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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2023-24)**

FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2023/Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.3.2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.3.2023



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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Deepak (Dev) Adhikari
3. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
4. Shri Bholanath (B.P. Saroj)
5. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
6. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
7. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Vijay Kumar
14. Shri Akshaibar Lal
15. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
16. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
17. Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule
18. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
19. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
20. Shri Devendrappa Y.
21. Shri Tokheho Yepthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
26. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
27. Shri Naryana Koragappa
28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri Ramji
30. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
31. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita Bhatt Panda Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ved Prakash Nauriyal Joint Secretary
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal Director
4. Shri Krishendra Kumar Deputy Secretary
5. Shri Haokip kakai Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Forty-Seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2023-24' pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 10th February, 2023. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Minority Affairs on 17th February, 2023. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 22nd March, 2023.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Minority Affairs) for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2023-24).

4. For ease of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

New Delhi
22nd March, 2023
1 Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)

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

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTORY

The Ministry of Minority Affairs was carved out of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in January, 2006 to ensure a more focused approach towards issues relating to the six notified minority communities namely, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims which constitute around 20% of India's population. The mandate of the Ministry includes formulation of overall policy and planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory and development programmes for the benefit of the minority community. The vision of the Ministry is to create an enabling environment for strengthening the multi-facial, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-religious character of the nation. The mission of the ministry is to improve the socio-economic condition of the minority communities through an affirmative action and inclusive development so that every citizen has equal opportunity and to participate accordingly in building a dynamic nation, to facilitate equitable share for minority communities in education, employment, economic activities and to ensure their upliftment. The mandate of the Ministry has been expanded to manage Haj Pilgrimage since October 2016 and Haj Committee Act, 2002.

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

Name of Community	Population (in Lakh)	%age of Minorities to Total Population	Inter-state %age Minorities
Muslims	1722.45	14.23	73.65
Christians	278.20	2.30	11.89
Sikhs	208.33	1.72	8.90
Buddhists	84.43	0.70	3.61
Jains	44.52	0.37	1.90
Parsis	0.57	0.004	0.02
Total	2338.50	19.28	-

1.3 The following are the ongoing Schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs:-

I. Educational Empowerment:

- (i) Pre-matric scholarship Scheme

- (ii) Post-matric scholarship Scheme
- (iii) Merit-cum-means based scholarship Scheme
- (iv) Scheme for education of Madaras and Minorities (SPEMM) (This scheme has been transferred from Department of School Education and Literacy from 1.04.2021.

II. Economic Empowerment

Equity Contribution to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

III. Special Initiatives for Empowerment

- (i) Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community
- (ii) Research/studies, monitoring and evaluation of development scheme including publicity

IV. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

Five schemes from economic empowerment and special initiatives of the Ministry have been converged into an integrated scheme viz. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) from the Financial Year 2022-23. However, the Scheme is yet to be rolled out. No new allocation has been made in these five schemes and currently there are no ongoing trainings in the same. These Schemes are:

- (i) Seekho aur Kamao
- (ii) USTTAD
- (iii) Hamari Dharohar
- (iv) Nai Manzil
- (v) Nai Roshni

V. Area Development Programme

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(PMJVK)

VI. Schemes discontinued from 2022-23

- (i) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority students
- (ii) Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas students
- (iii) Free coaching Schemes

1.4 The Ministry of Minority Affairs supports the Autonomous/Subordinate Institutions.

- (i) National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
- (ii) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM)
- (iii) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

- (iv) Central Waqf Council (CWC)
- (v) Durgah Khawaja Saheb, Ajmer
- (vi) Haj Committee of India (HCOI)
- (vii) National Waqf Development Corporation (NAWADCO)
- (vii) Haj Committee of India

CHAPTER II

BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2023-24 are given under Demand No.33. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid in Parliament on 10th February, 2023. As per the Demands for Grants, the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been provided ₹3,097.00 crore for the implementation of various Schemes of the Ministry. The scheme-wise details of plan outlays and expenditure during the last 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 and Budgetary Estimates for 2023-24:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/Program.	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			BE 2023-24
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	BE	RE	Actual Exp. 31.12.22)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Contribution to equity of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	160.00	110.00	110.00	153.00	100.00	100.00	159.00	159.00	159.00	61.00
2.	Grants-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation.	82.00	80.00	70.92	90.00	76.00	76.00	0.01	0.01	00	0.10
3	Research /studies, monitoring & evaluation of development schemes for Minorities including publicity	50.00	35.00	11.92	41.00	41.00	15.18	41.00	25.00	0.00	20.00
4	Merit cum means Scholarship	400.00	400.00	396.34	325.00	325.00	345.77	365.00	358.02	34.87	44.00
5	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for minorities	50.00	25.00	18.44	79.00	79.00	37.15	79.00	29.97	11.81	30.00
6	Grants in aid to state Channelizing Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme.	2.00	1.00	0.97	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	3.00
7	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(Earlier MsDP)	1600.00	971.38	1091.94	1390.00	1199.55	1266.87	1650.00	500.00	135.43	600.00
8	Pre-matric scholarship	1330.00	1330.00	1325.54	1378.00	1378.00	1350.99	1425.00	556.82	44.04	433.00
9	Post matric scholarship	535.00	535.00	512.81	468.00	468.00	411.87	515.00	515.00	29.04	1065.00
10	Secretariat	25.00	26.00	23.72	28.00	26.90	25.60	30.61	30.61	18.11	35.00
11	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	175.00	100.00	73.50	99.00	99.00	74.00	99.00	99.00	51.61	96.00
12	Qaumi Waqf Boards taraqquti Scheme.	18.00	9.00	0.10	14.00	10.00	6.72	10.00	10.00	5.10	10.00
13	Sahari Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana(Earlier GIA to Waqf)	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	7.00
14	Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women.	10.00	6.00	6.00	8.00	2.50	2.99	2.50	2.00	0.25	2.50
15	Interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities.	30.00	22.00	20.19	24.00	24.00	22.15	24.00	24.00	7.01	21.00

16	Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community.	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	10.00	5.00	1.81	6.00
17	Skill Development Initiative	250	190.00	190.03	276.00	250.00	268.48	235.41	100.00	28.92	0.10
18	Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Services Commissions etc.	10.00	8.00	4.15	8.00	8.00	7.97	8.00	1.68	0.04	0.00
19	Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts /Crafts for Development (USTTAD)	60.00	60.00	56.74	60.00	60.00	76.68	47.00	47.00	10.61	47.00
20	Hamari Dharohar	3.00	5.20	4.55	2.00	2.00	1.66	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.10
21	Nai Manzil	120.00	60.00	59.84	87.00	47.00	48.86	46.00	20.00	7.08	0.10
22	National Commission for Minorities	11.00	9.29	7.10	12.00	9.92	7.61	12.70	12.70	9.53	15.00
23.	Special officer for Linguistic Minorities	3.00	2.13	1.84	2.77	2.19	2.06	2.85	2.85	1.69	4.00
24	Haj Management	98.00	13.00	4.93	98.00	12.04	7.10	89.42	75.00	54.91	97.00
25	Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities(Transferred from Deptt. of Education and school Literacy)	-	-	-	174.00	174.00	161.53	160.00	30.00	0.06	10.00
26.	Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan(PM VIKAS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	540.00
	Total	5029.00	4005.00	3998.57	4810.77	4346.45	4325.24	5020.50	2612.66	610.92	3097.60

2.2 The above statement reveals that the Ministry of Minority Affairs spent ₹3,998.57 crore out of the Budgetary Estimate of ₹5,029.10 crore and ₹4,325.24 crore out of ₹4,810.77 crore in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. The actual expenditure of ₹668.42 crore could be incurred by 13 February, 2023 out of ₹5,020.50 crore in 2022-23. On being enquired about the reasons due to which the Ministry have been able to spend only 23% of the Revised Estimate during the year 2022-23 and how do the Ministry proposes to spend the remaining 76.62% in the last quarter, the Ministry submitted in their written reply that:-

“Major reasons for less expenditure of the Ministry during FY 2022-23 are:

(i)Adoption of new mechanism for release of Central share of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes, for which State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNA) were required to be appointed. Moreover, there was an unspent balance of ₹2,700 crore (approx.) in the SNA of PMJVK which had to be reconciled with the respective State/UT

Governments and spent, before release of any further fresh funds by the Central Government.

(ii) Scholarship schemes of the Ministry were to be aligned with the pattern followed by the Education Ministry and other ministries such as Tribal Affairs and Social Justice, and the EFC for Scholarship schemes was pending on this accord.

(iii) These two flagship schemes of the Ministry –Scholarship Scheme and PMJVK Scheme together account for nearly 80% of the Ministry's budget.

(iv) Central Government has taken the decision to limit the coverage under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities to only Classes IX and X based on very strong rationale. Firstly, it has been observed that the participation of students from Minority communities is at par with the national average at primary and elementary level. Also, the students at these levels are already covered under Right to Education (RTE) Act. Further, there was a felt need to harmonize the coverage under Pre-Matric Scheme for minorities with similar schemes implemented for other target groups like Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes and the OBCs.

(v) Budgetary allocation under Skilling scheme reduced from ₹235 Crore to ₹100 Crore during the CFY due to intensive scrutiny of PIAs, shift of mode of funding from advance payment to reimbursement and appointment of CNAs.

Scholarship schemes account for about 55% of the total RE of the Ministry. Annual Scholarship Cycle is such that the payments take place in the last quarter of the Financial Year. Projects received under PMJVK scheme are being scrutinized for consideration and approval of competent authority. "

2.3 It is pertinent to quote a revised procedure, referred to by the Ministry during their oral evidence before the Committee for release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) implemented by the Ministry and monitoring utilization of the funds released, as per the PFMS Division, Department of Expenditure Circular dated 23.3.2021 and further modification dated 16.2.2023, which *inter-alia* include the following:-

"The General Financial Rule 232(v) prescribes the release of funds to the State Governments and monitoring utilization of funds through PFMS. For better monitoring of availability and utilization of funds released to the States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and to reduce float, the Department of Expenditure *vide* letter of even number dated 16.12.2020 had shared a draft modified procedure for release of funds under CSS with all the State governments and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India to seek their comments. The comments received from the State Governments and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India were considered and the procedure has been suitably modified.

With a view to have more effective cash management and bring more efficiency in the public expenditure management, it has been decided that the following procedure will be followed by all the State Governments and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India regarding release and monitoring utilization of funds under CSS with effect from 1st July, 2021:-

(a) Every State Government will designate a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) for implementing each CSS. The SNA will open a Single Nodal Account for each CSS at the State level in a Scheduled Commercial Bank authorized to conduct Government business by the State Government.

(b) In case of Umbrella schemes which have multiple sub-schemes, if needed, the State Governments may designate separate SNAs for sub-schemes of the Umbrella Scheme with separate Single Nodal Accounts.

(c) Implementing Agencies (IAs) down the ladder should use the SNA's account with clearly defined drawing limits set for that account. However, depending on operational requirements, zero-balance subsidiary accounts for each scheme may also be opened for the IAs either in the same branch of the selected bank or in different branches.

(d) All zero balance subsidiary accounts will have allocated drawing limits to be decided by the SNA concerned from time to time and will draw on real time basis from the Single Nodal Account of the scheme as and when payments are to be made to beneficiaries, vendors etc. The available drawing limit will get reduced by the extent of utilization.

(e) The Ministries/ Departments will release the central share for each CSS to the State Government's Account held in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for further release to the SNA's Account.

(f) After opening of Single Nodal Account of the scheme and before opening zero balance subsidiary account of IAs or assigning them drawing rights from SNA's account, the IAs at all levels shall return all unspent amounts lying in their accounts to the Single Nodal Account of the SNA. It will be the responsibility of the State government concerned to ensure that the entire unspent amount is returned by all the IAs to the Single Nodal Account of the SNA concerned. For this, the State Governments will work out the modalities and the timelines and will work out Central and state share in the amount so available with IAs.

(g) Ministries/ Departments will ensure that releases under all CSS are made strictly as per the actual requirement on the ground, without resulting in any material float with the implementing agencies at any level.

(h) The State Government will transfer the Central share received in its account in the RBI to the concerned SNA's account within a period of 21 days of its receipt. The Central share shall not be diverted to the Personal Deposit (PD) account or any other account by the State Government. Corresponding State share should be released as early as possible and not later than 40 days of release of the Central share. The funds will be maintained by the SNA in the Single Nodal Account of each CSS. State Governments/SNAs/IAs shall not transfer scheme-related funds to any other bank account, except for actual payments under the Scheme.

(i) State Governments will register the SNAs and all IAs on PFMS and use the unique PFMS ID assigned to the SNA and IAs for all payments to them. Bank accounts of the SNAs, IAs vendors and other organizations receiving funds will also be mapped in PFMS.

(j) Ministries/Departments shall undertake monthly review of the release of funds (both the Central and State Share) from the State treasury to the SNA, utilization of funds by SNAs and IAs and outputs/outcomes *vis-à-vis* the targets for each CSS.

In partial modification of the aforesaid provision in the guidelines, the Committee observed, it has been decided by the competent authority that the State Government shall transfer the Central share as well as the commensurate State share to the SNA account within 30 days of receipt of Central share

Further, it has been decided to charge interest *w.e.f.* 01.04.2023 on the number of days of delay beyond 30 days in transfer of Central share to the SNA account at the rate of 7% per annum. PFMS division, O/o CGA will issue guidelines regarding procedure for deposit of penal interest by the State Government concerned in the Consolidated Fund of India".

2.4 On being enquired about the reasons for change in the system of disbursement of funds to the States, the representatives of the Ministry stated during the deliberations of the Committee that:-

"भारत सरकार में वित्त मंत्रालय की सोच थी कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स बहुत एफिशिएंटली अपने फंड्स यूज़ नहीं कर रही है। हम अपनी स्कीम्स से पैस देते जा रहे हैं, लेकिन उनकी एकाउंटिंग में थोड़ा प्रॉब्लम है। उनका भी ऑनलाइन सिस्टम है और हमारा भी ऑनलाइन है, तो पिछले दो साल रीकंसिलिएशन बहुत ज्यादा चल रहा है कि लोग जस्ट इन-टाइम रिलीज़ करें। हमारा जो पैसा पड़ा हुआ है, प्रोजेक्टवाइस आप उसका कम से कम ७५ प्रतिशत खर्च कर ले, तभी हम दोबारा उसकी पूर्ति करेंगे। इसी फ़िलॉसफ़ी से अब वित्त मंत्रालय चल रहा है। इससे सभी मंत्रालयों में आपको यह दिक्कत सुनने में आएगी कि कुछ स्कीम्स के लिए एक सेंट्रल नोडल एजेंसी बननी है और जहाँ स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के साथ हमारी टाईअप है,

जहाँ पैसा शेयरिंग होती है - 60 प्रतिशत हमारा और 40 प्रतिशत उनका होता है, वहाँ यह दिक्कत सुनने में आएगी।”

2.5 When asked about the allocation of ₹3,097.60 crore by the Ministry of Finance for the year 2023-24 against the projection of ₹6,234.00 crore is sufficient to implement the schemes of the Ministry, the Ministry submitted in their written reply that:-

“An amount of ₹3,097.60 crore allocated for the FY 2023-24 will not significantly influence the ongoing schemes of the Ministry. Once, the pace of expenditure is adequate, Ministry will seek higher funds at supplementary stage”.

2.6 In this connection, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs during the course of evidence submitted the following:-

“.....वित्त विभाग का एक नया सिस्टम आया है, जिसे सीएनए और एसएनए बोलते हैं। इसके तहत हम एक स्कीम का उदाहरण लेते हैं। हमारे बजट में जो 80 प्रतिशत बजट है, वह दो स्कीम्स पर आधारित है। एक स्कॉलरशिप है और हमने स्कॉलरशिप पर काफी विस्तृत चर्चा की है। इसके अलावा एक पीएमजेवीके है। पीएमजेवीके एक सेन्ट्रली स्पॉन्सर्ड स्कीम है। इस में 60:40 का रेश्यो होता है। अब वित्त विभाग का जो नया रूल आया है, चूँकि पहले यह होता था कि भारत सरकार का बहुत सारा पैसा राज्यों को जाता था और राज्य सरकार भारत सरकार का पैसा या तो बैंक में डाल देती थी या इम्प्लीमेंटिंग एजेंसीज़ को दे देती थी या ट्रेसरी में रख देती थी और उस को अपने हिसाब से खर्च करती थी। भारत सरकार चाहती थी कि जो पैसा हम इनको दें, उसमें हम जस्ट इन टाइम का मैथड अपनाए। उसके तहत जो एग्जिस्टिंग पैसा राज्यों में है, आज की डेट में मैं आप को बताना चाहूंगा कि लगभग 2500 करोड़ रुपये हमारे एसएनए अकाउंट्स में है, जोकि स्टेट्स में है। यह हर रोज बदलता रहता है। हमें ऑनलाइन डेटा मिलता रहता है। डिपेंडिंग ऑन डिस्बर्समेंट, इसके अलावा एक और बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट पहलू है। बहुत से स्टेट्स अपना शेयर नहीं देते हैं। अगर 60:40 का रेश्यो है तो 60 परसेंट तो उन्होंने ले लिया, लेकिन वे अपना 40 परसेंट का रेश्यो नहीं देते हैं। भारत सरकार का इंस्ट्रक्शन है कि आप पहले अपने एंटायर स्टेट शेयर को एसएनए अकाउंट में डालिए, तब हम आपको आगे पैसा देंगे।”

2.7 When asked how much the Ministry expect to spend from the remaining fund in the time left with them in 2022-23, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs stated that:-

“हमारा 90 % तक खर्च का अनुमान है और उसको नोट भी किया जा सकता है। 90 % RE हम खर्च कर लेंगे।”

2.8 On being asked about the steps taken by the Ministry so that the funds remaining with States are spent, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted during the course of evidence that:-

“लगभग दो महीने के लिए हमने सभी राज्यों के साथ वीसीज की हैं, सभी वीसीज की राज्यवार प्रोसिडिंग्स हमारे पास है , जिसे हम समिति से शेयर कर लेंगे. मैंने व्यक्तिगत रूप से चार राज्यों - झारखण्ड, आंध्र प्रदेश, हरियाणा और महाराष्ट्र का दौरा किया हाउ और मैंने फील्ड में जाकर योजनाएं देखी हैं।” “लगभग दो महीने के लिए हमने सभी राज्यों के साथ वीसीज की हैं, सभी वीसीज की राज्यवार प्रोसिडिंग्स हमारे पास है , जिसे हम समिति से शेयर कर लेंगे. मैंने व्यक्तिगत रूप से चार राज्यों - झारखण्ड, आंध्र प्रदेश, हरियाणा और महाराष्ट्र का दौरा किया हाउ और मैंने फील्ड में जाकर योजनाएं देखी हैं।”

2.9 When asked what policy changes are likely to be introduced in 2023-24 for the effective implementation of the various Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Seekho aur Kamao, Upgrading Skills and Trailing in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD), Hamari Dharohar, Nai Manzil and Nai Roshni schemes have been converged as components under the integrated Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS). The new scheme is yet to be rolled out. Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Scheme (BHMNS) has been subsumed under Pre-matric & Post-Matric Scholarship schemes of the Ministry”.

2.10 When enquired whether certain Schemes and Programmes have been discontinued in the previous year and likely to be discontinued in 2023-24, the Ministry, in a written reply *inter-alia* submitted the following:-

“From FY 2022-23, Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF), Padho Pardesh, Naya Savera, Nai Udaan schemes and Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme for students of Class I to VIII have been discontinued.”

2.11 **The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had spent ₹3,998.57 crore in 2020-21 and ₹4,325.24 in 2021-22, however, they have been able to spend just ₹668.42 crore in 2022-23 by 13th February, 2023. The Committee understand that the reason for low expenditure in 2022-23 is an unspent balance of ₹2,700 crore with several States/UT Governments in the Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)’. Since the funds could not further be released to these States/UTs under the newly adopted Single Nodal Agency(SNA) system in PFMS unless the unspent balance lying with the State/UT Governments is spent and reconciled by them, it resulted in overall low expenditure for PMJVK. The Committee also find that due to intensive scrutiny of Project Implementing Agencies, the budgetary allocation made under Skilling Scheme has been reduced to ₹100.00 crore from ₹235.00 crore. Another reason given by the Ministry was that 100% expenditure could not be incurred in the Scholarship Scheme since a major part of such funds are spent in the last quarter of an year. The Ministry have, however, committed to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate, by the end of Financial Year 2022-23, which, the Committee are hopeful of. As regards the Budgetary Estimate for 2023-24, the Committee observe that it has been reduced to ₹3,097.00 crore in comparison to the Budgetary Estimate of ₹5,029.00 crore in 2020-21, ₹4,810.77**

crore in 2021-22 and ₹5,020.50 crore in 2022-23. They have been informed that in case of expenditure more than allocation, the Ministry of Minority Affairs will seek higher funds in 2023-24 at RE stage. The Committee hope that the Ministry will be able to effectively utilize the funds allocated under various Schemes with the adoption of the new mechanism of SNA system, once the teething troubles are over, as it will increase accountability of States/UTs Governments and ensure financial propriety as well as prudence. They, therefore, recommend that necessary action and guidance may be continued by the Ministry so that SNAs are established by the States/UTs Governments at the earliest and the aims and objectives of the Schemes for empowerment of minority communities are achieved. The Committee trust that the Ministry will not leave any stone unturned to fulfill their commitment given before them to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate in 2022-23. They would also like the Ministry to take adequate steps timely in implementing all the Schemes so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 too are prudently utilized.

CHAPTER III

SCHOLARSHIP

The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing the following three Scholarship Schemes for educational empowerment of students belonging to the six notified minority communities:-

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme;
- (ii) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme; and
- (iii) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme

3.2 To improve transparency in the implementation of the Scholarship Schemes, a new and revamped version of the National Scholarship Portal (NSP-2.0) has been launched by the Government during 2016-17 for various Ministries of Government of India including Ministry of Minority Affairs. All the above Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry are implemented through this Portal. The Scholarships are transferred in to the Bank account of the students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

3.3 The Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for students of the Minority Communities was approved in January, 2008. The students studying in India in a government/ recognised private school, in class I to X, who secure 50% marks in the previous final examination and whose parents'/ guardians' annual income does not exceed ₹1.00 lakh, are eligible for award of the Pre-Matric scholarship under the scheme. Since 2022-23 the scheme would provide benefits to students of classes IX-X. 30 lakh fresh Scholarships are awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students. Scholarships ranging from ₹1,000/- to ₹10,700/- is awarded to every selected student. ₹1,350.99 crore were released and 57.11 lakh scholarships awarded for the year 2021-22 and ₹44.04 crore have been released during 2022-23 till 31.12.2022.

POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

3.4 The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme was launched in November, 2007. Post Matric Scholarship is awarded for studies in a Government/ recognised private higher secondary schools/colleges/Universities including residential higher secondary schools/colleges of India. Scholarships ranging from ₹2,300/- to ₹15,000 is awarded to every selected student. Students securing at least 50% marks in the previous year's final examination and whose parents'/ guardians' annual income does not exceed ₹2.00 lakh are eligible for award of scholarship under the scheme. 5 lakh Fresh scholarships were awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30% of scholarships have been earmarked for girl students. ₹411.87 crore were released and 7.20 lakh scholarships awarded for the year 2021-22 and ₹29.04 crore have been released during 2022-23 till 31.12.2022.

MERIT-CUM-MEANS BASED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

3.5 The Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme awards scholarships to the eligible students pursuing professional and technical courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels, in institutions recognized by the appropriate authority. Under the scheme, 60,000 fresh scholarships were awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30% of these scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

3.6 The Budgetary allocation/targets including achievements under the abovementioned Schemes for the year 2022-23 along with the Budgetary Estimate and targets for the year 2023-24 is as follows:-

Schemes	2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				2023-24		
	BE	RE	AE	Target /achievement	BE	RE	AE	Target /achievement	BE	RE	AE	Target /achievement	BE	Target	Budgetary Proposal
1. Pre-matric Scholarship	1330.00	1330.00	1325.54	30 lakh + renewal /52.40 lakh	1378.00	1378.00	1350.99	30 lakh + renewal /57.11 lakh	1425.00	556.82	44.04	5.60lakh (fresh)+Renewal /yet to be awarded	433.00	5.60 lakh (fresh + renewal)	1700.00
2. Post-matric scholarship	535.00	535.00	512.81	5 lakh / 6.63 lakh	468.00	468.00	411.87	5 lakh / 7.2 lakh	515.00	515.00	29.04	6.50 lakh /yet to be awarded	1065.00	6.5 lakh (fresh) + renewal)	570.00
3. Merit cum-means scholarship	400.00	400.00	396.34	0.60 lakh + renewal /1.20 lakh	325.00	325.00	345.77	0.60 lakh +renewal / 1.32 lakh	365.00	358.02	34.87	750 renewal / proposals are underway	44.00	750 renewal	425.00

3.7 The information provided by the Ministry of Minority Affairs reveals that during 2007-08 to 2021-22, the number of beneficiary under each minority community for the Pre-matric, Post-matric and the Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Schemes is as follows:-

Scheme	Buddhist	Christian	Muslim	Sikh	Parsis	Jain
Pre-matric Scholarship	23,09,225	83,13,595	5,45,42,661	51,37,351	12,217	4,58,771
Post-matric Scholarship	60,212	10,74,005	70,75,333	8,06,268	1378	1,22,370
Merit-cum-Means Scholarship	6105	2,08,164	62,62,4732	60,24,681	13,742	31,346

3.8 On being asked about the time stipulated for release of Scholarship, the Committee were explained during the course of evidence by Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs that:-

“नवंबर माह तक सभी आवेदन प्राप्त होते हैं। उसका एक प्रोसेस होता है, टू लेवल वैरिफिकेशन होता है। अगर स्कूल या कॉलेज है, तो वहां भी वैरिफिकेशन होता है। उसके बाद जिला या राज्य स्तर पर भी वैरिफिकेशन होता है। वह सब कुछ ऑन लाइन होता है। फाइनली बच्चों को जो एक्चुअल पेमेंट होता है।”

3.9 Since the Scholarships are granted in March, the Committee enquired as to how the expenses are borne by the students, to which Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs stated during the course of evidence that:-

“चूंकि उनको आखिरी क्वॉर्टर में पैसा मिलता है, तो जो परिवार होते हैं, पहले वे अपनी जेब से खर्च करते हैं।”

3.10 On being asked to elaborate the terms/conditions approved for the implementation of the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme, the Ministry, inter-alia, stated that:-

“The aforesaid 3 schemes are proposed for implementation and continuation during 2022-23 to 2025-26, with the following broad features:-

- a) Revision in annual parental income;
- b) Rationalization of rates of scholarships criteria;
- c) Revision in annual State/UT/community-wise allocation of targets;
- d) Enhancement of earmarking for girl students from 30% to 50% of overall scholarship allocations”.
- (e) Merit list based on marks.

3.11 On being enquired about the reasons due to which the Scholarship has been limited for students of class IX and X only from 2022-23, the Ministry submitted in their written reply that:-

“The decision of the Government to limit the coverage under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for minorities to only classes IX and X is based on very cogent reasons. Firstly, the participation of students from minority communities is at par with the national average at primary and elementary level and the students at these levels are already covered under the Right to Education Act.

Further, there was a need to harmonize the coverage under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for minorities with similar schemes implemented for other target groups like the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs. Keeping in view of the above, it has been decided to discontinue classes I-VIII from the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for minorities and focus more on the education of children from minority communities, especially girls, at higher classes which would generate better employment opportunities for them”.

3.12 With regard to the reasons due to which the Ministry have been able to spend very less by 31 December, 2022 and the initiatives taken to spend the remaining amount in the current financial year, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in a written reply:-

“It is stated that the inherent structure of implementation of three Scholarship Schemes for Minorities is such that the Schemes are implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), which invites application from eligible beneficiaries during July-August of the financial year and the portal closes in November–December with two level verification, at the level of institute Nodal Officer and State/ District Nodal Officers, continuing till January- February of the year. Due to this implementation process, most of the Scholarship payment is done in the months of February and March”.

3.13 On being asked to justify lower allocation under Pre-matric Scholarship during 2023-24 in comparison to 2022-23 particularly when the targets for both the years is same, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“The physical targets for Pre-matric Scholarship are fixed for fresh applicants only, while the financial allocations includes both fresh and renewal applications. During 2022-23, the renewal applications of Class IX will also be considered along with fresh applications for award of scholarship. However, in 2023-24, there will be no renewal applications for Class IX and only fresh applications will be considered”.

3.14 As regards to utilisation of funds given under Post-matric Scholarship against the budgetary proposal of ₹1,065.00 crore of the Ministry particularly when the target for the year 2023-24 is much less in comparison to 2022-23, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“It may be noted that the physical target for Post-Matric Scholarship in FY 2023-24 has inadvertently been mentioned as 5 lakh instead of 6.50 lakh, which is the same as the physical target for FY 2022-23. The budgetary allocation has increased primarily due to two reasons (i) revision of scholarship rates and (ii) inclusion of non-listed institutes for professional/ technical UG/ PG courses under the Post-Matric component”.

3.15 On being enquired about the reasons due to which target fixed under Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship has gone down for 2023-24 and the budgetary allocation has gone up *vis-à-vis* the previous year along with the Institute empanelled under the Programme including criteria fixed for selection of the Institute, the Ministry replied as under:-

“It may be noted that the physical targets for Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 have inadvertently been mentioned as 0.75 lakh and 0.60 lakh respectively. Whereas the physical targets for both the years is 750. It is also pertinent to mention that the budgetary allocation has gone down from ₹358.02 crore RE in FY 2022-23 to ₹44.00 crore in BE FY 2023-24”.

3.16 On being asked about the applications that were rejected during each of the last five years under each of these Schemes and the measures taken in this regard, the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in a written reply that:-

“The Scheme-wise and year-wise details of the number of applications rejected during each of the last five years under the 3 Scholarship Schemes are as under:-

Scheme	Fresh	Renewal
AY 2021-22		
Pre-Matric	3,58,026	41,133
Post Matric	1,97,052	5,502
MCM	24,727	1,019
AY 2020-21		
Pre-Matric	5,80,291	76,954
Post Matric	1,56,084	8,872
MCM	50,324	3,859
AY 2019-20		
Pre-Matric	5,34,426	31,780
Post Matric	1,37,230	4,914
MCM	50,099	3,493
AY 2018-19		
Pre-Matric	4,82,838	22,889
Post Matric	2,32,623	5,161
MCM	84,593	2,081
AY 2017-18		
Pre-Matric	89,622	20,808
Post Matric	56,669	5,173
MCM	19,245	2,229

The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) takes a number of measures to increase awareness among the minority students about the minority scholarship schemes, some of which are as under:-

- a. All States/UTs are suggested to facilitate the application filing of 3 Scholarship Schemes through camps at local levels.
- b. MoMA has also suggested NIC to create an online training module in INO login to increase awareness about the verification process, etc.
- c. MoMA also advertises the Scholarship Schemes by sending the SMS/messages through Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Sarpanchs and to District Collectors through NIC messaging services”.

3.17 The Committee are happy to note that three Scholarship Schemes viz. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-

Means Scholarship Scheme implemented by the Ministry are proposed to be continued up to 2025-26 and that the number of students benefitted from these schemes in 2020-21 and 2021-22 were 60.23 lakh and 65.63 lakh respectively. The Committee believe that education is the most effective way to empower and develop any community, and all efforts should, therefore, be made by the Government in this direction. They trust that the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs with regard to scholarship schemes i.e. revision in annual parental income, rationalization of rates of scholarships, revision in annual State/UT/Community wise allocation of targets and enhancement of earmarking of girl students from 30% to 50% for overall scholarship allocation, would be an important contribution in educating the poorest of the poor students belonging to Minority communities. In order to further enhance the coverage of the beneficiaries, the Committee suggest an intensive awareness exercise and provision of all necessary assistance to the students, in case they face any difficulty in filling of the applications, to minimize the rejection of applications. The Committee would also urge the Ministry to finalise the pending issues, particularly with regard to revision in annual parental income, rationalization of scholarship rate, etc. at the earliest. They would also recommend the Ministry to examine, if the process of filling scholarship application by beneficiaries can be started a little early so that the beneficiaries are able to get scholarship amount well in time.

CHAPTER-IV

PRADHAN MANTRI VIRASAT KA SAMVARDHAN (PM VIKAS)

The Ministry has designed a new, integrated umbrella scheme called Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) from 2022-23 converging five of the existing schemes of the Ministry namely – Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil. However, the Scheme is yet to be rolled out.

4.2 Budgetary Allocation of PM-VIKAS related Schemes during the last three years:-

(₹. In crore)

	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE
1.Skill Development initiative	250.00	190.00	190.03	276.00	250.00	268.48	235.41	100.00	28.92	0.10
2.USTTAD	60.00	60.00	56.74	60.00	60.00	76.68	47.00	47.00	10.61	0.10
3. NAI MANZIL	120.00	60.00	59.84	87.00	47.00	48.86	46.00	20.00	7.08	0.10
4.Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women	10.00	6.00	6.00	8.00	2.50	2.99	2.00	2.00	0.25	0.10
5.PM-VIKAS	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	540.00
Total	440.00	316.00	312.61	431.00	359.50	397.01	330.91	169.00	46.86	540.40

4.3 On being enquired about the physical and financial performance of the converging schemes, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

Year/ Scheme Name	RE in Rs. Cr.	AE in Rs. Cr.	Beneficiaries trained
Seekho aur Kamao scheme:			
2018-19	250.00	175.73	1,00,534
2019-20	250.00	175.52	81,222
2020-21	190.00	190.03	22,817
2021-22	250.00	268.48	-
2022-23 till 10.02.2023	100.00	28.92	-
USTTAD scheme:			
2018-19	50.00	31.26	7,393
2019-20	60.00	54.48	-
2020-21	60.00	56.74	-
2021-22	47.00	76.68	-
2022-23 till 10.02.2023	47.00	10.61	-
Nai Manzil scheme:			
2018-19	120.00	93.73	-
2019-20	100.00	34.44	-
2020-21	60.00	59.84	-
2021-22	47.00	48.86	-
2022-23 till 10.02.2023	20.00	7.08	-

Year/ Scheme Name	RE in Rs. Cr.	AE in Rs. Cr.	Beneficiaries trained
Nai Roshni scheme:			
2018-19	17.00	13.83	50,600
2019-20	10.00	7.10	26,625
2020-21	6.00	6.00	13,675
2021-22	2.50	2.99	-
2022-23 till 10.02.2023	2.00	0.25	-

4.4 The Ministry of Minority Affairs further submitted in their written reply that:-

“No new target allocation was made under the Seekho aur Kamao scheme after 2020-21 and under the USTTAD scheme after 2018-19. While Hunar Haats were conducted under the USTTAD scheme. The Nai Manzil scheme was concluded in June 2021.

Expenditure incurred on the past liabilities of training undertaken in the preceding years is being reflected in the AE”.

4.5 On being asked about the steps taken to ensure that these Schemes do not suffer after their convergence to PM-VIKAS and the reasons for their convergence, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“Based on the guidance received from Department of Expenditure and recommendations by NITI Aayog, the schemes were proposed to be converged into an integrated PM VIKAS scheme. This was proposed to ensure that there is no overlapping of objectives, and that better synergy is achieved across various components of different schemes.

The PM VIKAS scheme has following 4 components:

- a) Component 1 – Skilling and Training (erstwhile Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD and Hamari Dharohar scheme)
- b) Component 2 – Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship (erstwhile Nai Roshni)
- c) Component 3 – Education Support for school dropouts (erstwhile Nai Manzil scheme)
- d) Component 4 - Infrastructure Development (by leveraging PMJVK scheme)

Component-wise allocations have been made under the PM VIKAS scheme by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) which has been approved by the Cabinet. Hence, there is no scope of any of the components being overshadowed with major ones, as separate targets have been fixed for every scheme (that has been incorporated as a component)”.

4.6 On being enquired about the salient features of PM-VIKAS Scheme and the modalities finalized for the operation of the Scheme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in a written reply that:-

“One of the key objectives of the scheme is to improve employability and generate better livelihood opportunities for target group by facilitating market and credit linkages. The scheme is yet to be rolled out and the modalities for operation are yet to be finalized”.

4.7 With regard to the parameters fixed for selection of PIAs for the implementation of the Scheme and execution of work with respect to PM-VIKAS, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in a written reply that:-

“The modalities of scheme implementation and process of empanelment of the PIAs is yet to be finalized. However, the Ministry proposes to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection and empanelment of the PIAs. It is proposed that the PIAs shall be selected based on the technical and financial strength including parameters such as average annual turnover, number of accredited training centres, experience of conducting similar skill development/ livelihood generation initiatives, past performance in terms of trainings conducted and beneficiaries placed in jobs, etc. It shall be mandatory for the PIAs to be registered on NITI Aayog’s NGO Darpan portal”.

4.8. On being enquired about the monitoring mechanism proposed to be adopted to make the Scheme successful, the Ministry of Minority submitted in their written reply that:-

“a)The Ministry proposes to onboard a third-party agency for conducting continuous monitoring and evaluation of the scheme. This agency shall also be tasked to verify the placement data reported by PIAs.

b) The Ministry proposes to develop and leverage an online Management Information System (MIS) for data management and monitoring of the scheme.

c) Regular training centre inspections are proposed to be conducted by the state government and Ministry officials.

d) Aadhar authentication of all enrolled beneficiaries shall be continued to ensure that biometric attendance of the candidates is duly marked and recorded; and to ensure transparency.

e) The Ministry has an in-house mobile feedback App to capture the direct feedback of the beneficiaries on the overall training.

f) The Ministry actively participates in monitoring through Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) developed by NITI Aayog that contains indicators for

monitoring of outputs and outcomes. It is proposed to monitor the PM VIKAS by leveraging OOMF framework.

g) The Ministry conducts periodic Video Conferencing (VCs) with the PIAs to monitor and track the progress of uploading data and documents on the scheme's online MIS portal, and also to resolve queries, if any.

h) Currently, the Ministry conducts a de-duplication check of the scheme beneficiaries *vis-à-vis* other schemes of MoMA and M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure safeguarding of Government funds. The same is proposed to be undertaken in PM VIKAS scheme as well.

i) The Ministry has also initiated issuing of Show Cause Notice/ Provisional Blacklisting/ Blacklisting Order to those PIAs that have been non-compliant to the scheme guidelines / mandates issued by the Ministry. The same is proposed to be executed under the new scheme".

4.9 When asked whether any timelines have been fixed to make the Scheme functional, the Ministry stated as below:-

"The modalities of the new Scheme are presently being worked out and the Scheme guidelines are in the process of being framed".

4.10 The Committee note that from 2022-23 onwards, the existing five schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs viz. Seekho Aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil, have been converged into Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan, (PM-VIKAS) Scheme to prevent any overlapping of objectives and achieve better synergy across various components. The Committee find that out of Budgetary allocation of ₹330.91 crore for 2022-23, Ministry could spend ₹46.86 crore and that ₹540.00 crore allocation has now been allocated under the Scheme for 2023-24. The Committee foresee that the expenditure with respect to all the sub-Schemes will increase once all the Schemes are fully under PM-VIKAS Scheme. Since the modalities of the integrated Scheme are still being finalized, the Committee expect that all shortcomings observed by the Ministry in the implementation of the erstwhile five schemes in the previous years would be taken care of, so that the need for any further changes is not felt once the merged Scheme is operationalised. The Committee would also urge that the

monitoring system devised should be efficient, and effective, based on real-time data. Also a proper mechanism needs to be evolved so that the appointment of Project Implementing Agencies is done meticulously. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to take utmost care in framing the guidelines and SOPs for an effective implementation of PM-VIKAS and take necessary measures for a full-fledged functioning of the scheme so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 are utilized in achieving the objectives of the scheme. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps taken in this regard by the Ministry in their Action Taken Notes.

CHAPTER-V

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKRAM (PMJVK)

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), erstwhile Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) identified as core of the core Schemes under National Development Agenda by the NITI Aayog. The Scheme is being implemented with effect from May, 2018 with the objective to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities in the identified Minority concentrated Areas (MCAs) for improving the quality of life of the people in these areas and reducing imbalances as compared to the National Average. The scheme has been revised with the approval of the Cabinet in the year 2022 for continuation over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle i.e. up to 2025-26. The Scheme will now be implemented in all Districts of the Country including all the Aspirational Districts. Earlier, Minority Concentrated Areas (MCAs) were identified on the basis of concentration of minority population and backwardness in terms of identified indicators. The areas covered under PMJVK were increased from 90 Districts originally, to 308 Districts in 33 States/ UTs *w.e.f.* May, 2018. The MCAs included 870 Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs), 321 Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) and 109 Minority Concentration District Headquarters (MCD Hqs) added for the first time.

5.2 The projects are implemented on a fund sharing arrangement between the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration in the ratio of 90:10 for North East States, Hilly States (J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand)/ UTs with Legislation, 100% for UTs without Legislature and 60:40 for all other States/ UTs. Proposals received from Central Government Organisations are supported 100%. The types of projects sanctioned under PMJVK scheme are mainly Residential Schools, New Building Schools, College Buildings, Students Hostels, Additional Class Rooms, Laboratories, Computer Rooms, Smart Classes, ITIs, Polytechnics, Skill Training Centres, Drinking Water Projects, Common Service Centres, Sadbhav Mandaps, Sanitation Projects, Market Sheds, Hunar Hubs, Sport Facilities etc. as proposed by the State/UT Administration based on the requirement of the MCA. At least, 80% of the resources under the programme are allocated for education, health and skill development. At least 33-44% of the resources are allocated for women centric projects.

5.3 The Budgetary Estimate, Revised Estimate, Actual Expenditure and the Target/Achievement for 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 along with the Budgetary Estimate for the year 2023-24 is as follows:-

(₹. In crore)

2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				2023-24	
BE	RE	AE	Target /achievement	BE	RE	AE	Target /achievement	BE	RE	AE	Target /achievement	BE	Target
1600.00	971.38	1091.94	Project amounting to ₹1821.28 crore with Central share of ₹1342.51 crore approved. An amount of ₹1091.94 crore released. proposals still being received, processed.	1390.00	1199.55	1266.87	Project amounting to ₹2009.41 crore with Central share of ₹1411.64 crore approved. An amount of ₹1266.87 crore was released.	1650.00	500.00	187.12 (as on 15.02.2023)	Funds still to be released	600	To consider approval of plans of block towns cities/ villages for released of funds for completion of projects already approved.

5.4 On being enquired about the reasons for reducing fund allocation to ₹500.00 cr at RE from ₹1,650.00 cr at BE stage in 2022-23, the Ministry of Minority Affairs stated in their written reply that:

“As per the revised guidelines, status of implementation of the scheme since its inception and fund availability with the States has been reviewed by the Ministry with the State/ UT Governments. A detailed exercise has been undertaken to verify/ reconcile the data under PMJVK with the State Government so that fund availability with them could be ascertained. As per the revised procedure for release of funds to the State Governments, the releases of funds are not tied to the projects. The amount available in the SNA account of the States will form a common pool and the States have been advised to incur expenditure from the SNA account to complete the ongoing projects. As on 15.02.2023, the unspent amount with the States in their SNA account was ₹2,531.93 crore. Since, substantial amount of unspent balance was available with the States for expenditure on the PMJVK projects, the allocation under PMJVK has been reduced to ₹500 crore in R.E. 2022-23. As on 15.02.2023, an expenditure of ₹187.12 crore has been incurred under the scheme. The States have been advised to utilize 75% of the amount available in their SNA account and then approach the Ministry for release of further funds. Ministry is also reviewing the pace of expenditure and utilization of funds by the States through the online portal of Public Finance Management System (PFMS)”.

5.5 With regard to the steps being taken to utilise the unspent funds remaining in the Scheme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“The funds remaining in the budget of PMJVK for FY 2022-23, will be utilized on the proposals of Central Government Organisations, which are under consideration of the Ministry and for releases to those States who comply with the revised guidelines of M/o Finance for release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes”.

5.6 When asked whether BE for 2023-24 is sufficient for effective implementation of the Scheme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply that:

“There are 8 States, which have more than ₹100 crore in their SNA accounts. Some of the States have not yet verified/ reconciled the financial data under PMJVK and it is anticipated that the unspent amount with the States will further increase. The States have also been requested to review the status of ongoing projects and propose projects for dropping/ cancellation, which have not yet started and become unviable. The funds already released for these projects can be utilized by the States on other ongoing projects. With the current pace of expenditure by the State and the amount available with them in the SNA account, it is anticipated that the B.E. 2023-24 for PMJVK would be sufficient to meet the requirement of the States/ UTs for the ongoing projects as well as the new projects sanctioned during the year. The requirement of the States/ UTs will be further re-assessed at the R.E. 2023-24 stage and additional funds, if required, will be asked at R.E. stage”.

5.7 On being asked to explain the reasons for not being able to spend funds allocated for 2022-23, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs stated during the course of evidence that:-

“हम लोग निर्भर है कि स्टेट किस हद तक इसमें इंटेरेस्ट ले और अपनी इम्प्लिमेंटेशन एजेंसी लगाए। There is a huge variation across States. जैसे आज की तारीख में हम कह रहे हैं कि करके बताएंगे तो चार स्टेट्स ऐसे हैं, जिनको हम पैसा दे सकते हैं। इसलिए कुछ पैसे का खर्च अनुमानित है कि 31 मार्च तक हो सकता है। बहुत सारे स्टेट्स ऐसे हैं, जिनमें फर्क बहुत है। मैं समझता हूं कि यह केवल हमारी योजना का नहीं होगा, अन्य योजनाओं में भी there will be a variation across States, जो सेंट्रली स्पॉन्सर्ड स्कीम्स हैं।“

5.8 On being enquired about the States that have been performing better under the Scheme, the representative of the Ministry of Minority Affairs informed during the deliberations of the Committee that:-

“मणिपुर, कर्नाटक, उत्तराखण्ड और नागालैण्ड हैं। ये चार स्टेट्स हैं, जिनका बिल्कुल क्लियर है और हम इनको पैसा दे सकते हैं। जब हम अगली मीटिंग करेंगे, हम उसमें पैसा दे सकते हैं। जब मैं पर्सनली स्कीम को देखता हूं तो ऑलमोस्ट रोज कोई न कोई स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से आता है। मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देता हूं, जैसे असम और वेस्ट बंगाल से लोग आते हैं। वहां से ऑफिसर आ रहे हैं और वे बोल रहे हैं कि हम क्लियर करना चाहते हैं। इसमें प्रॉब्लम यह आ रही है कि यह स्कीम वर्ष 2008 से चल रही है। वर्ष 2008 से अब तक 11 लाख प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की चेष्टा यह है कि 11 लाख प्रोजेक्ट्स को हम क्लियर करें कि

कितने कम्प्लीट हो गए हैं। अगर कम्प्लीट हो गए हैं तो यूटिलाइजेशन आए। जो कम्प्लीट नहीं हुए हैं तो उनका हम अकाउंट दें।”

5.9 He then informed that:-

“उनका लेखा-जोखा लिया गया है। पहले कभी लेखा-जोखा नहीं लिया गया है। जब इस साल एस एन ए का कॉन्सेप्ट आया तो यह हुआ कि आप हर प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में बताएं। उसमें जो पैसा मिला, आप उसके बारे में बताइए कि कैसे खर्च हुआ और आपने क्या किया? इसमें हमारी मिनिस्ट्री ने 60 हजार प्रोजेक्ट्स आइडेंटिफाई किए, जो शुरू ही नहीं हुए थे। चूंकि प्रोजेक्ट्स तीन, चार या पांच साल पहले सैंक्शन हो गए और आपने अपना पैसा खर्च नहीं किया है तो वे प्रोजेक्ट्स कैंसिल कर दिए गए। उनको यह आदेश दिया गया है कि आप यह पैसा उन प्रोजेक्ट्स में खर्च कर सकते हैं, जो प्रोजेक्ट्स शुरू हो गए हैं, ताकि जो काम ऑलरेडी शुरू हो गया है, वह जल्दी खत्म हो और जो अभी शुरू ही नहीं हुआ है तथा चार साल हो गए हैं, हम उसको रद्द करते हैं।”

5.10 On being asked about the steps the Ministry of Minority Affairs are taking to keep a check on the projects sanctioned, the representatives of MoMA stated during the course of evidence that:-

“केन्द्र सरकार का यह भी निर्देश है कि जितने भी प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उनकी जिओटैगिंग की जाए। हमने इसरो के साथ मिलकर जिओटैगिंग का भुवन नाम से ऐप बनाया है। हम हर प्रोजेक्ट्स को जिओटैग कर रहे हैं। आपको यह सुनकर खुशी होगी कि 6 महीने पहले टोटल पांच लाख प्रोजेक्ट्स आइडेंटिफाई किए गए थे, उनमें से 10 प्रतिशत ऑलरेडी जीओटैग हो गए हैं। हम ट्राई करेंगे कि अगले साल के अंत तक 100 प्रतिशत हो जाएं।”

5.11 On being enquired about the criteria adopted for approval of the projects, the MoMA *inter-alia* submitted vide written reply that:-

“The Minority Welfare/ Social Welfare Department in the State send the consolidated proposals to MoMA along with approval of State Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the State and declaration as per the PMJVK guidelines. A certificate from SLC is required certifying that the minority population in the catchment area of the project location is more than 25%. The annual proposals submitted by the States are sent by MoMA to the concerned Central line Ministries for their recommendations. The proposals submitted by the State Governments are considered in the Screening Committee meeting under the Chairpersonship of concerned Joint Secretary, MoMA. Representatives of the Central line Ministries are members of the Committee. The proposals which are found viable and on the recommendations of the concerned central line Ministries, Screening committee recommends the proposals. The proposals which are recommended by the Screening Committee are considered by the Empowered Committee under PMJVK, under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Minority Affairs. Proposals which are approved by the Empowered Committee, are taken up under the PMJVK and funds are released as per PMJVK guidelines. As per revised PMJVK guidelines, the proposals of the States/ UTs are considered based on their

performance under PMJVK. For this, weightage is given with regard to the unspent balance with the States/ UTs, pending Utilisation Certificates, projects not completed, projects not started, carry forward liability of MoMA against already approved projects to the States/ UTs, etc. Projects under PMJVK are implemented through the respective State Governments and the States/ UTs are responsible for implementation and monitoring of the projects. As per the revised guidelines, the infrastructure assets would be constructed and run by the concerned Department of the State Government/ UT Administration, which has proposed the project”.

5.12 On being asked about the selection of Implementing Agencies, the MoMA submitted vide their written reply that:-

“The implementing agencies may be the State PWD/ State PSUs/ other State Government construction agencies/ CPWD/ Central Public Sector Enterprises etc. The State/ UT may, however, decide to execute the project through any qualified, reputed, experienced agency, but this needs to be strictly as per the General Financial Rules. There is a designated State Nodal Agency (SNA) for PMJVK and a Bank account of SNA. Funds are released to the States, which is deposited by the States in the SNA account”.

5.13 With regard to the achievements of the Scheme since its inception and the roadmap laid down after the revision of the Scheme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs *inter alia* submitted in their written reply that:-

“The number of infrastructure projects/ units approved to the States/ UTs under PMJVK since inception of the scheme i.e. 2008-09 to 2021-22 is as follows:-

**Infrastructure Projects approved to States/UTs under PMJVK Since Inception
i.e. (2008-09 to 2021-22)**

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	(No. of Unit of Works/Projects)			
		Education Sector	Health Sector	Skill Sector	Other Infrastructures
1	Andaman & Nicobar	25	-	1	81
2	Andhra Pradesh	323	2	18	241
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2823	72	-	8143
4	Assam	14765	613	26	114550 *
5	Bihar	8036	1072	18	48431 **
6	Chhattisgarh	664	-	3	326
7	Delhi	123	9	3	3
8	Gujarat	115	16	2	18
9	Haryana	890	44	8	2395
10	Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-
11	Jammu & Kashmir	11	4	-	4
12	Jharkhand	595	395	18	12214
13	Karnataka	1691	44	4	6357
14	Kerala	266	42	17	47

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	(No. of Unit of Works/Projects)			
		Education Sector	Health Sector	Skill Sector	Other Infrastructures
15	Ladakh	64	-	3	220
16	Madhya Pradesh	306	2	5	1228
17	Maharashtra	2239	40	14	12453
18	Manipur	1053	300	7	14682
19	Meghalaya	119	32	1	8885
20	Mizoram	223	49	9	3170
21	Nagaland	5	3	-	2
22	Odisha	284	36	6	10370
23	Punjab	135	14	-	525
24	Rajasthan	2148	109	9	140
25	Sikkim	1092	11	4	572
26	Tamilnadu	14	42	2	62
27	Telangana	587	9	2	61
28	Tripura	486	31	-	4543
29	Uttar Pradesh	5713	1170	148	125052 \$
30	Uttarakhand	186	38	14	1087
31	West Bengal	25544	1650	89	109650 \$\$
Grand Total		70525	5850	431	485512

* Included- 89886 IAYs, 20823 Drinking Water Projects, and 3400 Anganwadi Centres.

** Included- 41286 IAYs, 1845 Drinking Water Projects and 3400 Anganwadi Centres.

\$ Included- 85304 IAYs, 25578 Drinking Water Projects and 12069 Anganwadi Centres.

\$\$ Included- 73519 IAYs, 20381 Drinking Water Projects and 14676 Anganwadi Centres

5.14 The revised PMJVK guidelines for implementation from FY 2022-23 lay emphasis on performance of the States/ UT in implementation of the scheme *viz.* unspent balance with the States/ UTs, pending Utilisation Certificates, projects not completed, projects not started, carry forward liability of MoMA against already approved projects to the States/ UTs, etc. The revised guidelines also provide that in view of large number of uncompleted projects approved during 11th and 12th plan and also thereafter, Ministry will review the project-wise status of all pending projects and may consider dropping the overdue projects. More than 58,000 units of works/ projects approved in the States/ UTs from 2008-2009 to 2018-19, which have not started and become unviable have been cancelled/ dropped by the Ministry. The States have been advised to utilise ₹1,085 crore of Central Share released for such unviable projects/ units for other ongoing projects under PMJVK. The States have also been advised to utilise the unspent balance available in the SNA account for completion of ongoing projects before asking for fresh funds and reconcile the account with the Central Government. Detailed guidelines for utilisation of funds from SNA account have been issued to the States/ UTs. It is envisaged to completely digitize the PMJVK scheme from 2022-23. Accordingly, the PMJVK online portal has been updated/ modified as per the revised guidelines. It is envisaged to receive proposals from the States / UTs online through the portal. The States/ UTs will also be able to update and submit the quarterly progress reports and utilization certificates online.

5.15 A mobile app PMJVK Bhuvan has been developed in collaboration with NRSC, ISRO for Geo-tagging of all the PMJVK assets and capturing the project specific attributes including photographs of different stages of construction/ completion of the projects. This would also help in better implementation and monitoring of the projects. The Mobile app for Geo-tagging of PMJVK assets have been rolled out in all States in July, 2022. The States/ UTs have also been requested to complete geo-tagging of PMJVK assets in mission mode. Till 15.02.2023, around 44,000 units of works under PMJVK have been geo-tagged. The States have been advised to review their ongoing projects and prepare the perspective plan under PMJVK for the 15th Finance Commission Cycle i.e. till 2025-26 and align the annual plan for the new/ fresh projects in consonance with the perspective plan and also to prioritise the projects”.

5.16 On being asked to provide details of projects dropped/cancelled, the Ministry *inter alia* submitted in their written reply that:-

“The States have also been advised to utilise the unspent balance available in the SNA account for completion of ongoing projects before asking for fresh funds and reconcile the account with the Central Government.

State/ UT-wise number of units of works dropped/ cancelled by the Ministry is as follows:-

S No.	State/ Union Territories	No. of Units not started, which have been dropped/ Cancelled by the Ministry	Total Central fund available with States against non started units (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	14	19.54
2	Andhra Pradesh	73	2686.16
3	Assam	17749	9077.48
4	Bihar	17502	30509.27
5	Chhattisgarh	870	2369.20
6	Delhi	52	380.25
7	Haryana	504	3388.54
8	Jammu & Kashmir	4	34.41
9	Jharkhand	660	3125.08
10	Kerala	38	564.73
11	Madhya Pradesh	109	139.77
12	Maharashtra	9	409.04
13	Manipur	3	54.99
14	Mizoram	6	18.00
15	Odisha	3000	1091.25
16	Rajasthan	1	6.60
17	Telangana	23	83.70
18	Tripura	102	910.80
19	Uttar Pradesh	12421	29986.46
20	Uttarakhand	29	75.99
21	West Bengal	5296	23592.94
Grand Total		58465	108524.20

The States have been advised to utilise ₹1,085 crore of Central Share released for such unviable projects/ units for other ongoing projects under PMJVK”.

5.17 The Committee are happy to note that the PMJVK i.e. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, erstwhile called the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, has been approved for continuation up to 2025-26. It is implemented in all the minority-dominated districts of the Country to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities. With regard to allocation for PMJVK, the Committee note that due to unspent balance of ₹2531.93 crore lying with several State/ UT Governments in their SNA account, the budgetary allocation for 2023-24 has been reduced to ₹ 600 crore. The Committee have been informed that with the revised stipulation of appointing SNAs, the State/UT Governments are expected to utilize the funds allocated earlier and furnish the Utilization Certificate of these funds before further allocation of funds is made to them. Since the Committee learn that several States/UTs have defaulted in utilizing the funds allocated under the Scheme, they would like the Ministry to guide the States/ UTs in complying to the revised norms so that the Scheme is not made to suffer. The Committee note that the execution of large number of projects, for example, 70525 projects under Education Sector, 5850 projects under Health Sector, 431 Projects under Skill Sector and 48512 other Projects sanctioned to different States since inception of scheme in 2008-09 is commendable. But, at the same time, 58465 Projects in various States/UTs had to be cancelled/dropped as those could not be started by implementing agencies or became unviable. The Committee hope that the Ministry would now be able to identify such unviable and incomplete projects with the Geo-tagging App, which has been developed, and take appropriate action to ensure completion thereof so that the funds are not left idle. The Committee also hope that the Ministry would take adequate measures to see that all the identified districts are covered under the revised scheme within the stipulated period. The Committee would therefore, recommend that the Ministry may consider laying down indicative timelines for the completion of specific Projects without any delay.

CHAPTER VI

QAUMI WAQF BOARD TARAOQIATI SCHEME (QWBTS)

The scheme is intended to help streamlining record keeping, introduce transparency, and to computerize the various functions/processes of the Waqf Boards. For this purpose, a web-based software application namely Waqf Management System of India (WAMSI) was developed by NIC for keeping the centralized database covering the following four modules:-

- (a) Registration of Waqfs
- (b) Mutawalli returns assessments
- (c) Leasing details of properties
- (d) Litigation tracking

6.2 Central Waqf Council (CWC) is the Implementing Agency of the scheme. The Budgetary Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the year 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 along with the Budgetary Estimate of 2023-24 is as follows:

(in ₹. crore)

2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				2023-24
BE	RE	AE	Shortfall/Excess	BE	RE	AE	Shortfall/Excess	BE	RE	AE	Shortfall/Excess	BE
18.00	9.00	0.10	Receipt of less proposals in CWC	14.00	10.00	6.72	Receipt of less proposals by CWC	10.00	10.00	5.10	Non-receipt of viable proposals & utilisation certificates of previous financial grants from SWBs.	10.00

6.3 On being enquired about the role of Central Waqf Council and the achievement of the objectives of the Scheme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs stated in their written reply that:-

“Central Waqf Council (CWC), a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs is the implementing agency of Quami Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS). Under the scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to CWC which further disburse it to State/UT Waqf Boards (SWBs) for deployment of manpower for doing data entry in Waqf Assets Management System of India (WAMSI) Modules, GIS Mapping of waqf property, maintenance of Centralized Computing Facility (CCF) for better administration of SWBs. WAMSI is a dedicated online portal for computerization and digitization of records of waqf properties, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of waqf properties to prevent

encroachment. So far records of 8,68,358 immovable waqf properties have been entered in WAMSI Registration Module and GIS Mapping of 3,59,024 waqf properties have been done”.

6.4 On being enquired about the number of State Waqf Board and the activities undertaken by them, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“Presently, 30 States/UTs have constituted 32 Waqf Boards (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have two Waqf Boards – one each for Shia and Sunni). As per Section 32 of the Waqf Act 1995 as amended, general superintendence of all auqaf (waqfs) in a State is vested with the State Waqf Board (SWB) and it shall be the duty of the Board to exercise its powers under this Act so as to ensure that the auqaf under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled and administered and the income thereof is duly applied to the objects and for the purposes for which such auqaf were created or intended”.

6.5 On being enquired about the adequacy of the Budgetary allocation and about any report from any quarter to enhance the budgetary allocation, Ministry stated in a written reply that:-

“Under Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS), Grants-in-Aid (GIA) is released to the implementing agency i.e. Central Waqf Council (CWC). As per the provisions of the scheme, funds are released to the implementing agency which in turn would release the funds to State/UT Waqf Boards(SWBs) after receiving the viable proposals. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to SWBs for deployment of manpower, computerization of records of waqf properties, efficient administration of Waqf Boards (SWBs). During the FY 2021-22 the SWBs has not furnished viable proposals and utilization certificates of the previous grants to CWC on time, therefore the expenditure under the scheme is relatively low against the allocation. There is no demand from any quarter to enhance the budgetary allocation”.

6.6 On being asked about the reasons due to which Actual Expenditure was less during 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023, the Ministry of Minority Affairs justify the expenditure in their written reply that:-

“Under QWBTS, GIS mapping work of waqf properties requires physical visit on the site to carry out the mapping but this work suffered due to sudden breakout of the Covid19 which resulted in nationwide lock down. Hence, the allocated funds could not be utilized. Further, due to non-receipt of viable proposals and pending Utilization Certificates from SWBs, funds could not be released by CWC under the scheme”.

6.7 On being asked about the revision in the scheme and how it would improve the functioning of the Waqf Boards, the Ministry stated in their written reply that:-

“The scheme of Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS) was revised in Nov, 2021. Under the scheme, various new components have been added for deployment of technical expert manpower viz. GIS-Digitization- Supervisors, Mutation Officers/Mutation, Zonal Waqf Officer, Survey Assistant, Assistants, Assistant Developers for carrying out data entry in WAMSI Modules, GIS Mapping of Waqf property, maintenance of Centralized Computing Facility (CCF) for better administration of SWBs. This manpower is to improve the functioning of Waqf Boards by providing value addition”.

6.8 A Central Waqf Council is mandated to implement the Quomi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme to disburse funds to State/UT Waqf Boards so that they can streamline record keeping and computerize various functions/process of the Waqf Boards. As the pace of the Scheme is yet to achieve the desired momentum, the Committee opine that there is a need to identify the difficulties faced in execution of the Scheme so that the Budget allocated is fully utilised. The Committee hope that the addition of new components after revision of the Scheme such as deployment of technical expert manpower, GIS mapping of Waqf property, etc. would improve the functioning of Waqf Boards and the budgetary allocation would be utilised effectively. The Committee expect that Central Waqf Council alongwith State Waqf Board will take suitable measures to achieve the objectives. They feel that the guidelines of the scheme should be periodically reviewed and if need is felt, fresh guidelines should be issued by the Ministry to Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards. Such evaluation of the Scheme by the Ministry would help them in making the Scheme more effective and accordingly, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take necessary action in this direction.

CHAPTER-VII

SHAHARI WAQF SAMPATTI VIKAS YOJANA (SWSVJ)

Waqfs are permanent dedications of movable or immovable properties for the purpose recognized by the Muslim law as pious, religious or charitable. Apart from their religious aspects, the auqaf are also instruments for social welfare as the benefits accrue to the needy in social and educational fields. However, majority of the auqaf in the country have a limited and almost static income. The result is that generally the Mutawallis (Managers of the auqaf) find it difficult to adequately fulfill the intention of waqf or the purposes for which these Auqaf are created. Most of the urban waqf lands have potential for development but the Mutawallis and even the Waqf Boards are not in a position to muster enough resources or construction of modern functional buildings on these lands. With a view to improving the financial position of the auqaf and the Waqf Boards and to enable them to enlarge the area of their welfare work, this Yojana has been formulated with a view to protect vacant Waqf land from encroachers and to develop economically viable projects on these properties for generating more income and /or to widen welfare activities. Under the Yojana, interest free loan to Waqf Boards (WBs)/waqf institutions is granted to various Waqf Boards and Waqf Institutions in the country for construction of economically viable buildings on the Waqf land, such as commercial complex, marriage halls, hospitals, cold storage etc.

7.2 The Ministry informed that a new provision has been added in the revised scheme in which as a special case, Grant-in-aid shall be granted to State Waqf Boards/ waqf Institutions with the prior approval of the Ministry for social development projects on waqf land. Central Waqf Council is the Implementing Agency of the scheme. BE for FY 2021-22 is ₹2.00 crore. An amount of ₹ 1.00 crore has been released to CWC.

7.3 The budgetary Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 alongwith Budgetary Estimate for 2023-24 is as follows:

2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				2023-24
BE	RE	AE	Shortfall/ Excess	BE	RE	AE	Shortfall/ Excess	BE	RE	AE	Shortfall/ Excess	BE
3.00	3.00	3.00	-	2.00	2.00	1.00	receipt of less proposal from SWB and non-receipt of utilization certificates from CWC	5.00	5.00	0.00	Due to non development of web portal for seeking applications for interest free loan so far.	7.00

7.4 On being enquired about the reasons due to which Budgetary Allocation has been increased in 2022-23 and 2023-24 when the Budgetary Allocation could not be spent in 2021-22 and 2022-23, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:

“Central Waqf Council (CWC) is the implementing agency of the scheme. The scheme of Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (SWSVY) has been revised in

November, 2021. Under the scheme, a new component was added through which Grant-in-aid granted to State Waqf Boards/waqf Institutions for social development projects on waqf land for which budgetary allocation of the scheme was enhanced. However, no viable proposal from any of the State/UT was received for this purpose resulting in less expenditure under the scheme.”

7.5 On being asked to provide the details of works that have been undertaken under the Scheme in each State and how these initiatives have benefitted the targeted persons alongwith Loan/Grant-in-Aid against the target that has been provided to each Waqf Board for taking various activities during each of the last three years, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“Under Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (SWSVY), interest free loan is granted to various Waqf Boards and Waqf Institutions in the country for construction of economically viable buildings on the Waqf land, such as commercial complex, marriage halls, hospitals, hostels, musafirkhana and cold storage etc. The details of interest free loans granted through CWC to Waqf Institutions during the year 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 is as under:-

(In ₹ Lakh)

2019-20		
S.No.	Name of the State	Amount
1	Karnataka	128.75
2	Kerala	276.25
	Total	405.00
2020-21		
S.No.	Name of the State	Amount
1	Madhya Pradesh	100.00
2	Karnataka	112.00
3	Kerala	188.00
	Total	400.00
2021-22		
S.No.	Name of the State	Amount
1	Kerala	33.25
2022-23 (Released out of the Balance GIA of 2021-22)		
S.No.	Name of the State	Amount
1	Karnataka	47.75
2	Uttar Pradesh	19.00
	Total	66.75

Though targets are not fixed under the scheme, the applications received from various SWBs are scrutinized as per the provisions of the scheme by CWC and interest free loan are released to the eligible projects.”

7.6 On being enquired about details of the Waqf Property under encroachments, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“As per section 54 and 55 of the Waqf Act, State Waqf Boards (SWBs) has the power to take legal action against unauthorized occupation and removal of encroachment from the waqf properties.”

7.7 On being enquired about the status of Waqf property cases, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted during the course of evidence that:-

“वास्तविक रूप से फील्ड में बहुत सारे केसेज होते हैं। यह बात सही है। वक्फ के बहुत सारे केसेज होते हैं। वक्फ एक्ट वर्ष 2013 में अमेंड हुआ था, उसके तहत सभी स्टेट्स में ट्राइब्यूनल्स होते हैं। यह जो ट्राइब्यूनल्स की प्रक्रिया है, अभी लगभग दस साल हो गए हैं, तो अब सिविल कोर्ट्स की जगह इसको ट्राइब्यूनल्स देखते हैं। यह व्यवस्था अभी पूरी तरह से रूटेड नहीं हुई है। उसको कैसे स्ट्रेन्डेन किया जाए। क्या एक्ट में हम लोग कुछ चेंजेज ला सकते हैं, जिससे जो फील्ड लेवल की लिटिगेशन है, वह कम हो जाए।“

7.8 On being enquired about the outcome of these cases, the representative of the Ministry of Minority Affairs stated during the course of evidence that:-

“ज्यादातर केसेज पर्सनल होते हैं। अगर उसे दान किया गया है या नहीं किया गया है, जो कि ट्रिब्यूनल लेवल पर हैं। सेंट्रल लेवल पर बहुत कम केसेज होते हैं। 95-99 परसेंट केसेज स्टेट लेवल पर होते हैं। ज्यादातर केसेज वक्फ ट्रिब्यूनल्स में होते हैं।“

7.9 In this connection, the Secretary Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted before the Committee during deliberation that:-

“अगर कुछ ऐसे फैसले आते हैं, जिनका वाइडर पॉलिसी इम्प्लिकेशन होता है, उसके बारे में हम लोगों को जानकारी मिलती है। हमारे पास आंकड़े रहते हैं। हम सचिवालय से राज्यवार आंकड़े शेयर कर लेंगे। लेकिन हरके केसेज का विश्लेषण कि किसमें क्या डिसिज़न हुआ, उस तरह के आंकड़े की वर्तमान में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। “

7.10 The Committee are happy to note that the funds under Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana have substantially increased from ₹2.00 crore in 2021-22 and ₹3.00 crore in 2020-21 to ₹7.00 crore in 2023-24. As several such properties are under encroachment and cases are long pending in State Tribunals, the Committee are of the opinion that there is urgent need to expedite such cases to get the Waqf lands free from encroachment, for development to achieve the intended objectives of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to develop appropriate mechanism to achieve the objectives of the Scheme and ensure that the Budget allocated for 2023-24 is fully utilised. The Committee also desire that State Waqf Boards should be made accountable if those are not able to implement the Scheme and avail the facility of interest free loan from the Ministry. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps envisaged by the Ministry at the action taken stage.

CHAPTER VIII

Haj Management

The work related to the management of Haj pilgrimage, including administration of Haj Committee Act, 2002 and rules made there under has been transferred to the Ministry of Minority Affairs from Ministry of External Affairs on 01.10.2016. The Ministry of Minority Affairs(MoMA) manages the Haj work in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, Consulate General of India, Jeddah, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare etc.

8.2 The number of pilgrims who can perform Haj is determined every year under the bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(KSA). The quotas so received are then distributed between Haj Committee of India (HCoI) and Haj Group Organizers(HGO). The annual quota of India increased from 1,36,000 pilgrims during Haj 2014 to 2,00,000 pilgrims for Haj 2019. The Saudi Government did not allow international pilgrims for Haj 2020 and Haj 2021 due to the CoVID -19 Pandemic. After the gap of two years i.e. 2020 & 2021, the Country under the Annual Bilateral Agreement received quota of 79,237 pilgrims for Haj, 2022. This quota was shared by Haj Committee of India (56,637) and Haj Group Organizers (22,600).

8.3 In India, Haj pilgrims go for pilgrimage either through the Haj Committee of India (HCoI), a statutory organization under Ministry of Minority Affairs, or through the Private Haj Group Organizers (HGOs) registered with the Ministry. Government of India makes a number of arrangements for the welfare of the Indian pilgrims both in India and in Saudi Arabia in coordination with other Ministries/ Departments. The Indian pilgrims are provided all basic facilities and services for their smooth, safe and comfortable Haj experience. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has the responsibility to look after the pilgrims and to redress their grievances on reaching Jeddah/Madinah airport and during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Consulate General of India also provides various medical facilities to the Indian Haj pilgrims. Temporary medical Mission offices are opened during Haj season for the purpose.

8.4 The following initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs during the last three years in Haj Management:-

Removal of restriction of Haj for women only with Mehram

(i) Since several decades, Muslim women had been demanding the removal of government restriction on Muslim women performing Haj without Mehram (male companion), as this restriction prohibited single ladies and other working women like

teachers, doctors, nurses, entrepreneurs who desired to go on Haj but could not do so, as they did not have Mehram to accompany them for the Haj pilgrimage. This long-pending demand had also been raised in the Parliament, by the MPs especially by the women Parliamentarians, and also outside Parliament by various women organizations. The Hon'ble MPs and social organizations demanded that this decades old restriction should be abolished, as such a restriction on Muslim women performing Haj without Mehram did not exist even in several Islamic countries. For the first time after Independence, the Government, in 2017, lifted the restriction on Muslim women going for Haj without "Mehram" which received overwhelming response.

Digitization of Haj process

(ii) Most of the processes in Haj management were traditionally being done manually by the HCoI and CGI, Jeddah. Need was felt from a long time to make available Haj related services to the citizens digitally so that they can access the services anywhere anytime. Haj Committee of India started some digitization processes and IT based solutions from 2008. However, it gained momentum after the year 2014 when an online portal for Haj deputationists was developed by MEA.

To meet the twin objective of "Ease of Doing Haj" and "Ease of doing Business", intensive efforts were made at all levels to make the Haj processes 100% digital. To streamline the Haj processes, improving transparency and for ease of undertaking Haj by Indian pilgrims, the process for Haj was made completely digital for the Haj which was to be held in 2020.

Discontinuation of discretionary quota

(iii) Discretionary quota of Hon'ble President, Vice President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Ministry of Minority Affairs and Haj Committee of India has been discontinued, to ensure that no VIP culture is propagated. The seats under these discretionary quotas will be merged with regular quota allocation of Haj pilgrims. Thus, it will also ensure increased opportunity for the common pilgrims to avail the benefit of increased Haj quota, while bringing in more transparency and efficiency in the process.

8.5 The BE, RE, AE for the last three years under Haj Management alongwith BE for 2023-24 is as under:-

2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				BE 2023- 24
BE	RE	Actual Exp.	Shortfall/excess exp., if any indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	Shortfall/ excess exp., if any indicating reasons in brief	BE	RE	Actual Exp. 31.12.22)	Shortfall/ excess exp., if any indicating reasons in brief	

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16
98.00	13.00	4.93	Vacant posts, less tours / procurement due to cancellation of HAJ	98.00	12.04	7.10	Less expenditure due to cancellation of HAJ	89.42	75.00	54.91	Funds still to be released	97.00

8.6 On being asked about the conditions stipulated to decide the number of Haj pilgrims every year and the reasons due to which Haj Pilgrims were reduced to 79,237 pilgrims for Haj, 2022 from 2,00,000 pilgrims for Haj, 2019, the Ministry of Minority Affairs stated in their written reply that:-

“The number of Haj pilgrims for every year is determined on the basis of quota allocated by the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi authorities determine the quota in the ratio of 1,000 pilgrims for every 1 million (1:1000 ratio) of the Muslim population in a country. The quota for India is allotted on the basis of India's Muslim population, according to the 2001 census. The recent decline in the Haj quota after 2019 was due to CoVID-19 related restrictions on travel and CoVID related policy of KSA. Now, under the Annual Bilateral Agreement for Haj 2023, India has been restored its original quota of 1,75,025 by KSA”.

8.7 On being enquired about the adequacy of the budgetary allocation made to meet the requirements alongwith the total expenditure incurred including subsidy for Haj, 2014 to Haj, 2017 prior to abolition of subsidy in 2018 and the amount of expenditure incurred after the abolition of subsidy in 2018 year-wise, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted in their written reply that:-

“The budgetary allocation made is sufficient to meet the requirements of establishment of Consulate General of India, Jeddah. Prior to 2017 there was a provision of subsidy for Haj travel. The amount of subsidy was given by the Government of India for making arrangements of air travel for Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India. This was reflected in the budget of Ministry of Civil Aviation, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard. The Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 08.05.2012, inter alia observed that Haj subsidy shall be done away with and directed the Central Government to progressively reduce the amount of subsidy so as to completely eliminate it. Accordingly, Haj subsidy was gradually reduced from ₹836.56 crore in 2012-13 to ₹210.63 crore in the year 2017-18 and it was discontinued completely from Haj 2018 onwards. To ensure that there is minimum financial burden on Haj pilgrims even after removal of Haj subsidy on air travel, from Haj 2018 onwards, the pilgrims from specified embarkation points are given choice to opt either for their designated embarkation point or the nearest economical embarkation point based on the actual airfare of previous year. Presently, the air travel expenses are borne by the pilgrims themselves. The details of budgetary expenditure borne by the Ministry under the head of establishment of CGI, Jeddah is as follows”:

In ₹ Thousand

Year	BE	Utilization
2018-19	767900	733705
2019-20	850000	752296
2020-21	880000	42615
2021-22	880000	42615
2022-23	794200	548491.26

8.8 On being asked about the steps taken to reduce financial burden and how it benefitted them along with the reasons after abolition of Haj subsidy on the pilgrims, the Ministry of Minority Affairs *inter-alia* stated that:-

“To ensure that there is minimum financial burden on Haj pilgrims even after removal of Haj subsidy on air travel, from Haj 2018 onwards, the pilgrims from specified embarkation points are given choice to opt either for their designated embarkation point or the nearest economical embarkation point based on the actual airfare of previous year. Presently, the air travel expenses are borne by the pilgrims themselves”.

8.9 On being asked about the steps taken to promote Haj pilgrimage, the Ministry Minority Affairs stated in their written reply that:-

“To meet the aspirations of the Indian pilgrims, the Government of India made concerted efforts to receive the full Haj quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for Haj 2023 under the bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The increase in quota shall enable a larger population among the Indian Muslim community to fulfil their religious aspirations, at a comparatively lower and economical cost.

To facilitate the Haj pilgrimage and to provide facilities to needy, the following are the highlights of the Haj policy 2023:

- a) The Government’s discretionary Haj quota has been totally done away with and seats earlier meant for dignitaries and VIPs will henceforth be made available under general pool for the benefit of the common citizens.
- b) Considering the interest of the common man, efforts have been made to reduce the overall cost of the Haj pilgrimage under HCoI package. The pilgrims can now plan their Haj journey with their own personal consumables. The exclusion of items like umbrella, bedsheets, standardised baggage from Haj package(which were earlier mandated to be taken compulsorily from HCoI), has led to reducing the cost of the pilgrimage up to Rs.7000. Further, the exclusion of mandatory payment for 2,100 SR by each pilgrim shall also curtail the package cost of HCoI

by ₹43,260. Hence, the total cost of the Haj package of HCoI shall be reduced by ₹50,000 appx.

- c) For the first time, the pilgrims will now have a wide choice to choose their embarkation points from across 25 airports in the country.
- d) For the first time, single ladies above 45 years of age, willing to perform Haj, can apply for Haj without Mehram. The grouping of individual ladies will be facilitated by HCoI.
- e) For the first time, lady pilgrims, divyangjan and elderly pilgrims shall be facilitated for Haj on priority basis.
- f) For the first time, special arrangements for infants and mothers will be created during Haj in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).
- g) For the first time, the pilgrims shall be facilitated to get health verification and RTPCR tests from their district health units, Government laboratories including the Government of India Hospitals, ESIC hospitals etc.
- h) The guidelines specify that pilgrims who want to and are entitled to stay in Rubat will be allowed to stay there and no charges for their accommodation will be levied by HCoI. It is expected that this provision will further curtail the overall cost for Haj, in respect of those pilgrims who are entitled to avail Rubat facilities.

8.10 On being enquired about the per capita expenditure on Haj pilgrims, the Ministry Minority Affairs stated in their written reply that:-

“The per capita expenditure on Haj pilgrims varies with reference to the various Embarkation Points (EPs) in India, from where pilgrims proceed for Haj journey. For Haj 2022, embarkation point wise expenditure calculations (10 EPs) are as follows:-

HAJ -2022

SR NO	Embarkation Points	Expenditure per capita (Per Pilgrim)
		In Rs.
1	AHMEDABAD	3,76,189
2	BENGALURU	3,97,355
3	COCHIN	3,82,350
4	DELHI	3,86,995
5	HYDERABAD	3,87,667
6	KOLKATA	4,12,688
7	LUCKNOW	3,88,560
8	MUMBAI	3,74,172
9	GUWAHATI	4,32,241
10	SRINAGAR	4,20,212

To reduce the overall cost of the Haj pilgrimage under HCoI package, the Government of India, under the Haj Policy for 2023, has decided to exclude items like umbrella, bed sheets, standardised baggage from Haj package, which were earlier mandatorily to be provided to the pilgrims by HCoI, irrespective of their actual requirements, on payment basis. This has led to reduction in the cost of the pilgrimage up to ₹7,000/-. Further, the exclusion of mandatory payment for making available 2,100 SR by each pilgrim has further curtailed the cost of HCoI by ₹ 43,260/-. Hence, the total cost of the Haj package of HCoI will be reduced by ₹50,000/- appx. Besides this, the pilgrims are also now given an option to choose their designated Embarkation Point or the nearest economical Embarkation Point on the basis of actual airfare of previous year. It is also submitted that the HGOs offers different packages to pilgrims on market rates”.

8.11 When enquired about the status of the digitisation process of the Haj and the benefits the pilgrims derive from digitisation including the time currently consumed in the whole process in comparison to the earlier system, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The major activities of Haj management including inviting of Haj applications, maintenance of health records, tagging of luggage, draw of lots, applying visa and allotment of accommodation at Makkah have been digitized. The pilgrims going for Haj shall be able to apply online, track their progress on mobile application, use 'e-MASIHA' health card and e-luggage pre-tagging facility. The pilgrims will get all information regarding accommodation and transportation in Mecca and Madina in India itself. Further, a dedicated portal for Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) has also been developed for ensuring transparency in functioning and operations and providing better facilities to Haj Pilgrims intending to perform Haj through HGOs”.

8.12 The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been making arrangements for the Haj Pilgrims through the Haj Committee of India or the private Haj Group Organizers in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and other concerned Ministries. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has the responsibility to look after the Pilgrims and to redress the grievances on reaching Jeddah/Medinah airport and during their stay in Saudi Arabia. The Committee find that annual quota of India for Haj has increased from 1,36,000 pilgrims during Haj 2014 to 2,00,000 pilgrims during Haj 2019. Several progressive measures have also been taken by the Ministry in last few years like lifting of restrictions on Muslim women going for Haj without Mehram, digitalization of Haj Process etc. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has taken steps to cut down cost of air travel by framing Haj policy, 2023 which *inter-alia* stipulates exclusion of items like

umbrella, bed sheets, standardized baggage from Haj package, and exclusion of mandatory payment of 2,100SR by each pilgrim. The Committee feel that the discontinuation of discretionary quota and the effort of the Government to receive the full Haj quota of pilgrims will give boost to the Haj pilgrimage. The Committee, at the same time, would like to draw the attention of the Ministry towards the Budgetary allocation and expenditure incurred in previous years for making the arrangement for Haj pilgrims. They are of the opinion that the Budgetary allocation made to facilitate Haj pilgrims should be spent meticulously and efforts made to rationalise the expenditure on this account. The Committee expect to see the procedure further simplified in future in the interest of the pilgrims. In order to further smoothen the process for Haj Pilgrimage, the Committee recommend that a feedback mechanism should be established for Haj Pilgrims to further update the procedure for the pilgrims based on such feedback.

**New Delhi
22nd March, 2023
1 Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)**

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

Appendix-I

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24) HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 17th FEBRUARY, 2023

The Committee met from 1150 hrs. to 1315 hrs. in Committee Room No.'2', Parliament House Annexe- Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
3. Smt. Rangeeta Koli
4. Smt. Geeta Kora
5. Shri Akshaibar Lal

Rajya Sabha

6. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
7. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
8. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
9. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
10. Shri Narayan Koragappa
11. Shri Ramji
12. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita Bhatt Panda | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ved Prakash Nauriyal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Shri Mukhmeet Singh Bhatia | Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Rakesh Sarwal | CMD, NMDFC |
| 3. | Ms. Nirupama Kotru | JS & FA |
| 4. | Shri CPS Bakshi | JS |
| 5. | Shri Srinivas Danda | JS |
| 6. | Ms. Richa Shanker | DDG |
| 7. | Shri S P Singh Teotia | Director |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Secretary and other officers representing the Ministry of Minority Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to discuss 'Demands for Grants for 2023-24' of the Ministry. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson drew attention of the representatives of the Ministry to various ongoing welfare schemes meant for Ministry of Minority Affairs. She expressed concern about under/non-utilisation of funds allocated on various schemes and enquired about the status of execution of work relating to various Schemes of the Ministry viz Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKY), Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS), Haj Committee etc.

3. The Chairperson then drew attention of the representatives of the Ministry to Direction 55 (1) of the 'Directions by the Speaker of Lok Sabha' about maintaining confidentiality of the proceedings of the Committee until the report is presented to the House. Thereupon, Chairperson requested the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs to introduce other Officers and to brief the Committee about the performance of the Ministry and proposals for financial year 2023-24.

4. Accordingly, the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs briefed the Committee through power point presentation highlighting the performance of the Department during the financial year 2022-23 and proposals for financial year 2023-24.

5. The Committee, thereafter, *inter alia* deliberated on the following issues:
- (i) Budgetary allocation, expenditure and shortfall in expenditure etc. for the financial year 2022-23 and budgetary estimation regarding financial year 2023-24;
 - (ii) Disbursement of Scholarship amounts to Minority students under various Scholarship Schemes;
 - (iii) Development in sectors like Health, Education, Road, Infrastructure in Minority concentrated areas under PMJVK;
 - (iv) Field visits and Monitoring of the work being executed under various Schemes of the Ministry;
 - (v) Merger of five flagship Schemes of the Ministry *viz* Seekho Aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Manzil and Nai Roshni into one integrated Scheme namely PM-Vikas;
 - (vi) Role of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
 - (vii) Appropriate publicity of the schemes of the Ministry to enhance awareness among the notified Minorities;
 - (viii) Issues relating to Waqf Board Properties.
6. The Chairperson, then thanked the Secretary and other representatives of the Ministry for providing valuable information on the subject and also asked the Secretary to furnish written replies on the issues that remained unanswered during the sitting.

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

The witnesses then withdrew.
(The Committee then adjourned)

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23) HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
22ND MARCH, 2023**

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
4. Shri Abdul Khaleque
5. Shri Akshaibar Lal
6. Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule

RAJYA SABHA

7. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
8. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
9. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
10. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
11. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
12. Shri Ramji
13. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

SECRETARIAT

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| 1. Smt. Anita Bhatt Panda | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri Ved Prakash Nauriyal | Joint Secretary |
| 3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal | Director |
| 4. Shri Krishendra Kumar | Deputy Secretary |

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

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

(i) xx xx xx xx

(ii) xx xx xx xx

(iii) 47th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports and present the same to both Houses of Parliament on 23.3.2023.

(The Committee then adjourned)

xx Does not pertain to this Report

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl.No	Para No.	Observations/ Recommendations
1.	2.11	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had spent ₹3,998.57 crore in 2020-21 and ₹4,325.24 in 2021-22, however, they have been able to spend just ₹668.42 crore in 2022-23 by 13th February, 2023. The Committee understand that the reason for low expenditure in 2022-23 is an unspent balance of ₹2,700 crore with several States/UT Governments in the Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)'. Since the funds could not further be released to these States/UTs under the newly adopted Single Nodal Agency(SNA) system in PFMS unless the unspent balance lying with the State/UT Governments is spent and reconciled by them, it resulted in overall low expenditure for PMJVK. The Committee also find that due to intensive scrutiny of Project Implementing Agencies, the budgetary allocation made under Skilling Scheme has been reduced to ₹100.00 crore from ₹235.00 crore. Another reason given by the Ministry was that 100% expenditure could not be incurred in the Scholarship Scheme since a major part of such funds are spent in the last quarter of an year. The Ministry have, however, committed to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate, by the end of Financial Year 2022-23, which, the Committee are hopeful of. As regards the Budgetary Estimate for 2023-24, the Committee observe that it has been reduced to ₹3,097.00 crore in comparison to the Budgetary Estimate of ₹5,029.00 crore in 2020-21, ₹4,810.77 crore in 2021-22 and ₹5,020.50 crore in 2022-23. They have been informed that in case of expenditure more than allocation, the Ministry of Minority Affairs will seek higher funds in 2023-24 at RE stage. The Committee hope that the Ministry will be able to effectively utilize the funds allocated under various</p>

		<p>Schemes with the adoption of the new mechanism of SNA system, once the teething troubles are over, as it will increase accountability of States/UTs Governments and ensure financial propriety as well as prudence. They, therefore, recommend that necessary action and guidance may be continued by the Ministry so that SNAs are established by the States/UTs Governments at the earliest and the aims and objectives of the Schemes for empowerment of minority communities are achieved. The Committee trust that the Ministry will not leave any stone unturned to fulfill their commitment given before them to spend 90% of the Revised Estimate in 2022-23. They would also like the Ministry to take adequate steps timely in implementing all the Schemes so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 too are prudently utilized.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>3.17</p>	<p>The Committee are happy to note that three Scholarship Schemes viz. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme implemented by the Ministry are proposed to be continued up to 2025-26 and that the number of students benefitted from these schemes in 2020-21 and 2021-22 were 60.23 lakh and 65.63 lakh respectively. The Committee believe that education is the most effective way to empower and develop any community, and all efforts should, therefore, be made by the Government in this direction. They trust that the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs with regard to scholarship schemes <i>i.e.</i> revision in annual parental income, rationalization of rates of scholarships, revision in annual State/UT/Community wise allocation of targets and enhancement of earmarking of girl students from 30% to 50% for overall scholarship allocation, would be an important contribution in educating the poorest of the poor students belonging to Minority communities. In order to further enhance</p>

		<p>the coverage of the beneficiaries, the Committee suggest an intensive awareness exercise and provision of all necessary assistance to the students, in case they face any difficulty in filling of the applications, to minimize the rejection of applications. The Committee would also urge the Ministry to finalise the pending issues, particularly with regard to revision in annual parental income, rationalization of scholarship rate, etc. at the earliest. They would also recommend the Ministry to examine, if the process of filling scholarship application by beneficiaries can be started a little early so that the beneficiaries are able to get scholarship amount well in time.</p>
3.	4.10	<p>The Committee note that from 2022-23 onwards, the existing five schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs viz. Seekho Aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil, have been converged into Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan, (PM-VIKAS) Scheme to prevent any overlapping of objectives and achieve better synergy across various components. The Committee find that out of Budgetary allocation of ₹330.91 crore for 2022-23, Ministry could spend ₹46.86 crore and that ₹540.00 crore allocation has now been allocated under the Scheme for 2023-24. The Committee foresee that the expenditure with respect to all the sub-Schemes will increase once all the Schemes are fully under PM-VIKAS Scheme. Since the modalities of the integrated Scheme are still being finalized, the Committee expect that all shortcomings observed by the Ministry in the implementation of the erstwhile five schemes in the previous years would be taken care of, so that the need for any further changes is not felt once the merged Scheme is operationalised. The Committee would also urge that the monitoring system devised should be efficient, and effective, based on real-time data. Also a proper mechanism needs to be evolved so that the appointment of Project Implementing</p>

		<p>Agencies is done meticulously. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to take utmost care in framing the guidelines and SOPs for an effective implementation of PM-VIKAS and take necessary measures for a full-fledged functioning of the scheme so that the funds allocated for 2023-24 are utilized in achieving the objectives of the scheme. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps taken in this regard by the Ministry in their Action Taken Notes.</p>
4.	5.17	<p>The Committee are happy to note that the PMJVK i.e. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, erstwhile called the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, has been approved for continuation up to 2025-26. It is implemented in all the minority-dominated districts of the Country to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities. With regard to allocation for PMJVK, the Committee note that due to unspent balance of ₹2531.93 crore lying with several State/ UT Governments in their SNA account, the budgetary allocation for 2023-24 has been reduced to ₹ 600 crore. The Committee have been informed that with the revised stipulation of appointing SNAs, the State/UT Governments are expected to utilize the funds allocated earlier and furnish the Utilization Certificate of these funds before further allocation of funds is made to them. Since the Committee learn that several States/UTs have defaulted in utilizing the funds allocated under the Scheme, they would like the Ministry to guide the States/ UTs in complying to the revised norms so that the Scheme is not made to suffer. The Committee note that the execution of large number of projects, for example, 70525 projects under Education Sector, 5850 projects under Health Sector, 431 Projects under Skill Sector and 48512 other Projects sanctioned to different States since inception of scheme in 2008-09 is commendable. But, at the same time, 58465 Projects in various States/UTs had to</p>

		<p>be cancelled/dropped as those could not be started by implementing agencies or became unviable. The Committee hope that the Ministry would now be able to identify such unviable and incomplete projects with the Geo-tagging App, which has been developed, and take appropriate action to ensure completion thereof so that the funds are not left idle. The Committee also hope that the Ministry would take adequate measures to see that all the identified districts are covered under the revised scheme within the stipulated period. The Committee would therefore, recommend that the Ministry may consider laying down indicative timelines for the completion of specific Projects without any delay.</p>
5.	6.8	<p>A Central Waqf Council is mandated to implement the Quomi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme to disburse funds to State/UT Waqf Boards so that they can streamline record keeping and computerize various functions/process of the Waqf Boards. As the pace of the Scheme is yet to achieve the desired momentum, the Committee opine that there is a need to identify the difficulties faced in execution of the Scheme so that the Budget allocated is fully utilised. The Committee hope that the addition of new components after revision of the Scheme such as deployment of technical expert manpower, GIS mapping of Waqf property, etc. would improve the functioning of Waqf Boards and the budgetary allocation would be utilised effectively. The Committee expect that Central Waqf Council alongwith State Waqf Board will take suitable measures to achieve the objectives. They feel that the guidelines of the scheme should be periodically reviewed and if need is felt, fresh guidelines should be issued by the Ministry to Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards. Such evaluation of the Scheme by the Ministry would help them in making the Scheme more effective and accordingly, the Committee desire that the Ministry</p>

		should take necessary action in this direction.
6.	7.10	The Committee are happy to note that the funds under Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana have substantially increased from ₹2.00 crore in 2021-22 and ₹3.00 crore in 2020-21 to ₹7.00 crore in 2023-24. As several such properties are under encroachment and cases are long pending in State Tribunals, the Committee are of the opinion that there is urgent need to expedite such cases to get the Waqf lands free from encroachment, for development to achieve the intended objectives of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to develop appropriate mechanism to achieve the objectives of the Scheme and ensure that the Budget allocated for 2023-24 is fully utilised. The Committee also desire that State Waqf Boards should be made accountable if those are not able to implement the Scheme and avail the facility of interest free loan from the Ministry. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps envisaged by the Ministry at the action taken stage.
7.	8.12	The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been making arrangements for the Haj Pilgrims through the Haj Committee of India or the private Haj Group Organizers in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and other concerned Ministries. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has the responsibility to look after the Pilgrims and to redress the grievances on reaching Jeddah/Medinah airport and during their stay in Saudi Arabia. The Committee find that annual quota of India for Haj has increased from 1,36,000 pilgrims during Haj 2014 to 2,00,000 pilgrims during Haj 2019. Several progressive measures have also been taken by the Ministry in last few years like lifting of restrictions on Muslim women going for Haj without Mehram, digitalization of Haj Process etc. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has taken steps to cut down cost of air travel by framing Haj policy, 2023 which <i>inter-alia</i> stipulates

	<p>exclusion of items like umbrella, bed sheets, standardized baggage from Haj package, and exclusion of mandatory payment of 2,100SR by each pilgrim. The Committee feel that the discontinuation of discretionary quota and the effort of the Government to receive the full Haj quota of pilgrims will give boost to the Haj pilgrimage. The Committee, at the same time, would like to draw the attention of the Ministry towards the Budgetary allocation and expenditure incurred in previous years for making the arrangement for Haj pilgrims. They are of the opinion that the Budgetary allocation made to facilitate Haj pilgrims should be spent meticulously and efforts made to rationalise the expenditure on this account. The Committee expect to see the procedure further simplified in future in the interest of the pilgrims. In order to further smoothen the process for Haj Pilgrimage, the Committee recommend that a feedback mechanism should be established for Haj Pilgrims to further update the procedure for the pilgrims based on such feedback.</p>
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