2021 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, WCD.

Further, the Ministry has conducted a series of review meetings with individual districts to review the progress of the BBBP Scheme during the month of December 2021 and January, 2022.

Further it is submitted that the Scheme has been evaluated by NITI Aayog wherein the NITI Aayog has found the scheme satisfactory. However, with regard to suggestion of Social Audit of the Scheme, the matter will be taken up with the States/UTs and the Districts for undertaking the Social Audit by civil Society Group / third party/expert at the district level. Ministry is developing a mechanism to grade the performance of districts under the scheme.”

Comments of the Committee

11. In their Action Taken reply, the Ministry of Women and Child Development apprised that a National Task Force for BBBP Scheme has been constituted with representation from Ministries concerned, State Governments, District Administration and the representatives of the Civil Society for providing national level guidance and support, finalizing training content, review of the State Plans and to monitor effective implementation of the scheme. They have also given details of review meetings held at National, State and District level. They have further intimated that BBBP Scheme has been evaluated by Niti Aayog which has found the scheme satisfactory.

As regards social audit of the scheme, the Ministry has stated the matter will be taken up with States/UTs and Districts. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard and the response of each of the States/UTs and the districts for undertaking social audit by civil society groups/third party/experts at various district levels. It goes without saying that the progress made in regard to grading the performance of Districts under the scheme should be shared with the Committee. The Committee note that the last review meeting was held in the year December, 2021 and almost seven months have since been elapsed. The Committee would like to know about the number of such meetings planned annually and the number of meetings that actually took place alongwith the outcome of the same.

C. Urgent Need to Achieve Better Child Sex Ratio

[Recommendation Serial No. – 2.7]

12. The Committee in their original Report recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the unabated decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) since 1961 (from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011) is a matter of grave concern as it reflects the low status of women in our society and indicates her disempowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Declining CSR is also indicative of pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender biased sex selection and post birth discrimination against girls in terms of health care, nutrition and educational opportunities. The Committee note that despite having a strong legal and policy framework like PNDT ACT and various other interventions under the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategies to bring down child mortality in the country, CSR has been declining over the years. The sharp decline in CSR is associated with an intersection of various factors such as the increasing spread and misuse of technology for prenatal sex selective elimination, changing aspirations of urban and rural societies, changes in family structures and reproductive decision making favoring a

smaller family size. This has accentuated the son preference, associated with the low status of women in society, patriarchal social norms and the disturbing pattern of gender based violence faced by girls and women across the life cycle. However, the Committee find that with consistent efforts the States are beginning to show a positive result which is evident as per the latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS) Report 2018 wherein the overall Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is seen to have recorded 3 points improvement, from 896 in 2015-17 (SRS) to 899 in 2016-18 (SRS). It is seen that a maximum improvement of up to 15 points have been recorded in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir. Nine more States, i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have showed improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth. The Committee are happy to note from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-20) data that the sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years has shown improvement in Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Manipur and Mizoram also. The overall child sex ratio in the country too has shown an increase from 919 in NFHS-4 to 929 in NFHS-5.

Though these are rays of hope for the country, the Committee feel that there is still a long way to go to reach anywhere near the standard healthy Sex Ratio at Birth of World Health Organisation which is 952 females for every 1000 males. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the efforts towards accelerating the progress towards reaching a healthy sex-ratio at birth should be given focus by roping in Public Private partnership and asking civil society and NGOs to participate pro-actively in awareness campaign among marginalised groups particularly among the poorest of the poor."

13. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in their action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation stated as under:-

"The MOHFW is committed towards improving the Child Sex Ratio and is tirelessly working towards accelerating the progress towards reaching a healthy sex-ratio at birth.

The role of civil society, women organizations/NGO and public at large, is intrinsic to the implementation and monitoring of PC&PNDT Act. Representatives of civil society/ NGO/ women organizations are members of all the important statutory boards/ committees and National / State/ district Monitoring and Inspection Committees.

In all the States/ UTs, NGOs / Civil Society are proactively participating in awareness campaign.

As a result, the NFHS-V findings indicate that the sex-ratio at birth has improved to 929 in 2019 from 919 in 2015.

Further, MOHFW has sent the recommendation to the States/ UTs to step up awareness campaigns among marginalised groups particularly among the poorest of the poor as recommended by the 17th Lok Sabha Committee."

Comments of the Committee

14. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development that Civil Society / Women Organisations / NGOs are members of all the important statutory boards / Committees and National / State / District Monitoring and Inspection Committees and that they are proactively participating in awareness campaigns. It has also been stated that they have forwarded the recommendation of the Committee to the States / UTs to step up awareness campaigns among marginalized groups particularly among the poorest of the poor. As a result, the NFHS-V findings indicate that the sex ratio at birth has improved to 929 in 2019 from 919 in 2015. While appreciating the efforts taken by the Ministry towards accelerating the progress towards reaching a healthy sex ratio at birth, the Committee desire the Ministry to be apprised of the details of the awareness campaign that have been organized by States/UTs/NGOs during the last three years. They also desire to be apprised of the number of women who have participated in various awareness programmes State-wise and UTs-wise.

The Committee would also like to be apprised of the mechanism in place to bring all the institutions, civil society/NGOs etc. together at one platform, the methodology adopted for assimilation and dissemination of information and their contribution as Members of the various important bodies. They would also like to be apprised of the details of the persons in each of the statutory boards/ Committees/National/States/District Monitoring and Inspection Committees and their activities viz. the number and periodicity of their meetings and the outcomes thereof. The reply may be furnished to the Committee within three months of presentation of this Report to Parliament.

D. Construction of Separate Functional Toilets in Schools for Girls

[Recommendation Serial No. – 2.12]

15. The Committee in their Original Report recommended as under:-

"The Committee are happy to note that construction of toilets is one of the initiatives of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. The Committee have observed that 94.8% schools out of 1516797 (co-ed + girls) have girls' toilets. Out of 94.8% only 90.65% schools (co-ed + girls) have functional girls toilets. KVS and JNVs also have sufficient separate toilets for girl students. The Committee also observe that composite grants under Smagra Shiksha are provided for conducive learning environment including construction of separate girls toilets. Though the UDISE

data claims the availability of 95.4% toilets for girls in schools, their actual usability with running water and doors which can be secured from inside is what counts and not the data on paper about the existence of toilets. The Committee believe that lack of functional toilets in schools is the major reason for drop out of girls as toilets play an important role in creating safe and hygienic school environment, especially for girl students. From a biological point of view, at pubescent age, sanitation needs of girls increase for which besides, privacy and safety, she needs water.

These needs must be met invariably at schools to ensure that girls feel comfortable while attending their classes. The Committee, therefore, recommend as under:

- (i) A time line for constructing 100% segregated functional toilets for girls in government schools may be finalised and in convergence with Jal Shakti Mission, tapped water supply should be ensured in them.
- (ii) Central Government must take up the matter of installation of incinerators in all girls toilets for hygienic disposal of used sanitary napkins.
- (iii) The local authorities must ensure supply of water to the toilets. A mechanism to fix responsibility must be worked and
- (iv) Regular inspection of toilets is the need of the hour.”

16. The Ministry of Education, in their action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation stated as under:-

- (i) Under Samagra Shiksha, States and UTs are supported for strengthening of existing Government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities including drinking water and toilets as per proposals received from respective State/UT based on the identified gaps.

The scheme also provides for an annual recurring composite school grant varying up to Rs. 1,00,000/- per annum depending upon the number of students, for all government schools, out of which at least 10% is to be spent on activities related to the Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) for hygiene and sanitation

Under erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19, construction of 5.33 lakh Separate Girls' toilets have been sanctioned to States and UTs for elementary education, out of which States and UTs have reported construction of 5.20 lakh Separate Girls' toilets, till 31.12.2021; and construction of 37,322 Girls' toilets have been sanctioned for secondary education, out of which States and UTs have reported construction of 28,696 Girls' toilets, till 31.12.2021.

The schools run by the Central Government, 1245 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 650 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have 100% drinking water and sanitation facilities.

- (ii) Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of State Specific Projects for Equity. Under State Specific Projects for varied interventions under equity, funds are provided for projects such as Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Incinerators, Sanitary Pad Vending Machines etc., subject to viable proposal received from the respective State and UTs. Further, under the revamped Samagra 2.0, the provision of Incinerator and Sanitary Pad Vending Machines in all girls' hostels has been approved.

In addition, all States and UTs vide letter dated 03.11.2021 have been requested to make provisions for ensuring availability of quality low-cost sanitary pads – Vending machines and incinerators in schools and also to ensure that at least one incinerator is available for schools/school complexes having girls' enrollment in Upper-primary/Secondary/Higher Secondary classes for safe disposal of sanitary pads.

- (iii) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools are under the jurisdiction of concerned States & UTs. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure including drinking water and toilet facilities in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules. States and UTs have been repeatedly advised to ensure that all the schools, including those under the non-Government sector (private, aided schools, etc.) in their jurisdiction should have provision for separate toilets for boys and girls; and safe and adequate drinking water facilities for all children.

The primary responsibility of maintenance of school toilets lies with the concerned State Government and UT Administration. The Ministry of Education has continuously requested the States/UTs to ensure maintenance and functionality of toilets constructed in schools, and to also take steps to bring about behavioural changes among students and teachers through an intensive awareness campaign to ensure that the toilets are properly used and kept neat and clean. The Department of School Education & Literacy has also requested, on regular basis, the States/UTs, for filling the gaps in availability and functionality of infrastructure facility including toilets and drinking water in all Government schools.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had advised the Panchayati Raj Departments of all States, on 18th March 2016, to include the provision for construction and regular repair/maintenance of the toilets in schools in the Gram Panchayat Development Plans under 14th Finance Commission grants. The Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy), Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Jal Shakti had also jointly requested the States, on 6th April 2016, regarding participation and support of Gram Panchayats for proper arrangements for regular cleaning of toilets and waste disposal in schools.

The Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj have also jointly requested the States, on 16th April 2021, to utilize the funds available with various schemes and programs, including the Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants, towards creation and maintenance of rooftop rain water harvesting structures and groundwater recharge systems in various Panchayat/ Government owned/controlled/ aided schools.

Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic the States and UTs were also requested for regular daily sanitation in schools, cleaning of school toilets and proper arrangement in schools for hand-wash, wearing of masks and adequate social distancing.

Further, the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22 has been launched on 12th January 2022 by the Department to enable schools to assess themselves on various WASH parameters and COVID appropriate behavior and get a rating under a 5-star rating system for the same. The best performing schools will be verified and awarded at the district, state and national level.

The launch of SVP 2021-22 will help assess the situation of water, sanitation and hand washing facilities as well as hygienic behaviour to ensure prevention of COVID transmission. The key objective is to have sustainable, child friendly, gender and divyang appropriate, climate resilient water, sanitation, hand washing facilities in schools besides adherence to hygienic as well as COVID appropriate behaviour in schools as they re-open.

Comments of the Committee

17. The Committee in their Fifth Report had recommended for finalizing a timeline for 100% segregated toilets for girls in Government School, installation of incinerators in all girls toilets for hygiene disposal of sanitary napkin, regular supply of water in toilets and regular inspection of toilets. From the Action Taken reply, the Committee note that although Government has come out with a reply that indicates their earnestness in implementing the Recommendations of the Committee, they do not find sufficient data/statistics which will show actual changes on the ground. Since the Recommendations made by the Committee are quite significant from hygiene and dignity perspective of the girl students, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry prepare a time bound action plan to construct 100% segregated functioning toilets ensuring tap water, installation of incinerators for girls toilets in Government schools. The Committee would like to be apprised of the complete details State/UT wise, on the progress made and results achieved specifically since 31/12/2021 where constructions of 5.2 lakh separate girls toilet have been reported by the Ministry. These details must include the actual construction vis-à-vis the targets set for schools imparting secondary education. The Committee would like to be apprised of the status report in this regard within 03 months of the presentation of the Report to Parliament.

E. Safety and Security of Girls in KGBV Residential Schools/ Hostels

[Recommendation Serial No. – 2.13]

18. The Committee in their Original Report recommended as under:-

“The Committee observe that 4997 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya have been established under Samagra Shiksha up to 01.01.2021. KGBV are the residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL) which have been established to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups. The Committee are happy to see that KGBV residential schools have emerged, over the years, as an important strategy to enhance the enrolment of girls belonging to disadvantaged groups, arrest their high drop-out and improve educational attainment among these disadvantaged communities. However, certain reported incidents of violation of the safety and security of girl students within school/ hostel campus have constrained the Committee to underline the added responsibility of the authorities in ensuring high standards of safety and security of girls in KGBVs as the students and their parents fully trust and depend on the system being from poor and marginalized sections of the society. It is unfortunate that despite having clear policy and guidelines, the safety and security of girls in residential schools/hostels is being compromised. The Committee, therefore, recommend the following:

- (i) To the extent possible, all the teachers/staff in KGBVs should be female.
- (ii) The schools and hostels should be built in one premise with toilets and bath rooms within the hostel campus to provide more safety to girls.
- (iii) Cases of violence against girls in residential schools/hostels must be addressed properly with effective investigations, adequate punishment of perpetrators, and counseling services for victims.
- (iv) An all women committee may be constituted by the district authorities to inspect the residential schools once in every quarter or in six months to oversee the safety aspects of the girl students in the school/hostel premises and submit a written report to the District Magistrate/ District Collector. Such reports may also be made available in the public domain through the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE).
- (v) Local media may also be apprised the importance of the matter from time to time and they may also be requested to keep a check on this sensitive issue.”

19. The Ministry of Education, in their action taken reply on the aforementioned recommendation stated as under:-

- (i) To the extent possible, all the teachers/staff in KGBVs should be female.

KGBV is a provision under Samagra Shiksha and it is clearly specified in the draft framework of Samara Shiksha to "Appoint only female warden, teachers and staff in the KGBVs".

- (ii) The schools and hostels should be built in one premise with toilets and bath rooms within the hostel campus to provide more safety to girls.

There are four types of KGBVs under Samagra Shiksha which are as under:

- Type-I: KGBVs for classes VI to VIII sanctioned under erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- Type-II: KGBVs for classes VI to X.
- Type-III: KGBVs for classes VI to XII.
- Type-IV: Girls' Hostel for IX to XII sanctioned under erstwhile Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

KGBVs of Type-I to Type-III are schools with hostel facilities, in which both school and hostel buildings, along with the facilities of toilets and bathroom are built in one premise. Type-IV KGBVs are hostels where the facilities of toilets and bathroom in the hostel building premises.

- (iii) Cases of violence against girls in residential schools/hostels must be addressed properly with effective investigations, adequate punishment of perpetrators, and counseling services for victims.

KGBV is a provision under Samagra Shiksha and the framework of Samagra Shiksha details various mandatory arrangements/ steps which States have to ensure for Safety and Security of Girls residing in KGBVs. These, inter-alia include boundary wall or closed access, provision of watchman for 24 hours, no access of residential areas to males, including family members of students, self-defence training, awareness programs for adolescent girls etc. States/UTs have developed guidelines/instructions about the non-negotiable operational aspects of the KGBVs to provide safe environment for girls so that they may pursue and complete their education in a fearless environment. This includes that School Development and Monitoring Committee/local Communities should be involved in providing Safety and Security to KGBV's Girls and strict punishment to be given for anyone found guilty in case of sexual harassment and matter may be reported immediately to higher authorities. Further, in compliance of provisions of National Education Policy, 2020, all States and UTs have been again requested to prepare/update the safety and security guidelines for girls studying in KGBVs.

In addition, DoSEL, Ministry of Education has developed Guidelines on School Safety and Security, which, inter-alia, contain provisions for fixing the accountability of the school management in the matter of safety and security of children studying in Government, Government-aided and Private Schools. These guidelines have been circulated to all States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies of DoSEL and Stakeholder Ministries and also uploaded on the website of DoSEL.

- (iv) An all women committee may be constituted by the district authorities to inspect the residential schools once in every quarter or in six months to oversee the safety aspects of the girl students in the school/hostel premises and submit a written report to the District Magistrate/ District Collector. Such reports may also be made available in the public domain through the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE).

DoSEL has developed Guidelines on School Safety and Security which inter-alia has the provisions of "Periodic Safety inspection of school" under which the School/School Management shall arrange to carry out thorough inspection of the school at least once in a quarter, during school hours. The School Inspection Report prepared by this inspection team and duly signed by the team should be uploaded on the school website for transparency. This quarterly inspection of schools will look at the compliance of the School Safety and Security Plan, using the comprehensive checklist given guidelines in the guidelines, which includes points related to mechanism against harassment, sexual or verbal abuse, or discrimination of any sorts, reporting mechanisms in case of any instance of harassment, abuse or discrimination, Measures for dealing with victim, perpetrator, parents, other stakeholders, police and media in case of any untoward incident and availability of suggestion boxes/question boxes/grievance boxes or any other mechanism for students/parents to inform or communicate about any safety concerns of their children etc. Appropriate actions are to be taken by schools/school management regarding any gaps pointed out during this exercise.

In addition, there is also a provision of Safety Walk under which the School Management/SMC should designate members including Principal, teachers and parents, along with student representatives chosen randomly, as the School Safety Committee, to conduct 'Safety Walk' of the entire school premises, in order to ensure compliance of standard safety measures. 'Safety Walk' may be conducted once every quarter. The suggested composition for the School Safety Committee would be head of institution as chairperson, Student Safety Officer or Child Protection Officer, two faculty representatives of which include at-least one woman faculty representative, two parents representatives , two students representatives of which preferably where possible one girl and 1-2 alumni representatives.

Further, in the whole school safety approach of the guidelines, it has been mentioned that the prominent locations of the hostel should display the child safety posters, POSCO E-Box details and Child helpline number.

- (v) Local media may also be apprised the importance of the matter from time to time and they may also be requested to keep a check on this sensitive issue.

Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and therefore most of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT

Governments. Similarly, administrative matters and operationalization of KGBVs also come under the purview of concerned State Governments.

Comments of the Committee

20. For ensuring safety and security of girls in residential schools/ hostels, the Committee in their Fifth Report had recommended for (i) female teachers/staff in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV), (ii) building of schools and hostels in one premise with toilets and bath room within hostel campus, (iii) properly addressing of cases of violence against girls in residential schools/hostels, (iv) constitution of women Committee by district authorities and submission of their inspection report once in every quarter or in six months to District Magistrate/District Collector alongwith availability of report in public domain through the Unified District Information System Education (UDISE) and (v) requesting local media to keep a check on sensitive issues. In their Action Taken reply, the Ministry of Education has stated that KGBV is a provision under Samagra Shiksha under which it is clearly specified to appoint only female warden, teachers and staff in the KGBVs. It has also been stated that there are four types of KGBVs out of which type-I to Type-III schools are schools with hostel buildings having toilets and bathroom built in one premise. Further, Type-IV KGBVs are hostels with toilet and bathroom in the hostel building premises. The Committee have also been informed that Department of School Education and Literacy (DOSL), Ministry of Education have developed guidelines/instructions on school safety and security of children of KGBVs. Further, it has been stated that education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and therefore most of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments and operationalisation of KGBVs come under the purview of the concerned State Governments.

The Committee while expressing their satisfaction with the reply to the point nos. (i) and (ii), above, however, are not satisfied with the replies of the Government in regard to Point Nos. (iii) & (iv) as they note that only guidelines have been issued without any statistical outputs regarding reduction of violence against the girls in schools. Regarding point no. (v), the Committee are of the considered opinion that besides the State Government, the Central Government has the duty and responsibility to sensitize the society about the girls safety and security through local media. The Committee are of the view that mere issuing of guidelines in this regard would not suffice the purpose. The Committee desire that Ministry of Education should take up the matter in the desired spirit with concerned States/UTs at an appropriate level and inform the Committee about the specific steps taken so as to ensure that provisions of guidelines are implemented in letter and spirit.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATION / RECOMMENDWHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

Best Practices from Best Performing States to be Emulated by Other States

The Committee find that awareness generation through outreach activities is one of the important components of BBBP scheme. Under this component, in addition to media campaigns by the nodal ministry, districts execute various activities both in urban and rural areas as per their approved District Action Plan. The districts introduce interventions mainly towards engaging communities, improving Sex Ratio at Birth, encouraging birth registration and celebration of girl child, challenging son-centric rituals, getting girls back to schools and other initiatives for valuing girl child. The Committee note that the Government has felicitated the States of Nagaland, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh for their good work and Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were felicitated for consistent improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) from the year 2014-15 to 2018-19. The Committee are happy to note from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-20) data that the sex ratio in Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Bihar has shown improvement compared to NFHS-4 undertaken in 2015-16 . The overall sex ratio in the country too has shown an increase from 991 in NFHS-4 to 1020 in NFHS-5. The Committee consider this as a commendable achievement of the unrelenting efforts of the Government towards this end. The Committee also find that the Ministry of WCD have compiled some of the good practices from some of the districts. Since, good practices in the best performing districts might have definitely helped them in increasing awareness among the masses about issues like girls' education, female literacy, female feticide etc., the Committee, recommend that the other districts/States where child sex ratio is comparatively low may be encouraged to emulate the best practices towards achieving the goals of this ambitious programme.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee is duly noted.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has time to time felicitated districts and States for their good works. To ensure accountability and for service improvement, the Ministry has published booklets of innovative/ good practices and has disseminated to all the districts for replication. The same is also available on Ministry's Website. The Ministry has also asked the districts in the series of review meetings in the month of December, 2021 and January, 2022 to share their best practices so that the same could be emulated by other districts where child sex ratio is comparatively low. A suggestive calendar of event is being developed for activities to be under taken on major days being celebrated in the Ministry and line Ministries. These activities will also include

some of the best practices done by various districts. The activities are suggestive and district may modify them according to their local practice.

[M/o Women and Child Development, OM No.:BBBP/3/2020-BBBP (e-88163) dated 28.03.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

Need to Enhance Community Mobilisation/ Participation

The Committee find that community mobilisation and participation is very important for the success of the BBBP scheme. Although the Government has undertaken various initiatives in this regard, it is high time to get the awareness translated into concrete actions supporting the birth, growth and education of a girl child. Therefore, the Committee recommend as under:

- (i) Self Help Group platforms may be used to sensitise local women by encouraging positive discussions about the scheme in the meetings of the SHGs. Such a process would help percolate awareness to wider local level as the SHG members could be urged to sensitise other women outside their group too.
- (ii) Government should identify families/couples who have been motivated / acted under BBBP campaign and request them to act as opinion makers to accelerate societal change in the villages/mohollas, where discrimination against girl child is still rampant.
- (iii) Private participation and involvement of NGOs, both national and international may be sought in the execution of the programme.

Reply of the Government

Implementation of BBBP scheme primarily falls under the jurisdiction of the District Administration. Besides the convergent activities with Partner Ministries, district engages with various other stakeholders like local NGOs, CBOs, Civil Society Groups, SHGs, Women's Organizations working on the issue of Gender, Child Sex Ratio, and Education. Linkages are established with the schools, colleges, professional colleges and universities to run sensitization campaigns on value of girl child and enable her education. The scope and role of local Self help groups/CSOs is also worked out mutually through consultations with District Administration. Districts may Identify local champions/brand ambassador at all level who have excelled in the field of Sport and Education and families/couples motivated under BBBP campaign for creating awareness about the issue concerning women and girl child.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has requested Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to include issue of declining Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in Gram Sabha conducted by their Ministry.

With regard to recommendation of private participation and involvement of NGOs, both national and international, the Ministry has noted the suggestion and will

take up the matter with all the stakeholders at various levels. District Administration may be requested to take support of CSR funds as per the appropriate guidelines.

[M/o Women and Child Development, OM No.:BBBP/3/2020-BBBP (e-88163) dated 28.03.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

Orientation and Sensitization Activities under BBBP

The Committee observe that orientation and sensitization are core activities of the scheme. For community mobilization, the district administration, engages front line workers, like Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, female health workers, female school teachers, etc. in different programmes as per the need. The Ministry of WCD has developed different training modules for each category and an elaborate mechanism is in place to impart training. National level capacity building programmes are also conducted through workshops, training of master trainers, Anganwadi Workers and other functionaries. The Committee, while appreciating the capacity building efforts envisaged under the BBBP scheme, was disappointed to find that information about the number of trainings, nature of trainings, number of stakeholders who underwent the trainings, etc. are not available with the nodal Ministry . The Committee, therefore, recommend the following:

- (i) Annual training calendar should be prepared for orientation and refresher courses to enable capacity building in a focussed manner.
- (ii) Since the frontline workers like ASHAs/ANMs and Anganwadi Workers are in direct contact with the people and they can create a significant impact on the results of the scheme, they should be rigorously trained/ motivated.
- (iii) The Government should direct the National Skill Development Council and other related agencies to develop short term training programmes targeted at Government officials for the execution of community outreach, mobilisation and awareness activities falling under the BBBP scheme.

Reply of the Government

Ministry is in the process of development of a training module and a refresher course with the help of National Institute for Public Cooperation & Child Development (NIPCCD). Thereafter, training session for the official and other stakeholders will be conducted.

Annual training calendar is also being prepared in consultation with NIPCCD for orientation and refresher courses to enable capacity building of ASHAs/ANMs and Anganwadi Workers in a focused manner.

The Ministry will take up the matter with the Ministry of Skill Development for developing short term training programmes targeted at Government officials for the execution of community outreach, mobilisation and awareness activities falling under the BBBP scheme.

Under Mission Shakti, all schemes have been integrated and a combined training module of all stakeholders on GoI Act/schemes/ programs/ issues concerning nutrition, menstrual hygiene, safety & protection, for gainfully engagement ; to reorient families and girls towards availing of opportunities available, for mindset change is being developed.

For disaggregated data MIS system being developed to capture details from Districts. Presently, physical reports are received of the activity undertaken by the districts which also includes training activities.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through National Skill Development Corporation is implementing the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY) since 2015-16 in the country with the objective to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills were also assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) category. The Short Term Training (STT) Programmes are aligned with the requirements of skills in particular sectors in the industry and are prepared by the respective Sector specific expert bodies - the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). These Short term training programs are outcomes-oriented, competence based and built on National Occupational Standards (NOS) duly approved by the National Council for Vocational Education Training (NCVET).

On training needs of Government Officials, NSDC has expressed the view that the training modules/ contents, (with curriculum based on the training needs of the officials) for the Government officials involved in BBBP, may either be developed online and self-study mode or disseminated through Central Workshops/ Master Trainers. The training process for the Government Officials could be facilitated through measures like (i)identification of Government officials at various levels for imparting training, identification of training requirements and define curriculum for each level of Government Officials; (ii)finalizing the modalities of training - online/offline, duration, venue, evolving/facilitating/re-designing content module to suit the specific requirement of the training objectives, digital deployment of such content modules etc, assessment and certification process. Assured funding for content development and training purpose.

MSDE is also taking the initiative to promote entrepreneurship in order to accelerate job creation (as an alternate career choice) by providing end-to-end entrepreneurship education, specially on soft skills and enable hand holding and mentoring support to potential and existing entrepreneurs who aspire to start or scale-up their existing enterprises.

[M/o Women and Child Development, OM No.:BBBP/3/2020-BBBP (e-88163) dated 28.03.2022]

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7)

Urgent Need to Achieve Better Child Sex Ratio

The Committee note that the unabated decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) since 1961 (from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011) is a matter of grave concern as it reflects the low status of women in our society and indicates her disempowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Declining CSR is also indicative of pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender biased sex selection and post birth discrimination against girls in terms of health care, nutrition and educational opportunities. The Committee note that despite having a strong legal and policy framework like PNDT ACT and various other interventions under the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategies to bring down child mortality in the country, CSR has been declining over the years. The sharp decline in CSR is associated with an intersection of various factors such as the increasing spread and misuse of technology for prenatal sex selective elimination, changing aspirations of urban and rural societies, changes in family structures and reproductive decision making favoring a smaller family size. This has accentuated the son preference, associated with the low status of women in society, patriarchal social norms and the disturbing pattern of gender based violence faced by girls and women across the life cycle. However, the Committee find that with consistent efforts the States are beginning to show a positive result which is evident as per the latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS) Report 2018 wherein the overall Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is seen to have recorded 3 points improvement, from 896 in 2015-17 (SRS) to 899 in 2016-18 (SRS). It is seen that a maximum improvement of up to 15 points have been recorded in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir. Nine more States, i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have showed improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth. The Committee are happy to note from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-20) data that the sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years has shown improvement in Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Manipur and Mizoram also. The overall child sex ratio in the country too has shown an increase from 919 in NFHS-4 to 929 in NFHS-5.

Though these are rays of hope for the country, the Committee feel that there is still a long way to go to reach anywhere near the standard healthy Sex Ratio at Birth of World Health Organisation which is 952 females for every 1000 males. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the efforts towards accelerating the progress towards reaching a healthy sex-ratio at birth should be given focus by roping in Public Private partnership and asking civil society and NGOs to participate pro-actively in awareness campaign among marginalised groups particularly among the poorest of the poor.

Reply of the Government

The MOHFW is committed towards improving the Child Sex Ratio and is tirelessly working towards accelerating the progress towards reaching a healthy sex-ratio at birth.

The role of civil society, women organizations/NGO and public at large, is intrinsic to the implementation and monitoring of PC&PNDT Act. Representatives of civil society/ NGO/ women organizations are members of all the important statutory boards/ committees and National / State/ district Monitoring and Inspection Committees.

In all the States/ UTs, NGOs / Civil Society are proactively participating in awareness campaign. As a result, the NFHS-V findings indicate that the sex-ratio at birth has improved to 929 in 2019 from 919 in 2015. Further, MOHFW has sent the recommendation to the States/ UTs to step up awareness campaigns among marginalised groups particularly among the poorest of the poor as recommended by the 17th Lok Sabha Committee .

[M/o Health & Family Welfare, OM No. H.11016/01/2021-PNDT dated 03.02.2022]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 14 of Chapter-I)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8)

Efforts to be taken to Implement PC& PNDT Act More Effectively

The Committee are aware that the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act was enacted in 1994 to check female foeticide and it was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The Act was amended further in 2003 to make it more stringent and comprehensive. In order to create the required deterrence in falling sex ratio, the Government has notified several important amendments in the rules under the Act, viz., provision for confiscation of unregistered machines, regulation of portable ultrasound machines and services to be offered by Mobile Genetic Clinics, restriction in the registration of medical of medical practitioners qualified under the Act to conduct ultrasonography, revision of Form F by separating sections for the invasive and non-invasive diagnostic procedures, etc. The Committee also note that the ultrasound equipment is notified in 2020 as drug under Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1945 and the licence from Drug Controller of India is made mandatory for selling/importing/R&D of Ultrasound Machines.

The Committee have been informed that the implementation of PC&PNDT Act is regularly monitored through various mechanism and the States have been directed to develop online mechanism for registrations, record maintenance under the PC&PNDT Act to ensure accountability, transparency and effective monitoring. It is seen that 18 States/UTs have already developed the online mechanism. The Committee note that 71096, Diagnostic facilities including Genetic Counseling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic, Ultrasound Clinic and Imaging Centres are registered under the PC&PNDT Act. As regards the implementation of the Act and the actions taken on ground to control the declining sex ratio in the country, the Committee has been informed that 3158 Court Cases have been filed by the District Appropriate Authorities (Active) and 617 convictions have been secured with 145 Medical licenses

suspended/cancelled as on December, 2020. However, the Committee observe that despite the introduction of PC&PNDT Act, overall Sex ratio in the country has not improved remarkably. The Committee strongly believe that the same can be addressed by further strengthening the implementation of PC&PNDT Act in the country. Therefore, the Committee recommend the following:

- (i) The Committee find that the inadequate monitoring visits by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee, infrequent/inadequate monitoring of clinics at the State and district levels, etc is a matter of concern. In order to strengthen the implementation of PC&PNDT Act and improve SRB the Committee recommend that the District Appropriate Authority aided with State/District Advisory Committee which are vested with the primary responsibility for implementing the Act should conduct strict and frequent inspections of clinics as mandated under the law. The Committee may be apprised about the number of review meetings/ field inspections carried out in districts during the three years before the COVID pandemic, i.e from 2017 to 2020, year wise.
- (ii) The Committee are aware that the Act calls for registration of all ultrasound scanning machines and that the manufacturers are required to furnish information about the clinics and practitioners to whom the ultrasound machinery has been sold. However, it has been observed that several clinics and practitioners are indulging in determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus, though prohibited by the Act. Hence, the Committee recommend that Ultrasound machines should be compulsorily registered by the importers/sellers/users clearly stating the purpose, i.e. invasive/non invasive diagnostic procedure/R&D for using these machines and the data be uploaded and made available in the public domain. Misuse of ultrasound machines should be treated as punishable offence and the Committee recommend that a proper mechanism to complain such cases should be established.
- (iii) Many States that are yet to develop online mechanism for registration and record maintenance under the PC&PNDT Act to ensure accountability, transparency and effective monitoring of the scheme. All States may be directed to develop the same and get it rolling within six months from the presentation of this Report. The Committee consider decoy operations and informer schemes effective in proper implementation of PC&PNDT Act and have observed that the 15 States that have recorded improved Sex Ratio at Birth have successfully utilised this method in identifying culprits. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the decoy operations and informer schemes may be implemented in the remaining States and the same may further be encouraged through suitable cash rewards. The Committee further feel that wider publicity methods should be used to implement such schemes.
- (iv) The Committee find that over the last 25 years, only 617 convictions were given out of 3158 Court Cases registered under PC&PNDT Act and Rajasthan and Maharashtra which have recorded the lowest Sex Ratio at Birth, 871 and 880 respectively, in 2016-18 are having the highest number of court case/police case pending i.e. 604 and 753. The Committee also find that in 18 out of 36 States/UTs have neither got any case registered or have any convictions so far. The Committee has every reason to believe that the delay in arriving at final

decision in the pending cases has a tendency to dilute the spirit of PC&PNDT Act. Therefore, the Committee in no uncertain words recommend that the Ministry should make all out efforts in consonance with all other concerned Ministries so that the finality is reached in such pending cases within six months. It goes without saying that the progress made alongwith the outcome achieved be intimated to the Committee expeditiously. The Committee also desire that Year and State/UT-wise data of the cases registered, their pendency and nature of conclusion /conviction arrived at may be furnished to the Committee within six months from the presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

The MOHFW has been conducting regular review of the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act at the National level and similarly States/UTs also review the progress of implementation in their districts and accordingly send Quarterly Progress Reports to the MOHFW.

The MOHFW also closely monitor the inspections conducting in the States/ UTs. During last four years between 2016-17 and 2019-20, total 239544 number of premises were inspected across the country.

Further, to ensure strict and frequent inspections of clinics MOHFW in February 2014, issued specific notification prescribing Code of Conduct to be observed by Appropriate Authorities to conduct inspection and monitoring besides other responsibilities entrusted to them under PC&PNDT Act as under:

Rule 18-A Code of Conduct to be observed by Appropriate Authorities regarding:

(8) All the Appropriate Authorities including the State, District and Sub-district notified under the Act, inter-alia, shall observe the following conduct for inspection and monitoring, namely: —

- (i) conduct regular inspection of all the registered facilities once in every ninety days and shall preserve the inspection report as documentary evidence and a copy of the same be handed over to the owner of facility inspected and obtain acknowledgement in respect of the inspection;
- (ii) place all the inspection reports once in three months before the Advisory Committee for follow up action;

Further, MOHFW has sent the recommendation to conduct strict and frequent inspections of clinics as mandated under the law to the states/ UTs and as recommended by the 17thLok Sabha Committee for expediting necessary action in this regard.

(Year and State/ UT wise number of field inspections carried out in districts during last four years from 2017 to 2020 is enclosed at Annexure-I)

Under Section 18 of the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 no person shall open any genetic clinic including clinic, laboratory or centre having ultrasound or imaging machine or scanner or any other technology capable of undertaking determination of sex of foetus and sex selection, or render any service to any of them, unless such centre or clinic or laboratory is duly registered under PC&PNDT Act. Accordingly, as per Quarterly Progress Reports received from States/ UTs total 74578 diagnostic facilities including Ultrasound machines have been registered up to September, 2021, in the country .

Further, the PC&PNDT Act also regulates manufactures, sellers and importers under Section 3 B and prohibits the sale of ultrasound machine to the unregistered persons, laboratories, clinics, etc The companies are punishable under Section 26 for committing any offence, punishable under this Act.

Under Rule 3 A of the PC&PNDT Rules, 1996 sale of ultrasound is regulated by providing elaborate compliance mechanisms.

Further, in February 2014, specific guidelines regarding monitoring and regulation of sale of ultrasound machines were prescribed under Rule 18-A of the PC&PNDT Rules 1994 as under:

Rule 18-A Code of Conduct to be observed by Appropriate Authorities regarding

(7) All the Appropriate Authorities including the State, District and Sub-district notified under the Act, inter-alia, shall observe the following regulation of ultrasound equipment, namely: —

- (i) monitor the sales and import of ultrasound machines including portable or buyback, assembled, gift, scrap or demo;
- (ii) ensue regular quarterly reports from ultrasound manufacturers, dealers, wholesalers and retailers and any person dealing with the sales of ultrasound machines at the State level;
- (iii) conduct periodical survey and audit of all the ultrasound machines sold and operating in the State or district to identify the unregistered machines;
- (iv) file complaint against any owner of the unregistered ultrasound machine and against the seller of the unregistered ultrasound machine.

In June 2017, Central Supervisory Board (Apex Statutory Board at the national level provided under Section 7 of PC&PNDT Act) also recommended that the State/ UT may register the manufacturers, retailers, refurbishes, importers etc for better monitoring and regulations of the Ultrasound equipment. (Copy of the advisory is enclosed at Annexure-II) Many big States/ UTs including Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chandigarh and Delhi are registering manufacturers, retailers, refurbishes, importers etc. for better monitoring and effective implementation of the law.

In pursuance of the same, MOHFW has sent the recommendation by the 17th Lok Sabha Committee to the states/ UTs for expediting the process in other states/UTs also.

Under PC&PNDT Act, Section 6 prohibits the use by any pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasounography for the purpose of determination of sex of a foetus. Additionally, any contravention of Section 6 is punishable under Section 23 of the PC&PNDT Act, 1994.

With regard to proper mechanism for complaints Ministry has directed all the States/ UTs to establish appropriate mechanism for complaints of such contraventions. Ministry is also providing financial support for the same under National Health Mission. States/ UT wise mechanisms available in the states are enclosed at Annexure-III. MOHFW has sent the recommendation of the 17th Lok Sabha Committee to the States/ UTs to ensure full compliance in this regard.

All the states/ UTs are advised to initiate program like decoy operations and informer schemes and for its better implementations and outcomes they are also directed to carry out wide publicity for these initiatives. The financial support is provided for the same under National Health Mission.

The states including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi are implementing the decoy operations and informer schemes whereas, the states including Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand are in process of implementing the same. MOHFW has sent the recommendation of the 17th Lok Sabha Committee to rest of the States/ UTs for necessary action in this regard.

The MOHFW has requested to the Ministry of Law and Justice to issue directions to all concern courts for the fast tracking of the pending cases under PC&PNDT Act. Accordingly, many states have taken necessary actions as below:

Rajasthan- Special PNDT courts have been designated in each district, since 2015.

Maharashtra- Three member committee of High Court judges have been constituted to review the pending PNDT cases

Odisha the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa has constituted the three Judges Committee for periodic oversee the progress of the PC & PNDT cases. The trail courts are submitting the quarterly report to the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa through the concerned Sessions and District Judge

In Haryana and Tamil Nadu, the PC&PNDT cases are heard very promptly in the district courts with a result we have very less pendency of court cases in these states

In furtherance of the same, MOHFW has shared the recommendation of the 17th Lok Sabha Committee to ensure fast track of PNDD pending cases to the concerned States/ UTs.

Year and State/ UT wise cases registered and their pendency and conviction details at Annexure IV (a) and IV (b).

[M/o Health & Family Welfare, OM No. H.11016/01/2021-PNDD dated 03.02.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)

Re-enrolment, Retention and Attendance Tracking of Girls in Schools

The Committee observe that as per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) data for 2018-19, the Gross Enrolment Ratio of girls decreased from 96.72 in elementary classes to 76.93 in secondary class to 50.84 in higher secondary class. They also observe that the drop out ratio of girls during 2019-20 is 15.1. The Committee understand that the enrolment and retention of girls in schools in rural areas is still a great challenge despite having a plethora of efforts under RTE, Samagra Siksha, etc. Further, the Committee find that Covid crisis has disproportionately affected girls, especially their education. Further, lack of digital access to learning, poor family background, closure of schools and hostels facilities for girls, uncertainty of re-opening of schools pose serious challenges in girls' retention in schools. Those girls who were not doing well academically prior to the pandemic had an even more chance to drop out of schools after the pandemic. In this context, the Committee recommend that concerted and urgent efforts to mobilize the return of girls students to schools and sustain their regular attendance should be taken up by all the stakeholders i.e. Central and State Governments and all frontline workers. Such efforts should be continued into post pandemic period too, i.e., after every holiday/break and during transition from one level to the next. The Committee are happy to find that the Centre has asked every State to do a mapping of out of school children through household surveys and also has come out with guidelines to reach out to the last girl child to resolve her problems. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results of this effort and the specific measures chalked out /implemented to retain, re-enrol and track the attendance of girls in schools.

Reply of the Government

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Government All States and UTs has been requested to proactively track girls, who are not enrolled in schools or have dropped-out of school without completing their School Education and get them admitted in age-appropriate classes in schools vide letter dated 31.05.2021 (copy enclosed at Annexure-V). Action taken report along with the outcomes in this regard have been sought vide letter dated 11.01.2022 (copy enclosed at Annexure-VI). States and UTs have also been requested to share specific measures planned/implemented to retain, re-enrol and track the attendance of girls in schools, if any, with this Department.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities for universalization of school education, re-enrolment and retention, including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, setting up and running of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, provision of free uniforms, free text books to the eligible students at elementary level, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Further, under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc. Also, under 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' (PM POSHAN) one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided schools is provided to students at the elementary level of education.

Under Smagra Shiksha, for the first time in 2021-22, financial assistance upto Rs. 2000 per annum has been provided for supporting Out of School Children of age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio economically disadvantaged groups, for completing their education through NIOS/SIOS, for accessing course materials and certification. Under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme, scholarship is awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage.

This Department has developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal (<http://samagrashiksha.in>). The concerned State/UT validates the child wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

Special state specific projects for varied interventions under equity are also supported for enhancing access, retention and quality for girls by promoting enrolment drives, retention and motivation camps, gender sensitization modules etc. Such projects include Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Incinerators, Sanitary Pad Vending Machines etc.

In order to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan (LRP) has been prepared and shared with all the States and Union Territories delineating the action to be undertaken by each stakeholder, indicative annual calendar of activities, existing interventions which can be utilized and additional support with funding as a onetime measure.

Through its autonomous body NIOS, DoSEL offers more than 100 courses in various vocational sectors. In order to retain the learners during Covid pandemic followings steps were taken:

- To insure that the learners do not miss out the PCP classes, Live PCP lectures on PM e-Vidya Channels were conducted regularly. Similarly lecture programmes on various vocational courses were provided through radio broadcast.
- Few of the Accredited Vocational study centres of NIOS conducted online vocational theory classes such as Community Health, Yoga Teacher Training Programme, Cutting & Tailoring, Beauty Culture, ECCE etc. at their study centres for the registered learners.
- Online support was provided by the faculty to learners registered under vocational MOOCS programme such as Bee Keeping, Beauty Therapy, CRM Domestic Voice, Yoga Teacher Training Programme, Panchkarma Assistant.
- New vocational courses on SWAYAM were introduced during the covid pandemic such as – Community Health, Mushroom Production and Hair Care & Styling. The courses have online video tutorials, PPTs, online discussion forum, self-assessments etc.

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10)

Rewarding/ Incentivising Schooling of Girls at Higher Secondary Level

It has been observed from available data that the highest dropout rate for girls is in the secondary and higher secondary grades. In the post pandemic scenario, the probability of more adolescent girls dropping out of school permanently to help with household tasks and childcare due to economic hardships of their families is very high. The Committee feel that incentivizing participation can help more girls continue their schooling and learning journey. In this connection, provision of targeted scholarships, conditional cash transfers and bicycles for transport can significantly increase the retention of girls in schools. Similarly, rewarding better performing girls with incentives such as smart phones, incentive for higher education in reputed institutions, internet vouchers, transportation allowance, book allowance, hostel facilities etc. can also be of some impact. The Committee desire that the Government may work out on such provisions for girl students, especially for those from the EWS category to enable and support their continued education.

Reply of the Government

Since Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, States adopt several measures to incentivise education of girls at Higher Secondary level, which include provision of bicycles, financial incentives etc. as per their specific requirements.

Under Central Sector Scheme National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), DoSEL awards scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage a brief on the Scheme is enclosed at Annexure-VII. Reservation is applicable as per norms of State Governments.

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has enabled millions of learners to complete their schooling with a particular focus on education of learners with disabilities, women, army personnel, weavers, artisans and ITI students. NIOS undertakes several projects in collaboration with different organizations for empowerment of girls/women.

- i) "Tejaswini: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project". The Project seeks to empower the adolescent girls with basic life skills and thereafter provide further opportunities to acquire market driven skill training or completion of secondary education, depending on the inclination of the beneficiary.
NIOS in collaboration with the Government of Jharkhand will achieve the project objective of improving completion of secondary education for dropouts of school adolescent girls and young women age group of 14-24. It expected that a total numbers of 23,000 learners to be enrolled for this programme. The project will be delivered in 17 districts of Jharkhand.
- ii) NIOS is implementing "Second Chance Education (SCE) Project" with the support of UN Women to re-integrate women and girls from some of the most marginalised communities into formal education. Through this partnership, 2604 women and girls across 12 districts have been registered in NIOS. In India, SCE programme is being implemented in 12 districts across 4 states - Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan covering approximately 200 villages. The SCE programme enables and offers opportunity to women and girls to 1. Re-enter or pursue formal education; 2. Undertake vocational education; and 3. Innovative pedagogies and finance to achieve its objective.
- iii) NIOS has established Skill Training Centre at Amethi, UP for the skill training of female learners belonging to SC/ST, EWS category of that district in order to provide training to enable them to earn their livelihood. The skill training centre is equipped with required infrastructure and faculty. The training is provided in the course – Cutting & Tailoring. The learners are trained assessed and certified as per NIOS norms. The entire course is free for the female learners. The first batch of trainees comprising of 62 girls was conducted successfully and based on the success of the same, 70 girls have enrolled for the training for the second batch.

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10A)

Performance Grading Index of States/Districts

The Committee find that the integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha which was started from the year 2018-19 is an overarching scheme that aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. The Committee are extremely happy that an elaborate arrangement has been put in place in the data management by the Ministry to track and monitor state-wise, district-wise and even school wise information for evaluating their performance. This Performance Grading Index (PGI) is based on 70 parameters covering learning outcomes, teachers' attendance, recruitment policy/ transfer policy and other governance areas. The Committee have been informed that in the last ranking, Gujarat, Kerala and Chandigarh were on the top and now, the Government has decided to have PGI ranking for districts also which will be made available in the public domain. As the Committee strongly believe that the PGI ranking will help States and UTs to identify the gaps and enable the public to respond, react and give feedback, they recommend that the data so compiled should be put up in public domain and meaningfully utilised for prioritizing areas for interventions to bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes. The progress made in conducting PGI ranking for districts may be apprised to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

The Performance Grading Index (PGI) developed by Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) aims to assess the relative performance of the all the State/UTs in a uniform scale to encourage State/UTs to perform better. The PGI has been conceptualized as a tool to motivate States and UTs to adopt best practices followed by the top performing State. The PGI has five domains with seventy (70) indicators carrying a score of 1000. Grading system assists States/UTs to identify gaps and design targeted interventions to bridge them. PGI-State was first published in 2019 for the reference year 2017-18 and PGI- State for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been released subsequently. The Committee has been informed that in the latest PGI 2019-20, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu were the top performers. The reports have been placed in the public domain, for the use of public; it can be accessed online at the link <http://pgi.udiseplus.gov.in/#/home>. The PGI, 2018-19 and 2019-20 summary of States/UTs are at Annexure-VIII.

As a next step of the PGI: State, an 83 indicator based PGI: District has been developed to grade the performance of all districts in school education. The online data collection and compilation mechanism for PGI: District has been developed and launched for filling the data by districts at the link <http://pgi.udiseplus.gov.in/#/home>. PGI: District comprise of 83 indicators (including sub indicators) with total weights of 600. The Domains parameters includes: Learning Outcomes and Quality (LO), Access Outcomes (AO), Teacher Availability and Professional Development Outcomes (TAPDO), Learning Management (LM), Learning Enrichment Activities (LEA) Infrastructure, Facilities, Student Entitlements (IF&SE), School Safety and Child Protection (SS&CP)

Digital Learning (DL), Governance Processes (GP). Data collection for districts PGI is under process and all the 733 districts started data collection process. On completion of data entry by Districts, the data will get verified by state Nodail officer before finally certifying the same. On completion of the certification of data by States, final PGI districts will be compiled and published.

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)

Creation of Platform/ Repository of School-wise Data

The Committee have been informed that under the National Education Policy, it has been decided to put up school-wise data in public domain. Under this, every school will be checked by a third party on certain indicators which includes class rooms, toilets, segregated toilets, teachers, their qualifications, attendance etc. Everything that is checked by a third party would come in the public domain and would give a fair idea about the veracity of the data captured by UDISE and to what extent it is true to the ground. While profusely appreciating this move by the Government, the Committee recommend that the creation of the said platform/ repository may be expedited and the school-wise data may be made available in public domain to facilitate online monitoring by the public/civil society. The Committee may be informed about the status of this data repository while furnishing the action taken replies.

Reply of the Government

Regarding Creation of Platform/ Repository of School-wise Data, the school-wise data is available for access by public to facilitate online monitoring by the public/civil society. For this purpose a small window within UDISE+ has been created under know your school on the link <https://udiseplus.gov.in/#/Publication> . One can access School info , school Report card , key infrastructure facility available in schools *etc* by just entering the name of the school or UDISE code or pin code. Hence, the recommendations of the Committee have been fully implemented.

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

CHAPTER III

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

-NIL -

CHAPTER IV

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

Need for more efficient allocation and release of funds

The Committee find that the Beti Bachao–Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched to address the decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls over a life cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial scheme of the of Ministries of Women and Child Development (as Nodal Ministry), Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy). The Committee find that since the inception of the scheme in 2014-15 till 2019-20, the total budgetary allocation under BBBP scheme was Rs. 848 crore, excluding the COVID stricken financial year of 2020-21. During the above period, an amount Rs. 622.48 crore was released to the States. However, to the Committees' dismay, only 25.13% of the funds, i.e. Rs. 156.46 crore have been spent by the States reflecting not upto the mark performance of the scheme. Even C&AG had made references to the scheme's implementation and very less spending by States in 2016-17.

The Committee also find that despite funds left unspent with the States in a particular year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been releasing additional funds. The Committee also find that the nodal Ministry has no disaggregated information on the spending by the States/UTs on education, health and other interventions under BBBP. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Women and Child Development should immediately take up with the States/UTs, the issue of poor utilisation of the central funds and ensure proper utilisation of BBBP funds for the benefit of the girl child. The nodal Ministry should release funds to the States/UT strictly on the basis of actual utilisation of earlier release and after proper scrutiny of expenditure/ utilisation of the previous funds. The nodal Ministry must have a target oriented approach for the States and must act in a time-bound manner.

Reply of the Government

BBBP scheme was launched in 2015, initially the funds were released through State governments/UT Administration for implementation of the Scheme at State/UT Level and District levels. From F.Y. 2016-17, provision of funds for State Level activities under BBBP was discontinued and all the States/UTs were requested to surrender the unspent amount available with them for State Level Activities. Since 2016-17 the funds are being released with 100% central assistance directly to the dedicated account of District Magistrate/District Collector. The total budget of the District is Rs.50 lakh per district per annum. The fund is released in two installments as per the BBBP guidelines. The unspent amount (of the previous installment) is adjusted before the release of subsequent installment. Funds are released upon submission of District Action Plan of the current year duly approved by the District Task Force and UC, SoE and Physical

Report of the previous year. Out of the total Rs. 50 lakh earmarked per district, 10% i.e. Rs 5 lakh is earmarked for sectoral activities of Health and Education each.

Fund utilization in the initial years was low as districts took some time to know the modalities of the scheme. However, utilization has improved in districts after initial years. The Ministry has noted the suggestion of the Committee for taking up the issue of poor utilization of funds under the Scheme with Concerned States/UTs and conducted review meeting through Video Conferencing with States/UTs. Further, the Ministry has conducted series of web meetings with Districts to review the progress of the Scheme including poor utilization of funds under the BBBP Scheme. It is also informed that the Ministry has created a dedicated email id mwcd-ucsoe-bbbp@gov.in at the central level to collect UCs/SOEs and other scheme related documents from the Districts. For disaggregated data MIS system is being developed to capture details from Districts.

[M/o Women and Child Development, OM No.:BBBP/3/2020-BBBP (e-88163) dated 28.03.2022]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter-I)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

Need to Focus on Education and Health under BBBP than on Advertisements

The Committee understand that the BBBP scheme is implemented with 100% central assistance. Rupees Fifty Lakh per year is earmarked per districts for utilisation under six different components, viz. 16% for inter-sectoral consultation/ capacity building, 50 % for innovation/ awareness generation activities, 6% for monitoring and evaluation, 10% for sectoral interventions in health, 10% for sectoral interventions in education and 8% as flexi funds. The Committee find that out of a total of Rs. 446.72 crore released during the period 2016- 2019, a whopping 78.91% was spent only on media advocacy. Though the Committee understand the necessity to undertake media campaign to spread the message of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao among the people, they feel that it is equally important to balance the objectives of the scheme. Over the last six years, through focused advocacy BBBP has been able to capture the attention of political leadership and national consciousness towards valuing the girl child. Now, it is time to focus on other verticals by making ample financial provisions to help achieve measurable outcomes related to education and health envisaged under the scheme. Since BBBP is one of the most important schemes of the government to improve child sex ratio in backward regions and ensure education of the girl children, the Committee recommend that the government should, hereafter, reconsider spending on advertisements under the 'Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao' scheme and should focus on planned expenditure allocation for sectoral interventions in education and health.

Reply of the Government

Implementation of BBBP requires linkages for convergent action with concerned Ministries/Departments for policy and programmatic interventions, training and capacity building and communication at the National/ State/ District Level. Further linkages with partner Ministries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Education and line Ministries/Departments such as Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Skill Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (Urban Local Bodies) Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Science and Technology to be strengthened for implementation. In this regard, a Working Group is being set up with officers from the Partner/line Ministries/Departments for taking forward the objectives of BBBP Scheme and to improvise the progress in terms of output/outcome of the scheme. The Working Group shall deliberate on the convergence efforts by way creating synergies among the stakeholders for planned sectoral interventions under Mission Shakti.

The scheme has encouraged synergy by governing the core principles of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of girls and women, including ending of gender discrimination and violence that require multi- dimensional and multi- sectoral strategy. As a result, the BBBP objective is often pursued in programs funded under other schemes. While there has been savings under BBBP, it is not indicative of inaction/failure of the program.

Facilitation of service delivery structures/schemes/ programmes and policies that are sufficiently responsive to the issues of gender and girl child's rights are indicative of the success of the Scheme. The advertisement expense should be viewed in correlation with the expenditure budget of other women centric schemes on education, health, nutrition, safety and security, skilling etc.

Recognizing that the brand equity of BBBP (carefully curated over the last 7 years) has become a byword and is recognized as an emblem to Save the Girl Child, in the BBBP scheme, the Ministry has decided to focus on multi- sectoral activities for tangible benefits at District level. For media advocacy a combined budget has been kept under Mission Shakti that will address and amplify issues concerning safety, protection and empowerment of women through a life cycle continuum. The BBBP scheme will continue to be the bedrock for all the initiatives of the Ministry to improve the Child Sex Ratio and ensuring the education of girl children.

Special initiative for to re-enrollment of Adolescent Girls in schools: A special campaign namely *Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav* has been recently launched on 07th March, 2022 under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme. The campaign aims to re-enroll out of school adolescent girls (OoS AGs) in the age group of 11-14 years. Keeping in view that the number of OoS AGs had steadily declined from 11.88 lakhs in 2018-19 to 5.03 lakhs in 2020-21, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls was revised and subsumed under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. The targeted beneficiaries under the revised scheme are all the AGs in the age group of (14+) to 18 years in the Aspirational Districts and the North Eastern States. This recent shift in the targeted beneficiaries under SAG component of

Mission Poshan 2.0 made it crucial that all the OoS AGs of the erstwhile scheme are successfully transitioned back to formal schooling. Hence, *Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav* has been launched under BBBP to mobilize resources and communities to enhance enrollment and retention of girls (11-14 years) in school. The list of out of schools girls will be referred to Department of Education for enrollment in appropriate class in school system. This special campaign has two main components which are as under:

(i) Social Mobilisation campaign and Awareness Raising at grassroots level to sensitize communities, families to re-enroll adolescent girls to schools/ existing schemes for which incentives will be given directly to the District administration

(ii) Counselling and Referrals- AWWs to be incentivized for counseling and referring OoS-AG in catchment areas of AWCs.

[M/o Women and Child Development, OM No.:BBBP/3/2020-BBBP (e-88163) dated 28.03.2022]

(Recommendation Serial No. 6)

Need for Regular Review and Monitoring

The Committee find that a well structured monitoring system has been conceived under BBBP right from National, State, District, Block and Village levels to track the progress of targets, outcomes and process indicators. There is a National Task Force headed by Secretary, MWCD, State Task Force headed by Chief Secretary/UT Administrator and District Task Force headed by DCs/DMs to guide and monitor the intermediary targets of the scheme. As per the BBBP guidelines, regular or quarterly meetings are to be conducted to review the progress at the district level. Regular process of documentation of all activities conducted at the district/block and gram panchayat level is required to be undertaken through regular reports, MIS and photographic documentation at the district level. However, the Committee find that there is a lapse in undertaking required number of Task Force meetings and collecting monthly reports or statement of expenditure from districts on time. Such examples of non-compliance of the guidelines are clear indicators that the scheme is not being reviewed or monitored properly. Regular audits and real time updation of activities are necessary to ensure compliance. The Committee also find that records of the activities held for Information, Education & Communication (IEC) at the State/district level with the national task force authorities are not maintained. The Committee therefore recommend as under:

- (i) Being the Nodal Ministry of the Beti Bacho – Beti Padho Scheme, the Ministry of Women and Child Development must ensure that review meetings of NTF, STF and DFT are conducted as per the BBBP guidelines. The Committee may be apprised through action taken replies about the yearly review meetings conducted at the national and State levels during the last five years.
- (ii) Documentation of all activities conducted at the District, Block and Gram Panchayat level related to scheme and campaign may be completed at the earliest.

- (iii) In order to achieve better oversight, Ministry should develop without further delay the online Management Information System (MIS) portal for monitoring and supervision at State, District, Block and Village level and to make available the data in the web portal for transparency and real time monitoring.
- (iv) Social Audit of BBBP should compulsorily be got done either by the civil Society Group or third party/expert at the district level and the outcome may be communicated to this Committee.

Reply of the Government

At National level, a National Task Force (NTF) for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao headed by Secretary, WCD is constituted with representation from concerned ministries namely Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Registrar General of India, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, representatives from State governments and district administration, Gender Experts and Civil Society representatives. The Task Force provides national level guidance and support; finalize training content; review State plans and monitor effective implementation. Recently, 8th National Task Force Meeting was held on 16th February, 2022 to review the progress of implementation of BBBP scheme. Details of the review meetings conducted at the National and State levels during the last five years is at Annexure-IX.

Ministry has initiated the process for development of an online MIS under proposed Mission Shakti to capture the data at the ground level for documentation and regular review.

Regular review meeting of BBBP are held at various level. At the Central Level, Review meeting with all the States/UTs was held in the month of December, 2021 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, WCD.

Further, the Ministry has conducted a series of review meetings with individual districts to review the progress of the BBBP Scheme during the month of December 2021 and January, 2022.

Further, it is submitted that the Scheme has been evaluated by NITI Aayog wherein the NITI Aayog has found the scheme satisfactory. However, with regard to suggestion of Social Audit of the Scheme, the matter will be taken up with the States/UTs and the Districts for undertaking the Social Audit by civil Society Group / third party/expert at the district level. Ministry is developing a mechanism to grade the performance of districts under the scheme.

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[M/o Women and Child Development, OM No.:BBBP/3/2020-BBBP (e-88163) dated 28.03.2022]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 11 of Chapter-I)

(Recommendation Serial No. – 12)

Construction of Separate Functional Toilets in Schools for Girls

The Committee are happy to note that construction of toilets is one of the initiatives of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. The Committee have observed that 94.8% schools out of 1516797 (co-ed + girls) have girls' toilets. Out of 94.8% only 90.65% schools (co-ed + girls) have functional girls toilets. KVS and JNVs also have sufficient separate toilets for girl students. The Committee also observe that composite grants under Smagra Shiksha are provided for conducive learning environment including construction of separate girls toilets. Though the UDISE data claims the availability of 95.4% toilets for girls in schools, their actual usability with running water and doors which can be secured from inside is what counts and not the data on paper about the

existence of toilets. The Committee believe that lack of functional toilets in schools is the major reason for drop out of girls as toilets play an important role in creating safe and hygienic school environment, especially for girl students. From a biological point of view, at pubescent age, sanitation needs of girls increase for which besides, privacy and safety, she needs water.

These needs must be met invariably at schools to ensure that girls feel comfortable while attending their classes. The Committee, therefore, recommend as under:

- (v) A time line for constructing 100% segregated functional toilets for girls in government schools may be finalised and in convergence with Jal Shakti Mission, tapped water supply should be ensured in them.
- (vi) Central Government must take up the matter of installation of incinerators in all girls toilets for hygienic disposal of used sanitary napkins.
- (vii) The local authorities must ensure supply of water to the toilets. A mechanism to fix responsibility must be worked and
- (viii) Regular inspection of toilets is the need of the hour.”

Reply of the Government

Under Samagra Shiksha, States and UTs are supported for strengthening of existing Government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities including drinking water and toilets as per proposals received from respective State/UT based on the identified gaps. The scheme also provides for an annual recurring composite school grant varying up to Rs. 1,00,000/- per annum depending upon the number of students, for all government schools, out of which at least 10% is to be spent on activities related to the Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) for hygiene and sanitation. Under erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19, construction of 5.33 lakh Separate Girls’ toilets have been sanctioned to States and UTs for elementary education, out of which States and UTs have reported construction of 5.20 lakh Separate Girls’ toilets, till 31.12.2021; and construction of 37,322 Girls’ toilets have been sanctioned for secondary education, out of which States and UTs have reported construction of 28,696 Girls’ toilets, till 31.12.2021. The schools run by the Central Government, 1245 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 650 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have 100% drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of State Specific Projects for Equity. Under State Specific Projects for varied interventions under equity, funds are provided for projects such as Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Incinerators, Sanitary Pad Vending Machines etc., subject to viable proposal received from the respective State and UTs. Further, under the revamped Samagra 2.0, the provision of Incinerator and Sanitary Pad Vending Machines in all girls’ hostels has been approved. In addition, all States and UTs vide letter dated 03.11.2021 have been requested to make provisions for ensuring availability of quality low-cost sanitary pads – Vending machines and incinerators in schools and also to ensure that at least one incinerator is available for

schools/school complexes having girls' enrollment in Upper-primary/Secondary/Higher Secondary classes for safe disposal of sanitary pads.

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools are under the jurisdiction of concerned States & UTs. State and UT Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and have the responsibility and mandate to provide school infrastructure including drinking water and toilet facilities in schools in accordance with the norms laid down in the Schedule to the RTE Act, 2009 and as per respective State RTE Rules. States and UTs have been repeatedly advised to ensure that all the schools, including those under the non-Government sector (private, aided schools, etc.) in their jurisdiction should have provision for separate toilets for boys and girls; and safe and adequate drinking water facilities for all children. The primary responsibility of maintenance of school toilets lies with the concerned State Government and UT Administration. The Ministry of Education has continuously requested the States/UTs to ensure maintenance and functionality of toilets constructed in schools, and to also take steps to bring about behavioural changes among students and teachers through an intensive awareness campaign to ensure that the toilets are properly used and kept neat and clean. The Department of School Education & Literacy has also requested, on regular basis, the States/UTs, for filling the gaps in availability and functionality of infrastructure facility including toilets and drinking water in all Government schools.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had advised the Panchayati Raj Departments of all States, on 18th March 2016, to include the provision for construction and regular repair/maintenance of the toilets in schools in the Gram Panchayat Development Plans under 14th Finance Commission grants. The Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy), Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Jal Shakti had also jointly requested the States, on 6th April 2016, regarding participation and support of Gram Panchayats for proper arrangements for regular cleaning of toilets and waste disposal in schools.

The Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj have also jointly requested the States, on 16th April 2021, to utilize the funds available with various schemes and programs, including the Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants, towards creation and maintenance of rooftop rain water harvesting structures and groundwater recharge systems in various Panchayat/ Government owned/controlled/ aided schools.

Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic the States and UTs were also requested for regular daily sanitation in schools, cleaning of school toilets and proper arrangement in schools for hand-wash, wearing of masks and adequate social distancing.

Further, the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22 has been launched on 12th January 2022 by the Department to enable schools to assess themselves on various WASH parameters and COVID appropriate behavior and get a rating under a 5-star rating system for the same. The best performing schools will be verified and awarded at the district, state and national level.

The launch of SVP 2021-22 will help assess the situation of water, sanitation and hand washing facilities as well as hygienic behaviour to ensure prevention of COVID transmission. The key objective is to have sustainable, child friendly, gender and divyang appropriate, climate resilient water, sanitation, hand washing facilities in schools besides adherence to hygienic as well as COVID appropriate behaviour in schools as they re-open.

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 17 of Chapter-I)

(Recommendation Serial No. 13)

Safety and Security of Girls in KGBV Residential Schools/ Hostels

The Committee observe that 4997 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya have been established under Samagra Shiksha up to 01.01.2021. KGBV are the residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL) which have been established to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups. The Committee are happy to see that KGBV residential schools have emerged, over the years, as an important strategy to enhance the enrolment of girls belonging to disadvantaged groups, arrest their high drop-out and improve educational attainment among these disadvantaged communities. However, certain reported incidents of violation of the safety and security of girl students within school/ hostel campus have constrained the Committee to underline the added responsibility of the authorities in ensuring high standards of safety and security of girls in KGBVs as the students and their parents fully trust and depend on the system being from poor and marginalized sections of the society. It is unfortunate that despite having clear policy and guidelines, the safety and security of girls in residential schools/hostels is being compromised. The Committee, therefore, recommend the following:

- (i) To the extent possible, all the teachers/staff in KGBVs should be female.
- (ii) The schools and hostels should be built in one premise with toilets and bath rooms within the hostel campus to provide more safety to girls.
- (iii) Cases of violence against girls in residential schools/hostels must be addressed properly with effective investigations, adequate punishment of perpetrators, and counseling services for victims.
- (iv) An all women committee may be constituted by the district authorities to inspect the residential schools once in every quarter or in six months to oversee the safety aspects of the girl students in the school/hostel premises and submit a written report to the District Magistrate/ District Collector. Such reports may also be made available in the public domain through the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE).

- (v) Local media may also be apprised the importance of the matter from time to time and they may also be requested to keep a check on this sensitive issue.

Reply of the Government

To the extent possible, all the teachers/staff in KGBVs should be female.

KGBV is a provision under Samagra Shiksha and it is clearly specified in the draft framework of Samara Shiksha to "Appoint only female warden, teachers and staff in the KGBVs".

The schools and hostels should be built in one premise with toilets and bath rooms within the hostel campus to provide more safety to girls.

There are four types of KGBVs under Samagra Shiksha which are as under:

- Type-I: KGBVs for classes VI to VIII sanctioned under erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- Type-II: KGBVs for classes VI to X.
- Type-III: KGBVs for classes VI to XII.
- Type-IV: Girls' Hostel for IX to XII sanctioned under erstwhile Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

KGBVs of Type-I to Type-III are schools with hostel facilities, in which both school and hostel buildings, along with the facilities of toilets and bathroom are built in one premise. Type-IV KGBVs are hostels where the facilities of toilets and bathroom in the hostel building premises.

Cases of violence against girls in residential schools/hostels must be addressed properly with effective investigations, adequate punishment of perpetrators, and counseling services for victims.

KGBV is a provision under Samagra Shiksha and the framework of Samagra Shiksha details various mandatory arrangements/ steps which States have to ensure for Safety and Security of Girls residing in KGBVs. These, inter-alia include boundary wall or closed access, provision of watchman for 24 hours, no access of residential areas to males, including family members of students, self-defence training, awareness programs for adolescent girls etc. States/UTs have developed guidelines/instructions about the non-negotiable operational aspects of the KGBVs to provide safe environment for girls so that they may pursue and complete their education in a fearless environment. This includes that School Development and Monitoring Committee/local Communities should be involved in providing Safety and Security to KGBV's Girls and strict punishment to be given for anyone found guilty in case of sexual harassment and matter may be reported immediately to higher authorities. Further, in compliance of provisions of National Education Policy, 2020, all States and UTs have been again requested to prepare/update the safety and security guidelines for girls studying in KGBVs.

In addition, DoSEL, Ministry of Education has developed Guidelines on School Safety and Security, which, inter-alia, contain provisions for fixing the accountability of the school management in the matter of safety and security of children studying in Government, Government-aided and Private Schools. These guidelines have been circulated to all States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies of DoSEL and Stakeholder Ministries and also uploaded on the website of DoSEL.

An all women committee may be constituted by the district authorities to inspect the residential schools once in every quarter or in six months to oversee the safety aspects of the girl students in the school/hostel premises and submit a written report to the District Magistrate/ District Collector. Such reports may also be made available in the public domain through the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE).

DoSEL has developed Guidelines on School Safety and Security which inter-alia has the provisions of "Periodic Safety inspection of school" under which the School/School Management shall arrange to carry out thorough inspection of the school at least once in a quarter, during school hours. The School Inspection Report prepared by this inspection team and duly signed by the team should be uploaded on the school website for transparency. This quarterly inspection of schools will look at the compliance of the School Safety and Security Plan, using the comprehensive checklist given guidelines in the guidelines, which includes points related to mechanism against harassment, sexual or verbal abuse, or discrimination of any sorts, reporting mechanisms in case of any instance of harassment, abuse or discrimination, Measures for dealing with victim, perpetrator, parents, other stakeholders, police and media in case of any untoward incident and availability of suggestion boxes/question boxes/grievance boxes or any other mechanism for students/parents to inform or communicate about any safety concerns of their children etc. Appropriate actions are to be taken by schools/school management regarding any gaps pointed out during this exercise.

In addition, there is also a provision of Safety Walk under which the School Management/SMC should designate members including Principal, teachers and parents, along with student representatives chosen randomly, as the School Safety Committee, to conduct 'Safety Walk' of the entire school premises, in order to ensure compliance of standard safety measures. 'Safety Walk' may be conducted once every quarter. The suggested composition for the School Safety Committee would be head of institution as chairperson, Student Safety Officer or Child Protection Officer, two faculty representatives of which include at-least one woman faculty representative, two parents representatives , two students representatives of which preferably where possible one girl and 1-2 alumni representatives.

Further, in the whole school safety approach of the guidelines, it has been mentioned that the prominent locations of the hostel should display the child safety posters, POSCO E-Box details and Child helpline number.

- (i) Local media may also be apprised the importance of the matter from time to time and they may also be requested to keep a check on this sensitive issue.

Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and therefore most of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Governments. Similarly, administrative matters and operationalization of KGBVs also come under the purview of concerned State Governments.

[M/o Education, O.M. F.No.6-19/2021-EE.1 dated 14.03.2022]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 20 of Chapter-I)

NEW DELHI:
02 August, 2022
Sravana 11, 1944 (Saka)

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT
Chairperson,
Committee on Empowerment of Women

ANNEXURE- I

YEAR WISE NUMBER OF PREMISES INSPECTED IN THE STATES/UTS IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS (2016-17 to 2019-20)					
S. No.	State/UT	2016-17	2017-2018	2018-19	2019-20
1	Andhra Pradesh	1349	2238	2690	2058
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5	0	2	2
3	Assam	791	683	545	481
4	Bihar	1144	1122	504	352
5	Chhattisgarh	283	653	651	621
6	Goa	171	287	506	513
7	Gujarat	1311	818	862	782
8	Haryana	2169	2010	1704	1227
9	Himachal Pradesh	843	952	1121	1031
10	Jammu & Kashmir	27	93	99	41
11	Jharkhand	134	294	364	199
12	Karnataka	1294	4214	4072	4221
13	Kerala	0	0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	1626	1067	789	355
15	Maharashtra	29641	30890	32800	30499
16	Manipur	8	28	52	40
17	Meghalaya	12	56	83	54
18	Mizoram	18	13	0	0
19	Nagaland	2	0	0	0
20	Odisha	430	358	340	280
21	Punjab	4754	5251	3525	3928
22	Rajasthan	2513	2405	2763	2298
23	Sikkim	5	3	5	0
24	Tamil Nadu	0	1043	0	798
25	Telangana	593	839	773	1801
26	Tripura	16	8	0	1
27	Uttarakhand	658	485	455	127
28	Uttar Pradesh	3488	3030	2456	2043
29	West Bengal	2757	2436	3037	3308
30	A & N. Island	3	6	1	3
31	Chandigarh	110	152	123	131
32	D. & N. Haveli	2	8	24	11
33	Daman & Diu	9	0	0	0
34	Delhi	1050	1682	1217	346
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	9	0
36	Puducherry	0	12	43	26
	Total	57216	63136	61615	57577

No. V.11011/7/2013-PNDT
Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
PNDT Division

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 15th June 2017

To

Principal Secretary Health
All States/ UTs

Subject: Decisions taken in 25th meeting of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) held on 5th January 2017, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare-reg.

Sir/Madam


The undersigned is directed to forward herewith the minutes of the 25th meeting of the Central Supervisory Board (constituted under the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC&PNDT Act, 1994) on 5th January 2017, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble HFM.

The Central Supervisory Board (CSB), in its 25th meeting held on 5th January 2017, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare has made following recommendation:-

*All States/ UTs may register the manufacture, importer, dealer and supplier of ultrasound machines / imaging machines or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus at the state level for better monitoring of sale of ultrasound machines to the registered facilities under PC&PNDT Act besides keeping a check on the unauthorised/unregulated ultrasound machines sold and being used in the State/ UTs without any information to the concerned District Appropriate Authorities. The state may ensure that the manufacturer, importer, dealer and supplier are complying with the **Section 3 B and Rule 3 under PC&PNDT Act.***

This system would be interim arrangement, till ultrasound machines/ imaging machines or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus is notified and regulated under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017

In view of the above recommendation, it is requested to take further necessary steps in this regard


(Ajay Kumar)
Under-Secretary to Government of India
Tel: 23061883

Copy to: All State Appropriate Authorities

ANNEXURE- III

AnnexureIII-STATE/ UT WISE AVAILABILITY OF REDRESSAL MECHANISMS FOR PC&PNDT RELATED COMPLAINTS			
S. No.	States/ UTs	Online complaint Portal	Toll Free Number/ Email
1	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	Toll Free & E-mail
2	Arunachal Pradesh	No	No
3	Assam	Yes	Toll Free
4	Bihar	Yes	No
5	Chhattisgarh	Yes	Toll Free
6	Goa	No	Email ID
7	Gujarat	<u>Yes</u>	Toll Free
8	Haryana	Yes	Toll Free
9	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	Toll Free
10	Jammu & Kashmir	Yes	Toll Free
11	Jharkhand	Yes	No
12	Karnataka	Yes	No
13	Kerala	Yes	Toll Free
14	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	Toll Free
15	Maharashtra	Yes	Toll Free
16	Manipur	No	No
17	Meghalaya	No	No
18	Mizoram	No	No
19	Nagaland	No	No
20	Odisha	Yes	Toll Free
21	Punjab	Yes	Toll Free
22	Rajasthan	Yes	Toll Free
23	Sikkim	No	No
24	Telangana	Yes	Toll Free
25	Tamil Nadu	No	Toll Free & Email
26	Tripura	No	No
27	Uttarakhand	Yes	No
28	Uttar Pradesh	Yes	No
29	West Bengal	Yes	E-mail
30	A & N. Island	No	No
31	Chandigarh	No	No
32	D. & N. H and D & Diu	Yes	Toll Free
33	Delhi	<u>Yes</u>	No
34	Ladakh	No	No
35	Lakshadweep	No	No
36	Puducherry	In process	

ANNEXURE- IV (a)

YEAR WISE CASE FILED BY THE DISTRICT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN LAST 4 YEARS IN THE STATES/ UTS (2017-18 to 2020-21)					
S. No.	States/ UTs	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	3	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	1	1
4	Bihar	2	1	7	8
5	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	6	46	20	7
8	Haryana	56	59	15	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	6	2	5	2
12	Karnataka	0	1	3	1
13	Kerala	0	0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	2	4
15	Maharashtra	7	9	8	4
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20	Odisha	2	1	4	2
21	Punjab	11	15	11	14
22	Rajasthan	34	53	10	11
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	8	14	9	4
25	Telangana	5	8	7	4
26	Tripura	0	0	0	0
27	Uttarakhand	9	4	7	2
28	Uttar Pradesh	39	22	33	16
29	West Bengal	0	1	0	2
30	A & N. Island	0	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
32	D. & N. H and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	11	10	12	3
34	Ladakh	NA	NA	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		189	252	155	108

ANNEXURE- IV (b)

STATE/ UT WISE DETAILS OF CASES FILED AND CONVICTION SECURED- UPTO DEC 2021					
S. No.	State/ UT	Total cases Filed	Ongoing Cases/ pending cases	Decided / Closed cases	Convictions Secured
1	Andhra Pradesh	19	4	15	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	16	7	9	2
4	Bihar	216	145	71	6
5	Chhattisgarh	14	6	8	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	307	169	138	31
8	Haryana	393	207	186	95
9	Himachal Pradesh	11	6	5	1
10	Jammu & Kashmir	5	3	2	1
11	Jharkhand	35	24	11	2
12	Karnataka	89	48	41	38
13	Kerala	0	0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	52	39	13	4
15	Maharashtra	608	173	435	112
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20	Odisha	72	55	17	6
21	Punjab	170	66	104	33
22	Rajasthan	760	362	398	155
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	149	27	122	109
25	Telangana	65	35	30	4
26	Tripura	1	1	0	0
27	Uttarakhand	48	32	16	4
28	Uttar Pradesh	316	257	59	20
29	West Bengal	16	15	1	1
30	A & N. Island	0	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	4	0	4	0
32	D. &N. H and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	89	57	32	11
34	Ladakh	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
	Total	3455	1738	1718	636

884689/2021/IS-11 Section

File No.10-1/2021-IS-11

143

F. No. 10-1/2021-IS-11
 Government of India
 Ministry of Education
 Department of School Education and Literacy
 IS-11 Section

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 31st May, 2021

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary,
 Department of Education,
 All States and UTs

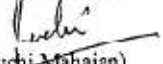
Subject:- To cover all girls as well as kids belonging to transgender communities in School Education-reg.

Sir/Madam,

As you are already aware, despite concerted efforts by the Centre and the State Governments, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the education of students all over the country. It has also caused students, especially those belonging to the vulnerable categories, to drop out of schools. Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of Samagra Shiksha. However, still there are girls and children belonging to transgender communities who don't have access to School or face difficulties in completing their School Education.

2. In view of above, it is requested that necessary directions may be issued to the concerned authorities to proactively track girls as well as kids belonging to transgender communities who are not enrolled in schools or have dropped-out of school without completing their School Education and get them admitted in age-appropriate classes in schools in a mission mode.

Yours faithfully,


 (Ruchi Mahajan)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Copy to:

The State Project Director, Department of Education, All States and UTs.

File No.10-1/2021-IS-11

F. No. 10-1/2021-IS-11
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of School Education and Literacy
(IS-11 Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 11th January, 2022

To,
The Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary,
Department of Education,
All States and UTs.

Subject: To cover all girls as well as kids belonging to transgender communities in School Education-reg.

Madam/Sir,

Please refer to this Department's letter of even no. dated 31.05.2021 (copy enclosed) on the subject mentioned above, vide which it was requested to issue necessary directions to the concerned authorities to proactively track girls as well as kids belonging to transgender communities, who are not enrolled in schools or have dropped-out of school without completing their School Education and get them admitted in age-appropriate classes in schools in a mission mode.

2. It is requested to furnish the action taken report along with the outcomes of the same at the earliest. Further, specific measures planned /implemented to retain, re-enrol and track the attendance of girls in schools, if any, may also be shared with this Department.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: As above.

Signed by Ruchi Mahajan

Date: 11-01-2022 14:00:56
(Ruchi Mahajan)

Under Secretary to Govt. of India
Reason Approved
Email Id: us-is11.edu@gov.in

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

The Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' was launched in May, 2008 with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme.

The scheme was approved for continuation for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Education and Hon'ble Finance Minister after appraisal by EFC. As per the latest provision under the scheme the scholarship amount is enhanced from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 12000/- per year with effect from 1st April, 2017.

Eligibility criteria:

Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,50,000/- per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships. The students must have minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test for award of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students). The students should be studying as regular students in Government, Government-aided and local body schools. Students of NVS, KVS and residential schools are not entitled for the scholarships. There is reservation as per State Government norms.

Selection of fresh Awardee Students:

Each State/UT conducts its own test for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship. The test is conducted at stage of class-VIII. The students, who fulfill the eligibility criteria, must pass both the tests, i.e., Mental Ability Test (MAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) under NMMSS exam with at least 40 % marks in aggregate taken together for these two tests. For the SC/ST students, this cut off is 32% marks.

Selection of Renewal Awardee Students:

The awardees should get minimum of 55% marks in Class IX and XI, while a minimum of 60% in Class X for continuance of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST candidates).

Disbursement of Scholarships:

The scheme is fully on boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) from 2018-19. The State Governments / UT Administrations send the proposals/ list of eligible beneficiaries to the Ministry. The Ministry scrutinizes the proposal and sanction funds from Annual Budget Provision for releasing them to SBI, the implementing bank for scheme for disbursement of scholarships to students directly into their bank accounts by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

The scheme has been approved by Cabinet for further continuation from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 with total allocation of Rs.1827 crores with modifications in following criteria:

- Raising income ceiling.
- Spreading awareness/advertisement of the scheme through print and electronic media including social media at National level from 2021-22 onwards, so that scheme may benefit more eligible beneficiaries.
- Revising renewal criteria under the scheme.
- Revising the allotted quota of States/UTs.

Annexure- VIII

PGI score with grades for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20.

State/ UT	2018-19		2019-20	
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	678	IV	901	I++
Andhra Pradesh	725	III	811	I
Arunachal Pradesh	570	VI	698	IV
Assam	710	III	738	III
Bihar	689	IV	747	III
Chandigarh	896	I+	912	I++
Chhattisgarh	732	III	700	IV
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	784	II	867	I+
Daman and Diu	738	III	816	I
Delhi	829	I	898	I+
Goa	782	II	783	II
Gujarat	870	I+	884	I+
Haryana	783	II	862	I+
Himachal Pradesh	799	II	839	I
Jammu and Kashmir	703	III	763	II
Ladakh	-	III	545	VII
Jharkhand	761	II	790	II
Karnataka	755	II	813	I
Kerala	862	I+	901	I++
Lakshadweep	688	IV	754	II
Madhya Pradesh	775	II	748	III
Maharashtra	802	I	869	I+
Manipur	642	V	767	II
Meghalaya	610	V	649	V
Mizoram	692	IV	723	III
Nagaland	621	V	667	IV
Odisha	749	III	838	I
Puducherry	786	II	889	I+
Punjab	769	II	929	I++
Rajasthan	767	II	859	I+
Sikkim	751	II	772	II
Tamil Nadu	791	II	906	I++
Telangana	757	II	772	II
Tripura	727	III	801	I
Uttar Pradesh	708	III	804	I
Uttarakhand	712	III	752	II
West Bengal	746	III	834	I

Details of various meetings held for monitoring and review of Scheme at National Level in last 5 years

S No.	Meeting	Held on	Chairperson
1.	3 rd National Task Force Meeting	24.10.2017	Secretary, MWCD
2.	4 th National Task Force Meeting	20.11.2018	Secretary, MWCD
3.	Review cum training meeting with State/UT Government officials of 15 States/UTs with district functionaries of those districts which are selected for Multi Sectoral Intervention under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme at NIPCCD center, Delhi	05.10.2018	Joint secretary, MWCD
4.	Orientation cum review meeting with officials of State Govt., Haryana and District officials of the State under BBBP scheme	12.09.2018	Joint Secretary, MWCD
5.	Review cum training programme under BBBP with Officials of State of Uttar Pradesh to be organized at NIPCCD Regional Centre, Lucknow	20.09.2018	Joint Secretary, MWCD
6.	National Workshop with all new selected Districts	04.05.2018	Secretary, MWCD
7.	In person Review cum training programme with Districts officials at State/UT	F.Y. 2018-19	Divisional Head
8.	5 th National Task Force Meeting	24.11.2019	Secretary, MWCD
9.	6 th National Task Force Meeting	27.07.2020	Secretary, MWCD
10.	7 th National Task Force Meeting	31.12.2020	Secretary, MWCD
11.	Review Meeting with all State/UT	F.Y. 2020-21	Hon'ble Minister, MWCD
12.	Review meeting with all State and UT for progress of scheme	15.11.2021	Secretary, MWCD
13.	Review meeting under BBBP with all districts implementing BBBP scheme	F.Y. 2021-22	Joint Secretary, MWCD
14.	8 th National Task Force Meeting	16.02.2022	Secretary, MWCD

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2021-22)

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, THE 26th JULY, 2022

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1605 hrs. in Committee Room 'C',
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit - *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Locket Chatterjee
3. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
4. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
5. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
6. Smt. Jaskaur Meena
7. Smt. Queen Oja
8. Smt. Riti Pathak
9. Smt. Navnit Ravi Rana
10. Smt. Satabdi Roy
11. Smt. Gomati Sai
12. Smt. Sarmistha Sethi

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
14. Dr. Fauzia Khan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma - Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee thereafter took up for consideration the Draft Action Taken Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Empowerment of Women through Education with Special Reference to Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao Scheme'. After discussing the Draft Report in detail, the Committee adopted the Draft Report without any modification.

3. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Draft Report and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

4. *****

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX - II

[Vide Para No. 4 of the Introduction]

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2021-2022) (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON "EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BETI BACHAO – BETI PADHAO SCHEME"

(i)	Total No. of Recommendations:	13
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: Recommendation Para Nos.: 3,4,5,7,8,9,10 & 11 Percentage	08 62%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: Recommendation Para No.:	Nil
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee which require reiteration: Recommendation Para No.:	Nil
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in which the Government have furnished interim replies: Recommendation Para Nos.: 1,2,6,12 & 13 Percentage	05 38%