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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOUR AND WELFARE**

(1998-99)

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(1999-2000)**

ELEVENTH REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 1999/Chaitra, 1921 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1999-2000)

Presented to Lok Sabha on... 22... MAR 1999
Laid in Rajya Sabha on.....

19 APR 1999



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON LABOUR AND WELFARE
(1998-99)

Shri Harin Pathak — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

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3. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Joginder Singh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri J.P. Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri R.S. Misra — *Under Secretary*
4. Shri Jagdish Prashad — *Committee Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eleventh Report, on the Demands for Grants, 1999-2000 on Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the current year *i.e.* 1999-2000 which were laid on the Table of the House on 16 March, 1999. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 24.3.1999.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 8 April, 1999.

NEW DELHI;
8 April, 1999

18 Chaitra, 1921 (Saka)

HARIN PATHAK,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Labour and Welfare.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is responsible for looking after the welfare of the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Backward Classes, Children in need for care and protection, Aged persons, disabled and victims of drug abuse.

1.2 The basic objectives of policies, programmes, laws and institutions of the Indian Welfare system is to bring target groups into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant. In achieving the objectives, Ministry performs the task of implementation in accordance with the provisions under Chapter II and IV of the Constitution which not only deals with the development and welfare of the disadvantaged and marginalised groups mentioned above, but also give a concept of justice to include social and distributive aspects.

1.3 The Committee have further been informed that as per 1991 Census the total population of Scheduled Castes was 13.8 crore which constitute 16.48% (as 1/6 of the Country's Population. Similarly 8.08% of the Country's Population belong to Scheduled Tribes. The Planning Commission had conducted a survey in 16 major cities during the year 1993-94 and estimated that 48.11% in rural areas and 49.48% in urban areas of Scheduled Castes population were living below the poverty line. The percentage of Scheduled Tribes Population below poverty line in rural and urban areas was 51.91% and 41.41% respectively. As per 1991 census population of minority groups constitutes 17.17% of the total population of the country.

1.4 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has implemented several schemes and programmes for the welfare of aforesaid target groups. While the scheme and programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been in operation since Five Year Plans and in fact, in several cases also prior to that the schemes for the welfare of Minorities and OBCs are of

recent origin. Programmes for the welfare of handicapped persons and for social defence are also comparatively new and are yet to stabilize and expand effectively to reach the target groups.

1.5 In order to achieve the objectives stated above, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is divided into the following bureaux:-

- (a) Scheduled Caste Development
- (b) Scheduled Tribe Development
- (c) Disabled Welfare
- (d) Social Defence and Child Welfare
- (e) Backward Classes and Minorities (Including Matters relating to Wakf)

1.6 As per the Cabinet decision the subject of Animal Welfare has been transferred from the Ministry of Environment and Forests to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with effect from 3rd September, 1998.

1.7 The Ministry gets specialised and technical inputs from 5 National Institutes and 2 Apex Level Institutes that work under the control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The National Institutes are:

- (i) National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi.
- (ii) National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
- (iii) National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.
- (iv) National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Bombay
- (v) National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.

1.8 National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack and Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi are the apex-level institutions.

1.9 The activities of the following National Commissions also come under the purview of the Ministry:—

- (i) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (ii) National Commission for Minorities.
- (iii) National Commission for Backward Classes.
- (iv) National Commission for Safai Karmacharis.
- (v) Commissioner for the Handicapped.

1.10 The Office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities also come under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The animal Welfare Board of India also come within the Purview of the Ministry of social Justice and Empowerment. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur which is registered with Section 25 of the Companies Act 1955 which is engaged in production of quality Aids and Appliances for orthopaedically and Visually Handicapped Persons also falls within the Ministry of Social Jusce and Empowerment.

1.11 With a view to giving an impetus to the special needs of the weaker and vulnerable sections of society, the following five Development Finance Corporations have been set up by the Ministry under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation.
- (ii) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.
- (ii) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.
- (iv) National Safai Karmacharis Finance & Development Corporation, and
- (v) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.

1.12 In addition to the above organisations under the administrative control of the Ministry, Plan and Non-Plan schemes of the Ministry are implemented with the help of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry also implements a number of Central Sector Schemes with the help of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Institutions of Local Self Government. Grant-in-aid to the State Governments and Union Territory Administration are provided under Articles 112(3), 113(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The details of Division-wise welfare schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are given in APPENDIX.

1.13 It has been further stated that keeping in view the approach & objectives envisaged for the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reviewed all the on-going programmes and restructured most of them wherever necessary. In addition, many new measures were taken to strengthen participation by both Governments & Non-Governmental Agencies in extending benefits to the target groups.

1.14 The Demands for Grants asked by the Ministry are given under the Demand No.88. The Committee have scrutinised these demands to the extent possible and the conclusion drawn by the Committee have been highlighted in the succeeding chapter.

1.15 The Committee note that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has reviewed all the on-going programmes/schemes and restructured most of them in the light of the approach and objectives envisaged for Ninth Five Year Plan. In addition, many new measures have been taken to strengthen participation by both Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies in extending benefits to the target groups. The Committee, expect that with the new measures taken by the Ministry there shall be an overall improvement in the functioning of the schemes. They would appreciate if the Ministry is able to coordinate its activities better with the State Governments and Non-Governmental agencies through intensive monitoring of the schemes.

CHAPTER II

REPORT

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS-1999-2000

A. General Performance of the Ministry

2.1 The Ministry has furnished the following statement showing the division-wise Budget Estimates and Expenditure incurred during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith the fund allocated for the year 1999-2000:-

(Rs.in crores)

Division Plan/		1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000
Non-Plan	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP (upto 28.2.99)	BE	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SCHEDULED CASTE DIVISION								
Plan	771.00	611.77	610.42	776.00	735.70		808.50	
Non-Plan	9.46	10.03	8.05	9.93	8.41		8.86	
Total	780.46	621.80	618.47	785.93	744.11	609.56	817.36	
SCHEDULED TRIBE DIVISION								
Plan	481.00	465.95	466.57	576.00	535.25		630.00	
Non-Plan	0.79	0.54	0.14	0.79	0.24		0.24	
Total	481.79	466.49	466.71	576.79	535.49	396.76	630.24	
MINORITIES AND BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION								
Plan	140.86	41.20	41.00	190.96	148.90		156.30	
Non-Plan	4.28	4.79	4.50	5.13	5.10		5.21	
Total	145.14	45.99	45.50	196.09	154.00	101.31	161.51	
DISABLED DIVISION								
Plan	106.44	56.66	56.65	141.54	113.75		179.50	
Non-Plan	18.93	21.64	21.47	23.81	26.88		24.57	
Total	125.37	78.30	78.12	165.35	140.63	104.85	204.07	
SOCIAL DEFENCE AND CHILD WELFARE DIVISION								
Plan		294.00	32.39	30.18	309.00	68.08	115.00	
Non-Plan	5.81	2.23	0.90	3.85	2.91		2.89	
Total	299.81	34.62	31.08	312.85	70.90	35.26	117.89	
ANIMAL WELFARE DIVISION								
Plan	-	-	-	4.70	9.40	6.97	10.00	
Non-Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	00.48	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	6.97	10.48	
SECRETARIAT								
Plan	0.70	0.60	0.57	0.50	0.50		0.70	
Non-Plan	6.93	7.55	7.49	8.12	8.70		8.96	
Total	7.63	8.15	8.06	8.62	9.20	9.20	9.66	
Total Plan	1794.00	1208.60	1205.30	1994.00	1602.18		1900.00	
(II) Non-Plan	46.20	46.78	42.55	51.65	52.26		51.15	
Total		1840.20	1255.38	1247.85	2045.65	1654.44	1263.91	1951.15

2.2 From the above statement it may be seen that Rs. 2045.65 crores was allocated to the Ministry during 1998-99 which was reduced to Rs. 1654.44 crores at the Revised Stage. Out of this the Ministry has utilised Rs. 1263.91 crores upto 28 February, 1999. When asked whether under utilisation of funds was due to late release of funds to the States/UTs, the Ministry informed the Committee that under utilisation of funds cannot be attributed to late release of funds to the States/UTs. On the contrary, release of funds by the Ministry sometimes gets delayed on account of failure of State Governments/U.T Administrations to ensure timely submission of progress reports and utilisation certificates in respect of the funds released in the previous year (s).

2.3 As regards release of funds in time, the State Governments/ U.T Administrations are periodically reminded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through letters, fax messages and also personal contacts at appropriate level for expediting submission of proposals in complete form with the requisite progress reports/ utilisation certificates and other relevant information.

2.4 Detailing the reasons for less utilisation of funds, the Secretary of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated during evidence as under:

"Unless and until we get the utilisation certificate, it is not possible for us to release the money. The second thing is that we take it up with the State Governments. We keep periodical reviews. The Secretaries and the other officials go periodically. We interact with the Chief Secretary of the State Government. Somehow what happens in this sector is the utilisation certificates and the connected papers reach almost at the fag end of February or in the first week of March. This is the practice which is going on. This year, somehow we find that there is some improvement."

2.5 When asked to explain as to why a big amount is utilised or adjusted in the last month of the financial year, the Secretary stated:

"When we look at the Special Central Assistance and the Special Component Plan for the tribals, the standing instructions given by the Ministry is that the State Government concerned should keep this allocation with

the implementing Department concerned well in advance or it should be included in the Budget proposals. Many States have not done that. We call it to the Maharashtra Pattern. So, this particular amount, which has been allocated and to which we will also be contributing, has to be given to the Department concerned under the State Government from the beginning of the financial year so that they will be able to plan out well and spend the money accordingly."

The Secretary further added:—

"About 11 States have already come to this conclusion. Every year, two or three States come to adopt this methodology. Therefore, some progress is there. When we look at the entire expenditure position, main releases come in the first week of May. Thereafter, the second thing comes only after getting the utilisation certificate and the connected papers from the State Government. So, there is some improvement but that improvement is substantial. But, we are trying to go through the Minister's meeting and also the periodical meetings. Some changes are there."

2.6 To a query raised by the Committee whether the budgetary allocations of the Ministry for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been made in proportion to the population of SCs/STs, the Secretary stated as under:

" We had asked for about Rs. 3500 for Annual Plan 1998-99 crore but we got only Rs. 1744 crore. We had projected a very high demand for this sector."

The Secretary further added:

"Unless and until we get more money, we will not be able to do anything. We got an allocation of Rs. 6608 crore, for Ninth Plan and we are likely to spend Rs. 4700 crore upto 1999-2000. We still got two years. It is for the Planning Commission and the Cabinet to take a decision."

2.7 The Committee have further been informed that an amount of Rs. 250.00 crores was allocated to the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya during the financial year 1997-98 which was reduced to

Rs. 1.00 crores at revised estimate stage. Similarly in 1998-99 the same amount was kept in Budget Estimate which was reduced to Rs. 20.00 crores at Revised stage but no expenditure could be incurred till 31.12.98.

2.8 Asked to explain the reasons for keeping Rs. 50 crores in the current financial year in view of the fact that the scheme is still a non-starter, the Ministry in a note furnished to the Committee has stated that the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme was submitted for consideration of the Expenditure Finance Committee a second time after the receipt of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers set up by the Cabinet to examine the proposal of the Department of Women and Child Development on "Refinements, funding pattern, etc. of the Balika Samriddhi Yojana", keeping in view other related schemes and to suggest an appropriate framework with consequential additions/modifications to the proposed scheme. The EFC which considered the matter in its meeting held on 17.11.98, recommended *inter alia* that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment could place the recommendations of the Group of Ministers before the CCEA for consideration. With regard to financing of the scheme, the EFC recommended that it should be through Annual Plan allocation and not by way of Corpus Fund, keeping in view the cost of raising funds. The Ministry is agreeable to the financing of the scheme through Annual Plan allocation. Accordingly, and keeping in view the progress made in getting necessary approval for the scheme, a provision of Rs. 50 crore has been made in B.E. 1999-2000. This provision will be increased suitably at the R.E. stage, as may be found necessary. The Ministry is hopeful of launching the scheme in the early part of the next financial year, *viz.* 1999-2000 and utilising the allocation made in B.E. 1999-2000.

2.9 During evidence, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment explained the efforts made for early launching of the scheme as under:—

"In the Expenditure Finance Committee also, the Secretary (Expenditure) has mentioned that instead of giving us a big kitty of Rs. 250 crore and putting it in the bank, the Cabinet proposal should contain that the required amount of money for running these 500 schools in a long-term will be included in the budget allocations for giving special

intervention for running the schools for the education of girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and other Backward Classes. This is the latest position in this regard. In our Ministry, we have tried our best, but there are so many other imponderables which come on the way. They have delayed the whole thing. We were really prepared to do this work."

2.10 In their post evidence reply, the Ministry has informed the Committee that the Inter-Ministerial consultations in this regard have since been completed and the matter is being submitted to CCEA. AS soon as the final clearance of CCEA is available, it will be launched without further delay. This Ministry is making every effort to ensure that the clearance of CCEA is obtained expeditiously.

2.11 The Committee note that Rs. 2045.65 crores was allocated to the Ministry during the financial year 1998-99, which was reduced to Rs. 1654.44 crores at the Revised Estimate stage. Out of this, the Ministry has utilised Rs. 1263.91 crores upto February, 28, 1999. The remaining 390.53 crore i.e. almost 31% of the Budget would be utilised in the last month of the Financial Year. The reply of the Ministry that the funds are released to States/UTs at the fag end of the financial year due to late receipt of the progress Report and utilisation certificate from them is not acceptable to the Committee. In the opinion of the Committee the practice prevailing in the Ministry that a large amount is released to States/UTs at the fag end of the year should hence be discouraged. For this, vigorous consultations with the State Governments should be made at the highest level and a strong monitoring over the schemes should be done by the Ministry so that funds are released in the beginning of the Financial Year and the bills for reimbursement from State Governments are received in time.

2.12 The Committee further note that the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 6608 crore to the Ministry to meet its requirements during the Ninth Five Year Plan out of which the Ministry is likely to spend Rs. 4700 crores in the first three years of the plan period i.e. upto 1999-2000 leaving the balance of Rs. 1908 crores for the remaining two years of the plan period. The Committee fail to understand as to how Ministry would be able to meet their commitments/requirement for the remaining two years for want of sufficient funds. The Committee view this situation very seriously. They, therefore, desire that the Ministry should take up the issue

with the Planning Commission at the highest level for allocation of more funds during the remaining part of the Ninth Five Year Plan so that the ongoing schemes do not suffer for want of funds.

2.13 The Committee note that an amount of Rs. 250 crore was allocated to the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya during the financial year 1997-98, which was reduced to Rs. 1 crore at the revised estimate stage. Similarly, in 1998-99 the same amount was kept in the Budget Estimate which was revised to Rs. 20 crore and the expenditure was nil upto 31.12.98. This year the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 50 crore for the scheme. The Committee have now been informed that the Scheme would be launched by the Ministry as soon as the Scheme is cleared by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. In the opinion of the Committee, much time has been taken in resolving the issue between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Human Resource Development over the question of integration of scheme with Mahila Samiridhi Yojana. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should take up the matter with CCEA on priority for early clearance of the scheme. Also vigorous efforts should be made by the Ministry to make the scheme functional during the year 1999-2000.

Major Head : 2225
2250
3602

Sub-Heads : 14.00.31.793
03.00.31.341

B. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

2.14 The Committee have been informed that the scheme of Special Central Assistance is providing to State Governments/UT Administrations as a additive to their Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes. Its main objective is to give a thrust to the development programmes for Scheduled Castes with reference to their occupational pattern and the need for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited resources. It will help in bringing about occupational diversification in the labour surplus economy. SCA is expected to give thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line, by providing resources for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing vital inputs so that the schemes can be more meaningful. Since the schemes/programmes for SCs may be

depending upon the local occupational pattern and the economic activities available, the States/UTs have been given full flexibility in utilising SCA with the only condition that it should be utilised in conjunction with SCP and other resources available from other sources like various Corporations, financial institutions etc.

2.15 It has been further stated that the scheme of SCA to SCP for SCs has been reviewed and modified on 6 October, 1998 for improvement in the implementation of scheme. The basic characteristics of the modified scheme are as under:—

- (i) The condition of blocks having 50% or more of SC population for use of SCA for infrastructural development programmes has been relaxed and villages having 50% or more of SC population can now be considered for infrastructural development programmes with the support of SCA funds. Only 10% of the total SCA released to the State Government/UT Administration in a year should be utilised for infrastructural development programmes.
- (ii) 2% of the total budget allocation for the scheme will be earmarked for North Eastern States which implement SCP for SCs.
- (iii) 15% of the total SCA released will be utilised by State Governments/UT Administrations exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/programmes for SC women.
- (iv) 5% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs will be utilised by them exclusively for the economic development of disabled persons among SCs.
- (v) 3% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilised by the States/UTs for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of economic development schemes implemented with the support of SCA funds.
- (vi) Second instalment of SCA should be released to the States/UTs after ensuring expenditure of cumulative opening balances of the previous year and 75% of the first instalment for the current.

2.16 As regards the budgetary allocation, physical target fixed for the SC families to cross the poverty line and achievements thereof

during the last three years the Committee have been furnished the following information:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Outlay	Actual Exp.	Physical Target for Number of families to cross the Poverty line (in lakhs)	Achievements
1997-98	308.27	308.27	24.80	21.88 (88%)
1998-99	361.00	218.63 (as on 31.12.98)	24.25	
1999-2000	437.00			

2.17 When asked whether the target fixed by the Ministry for the families to cross the poverty line have actually been achieved the Ministry in a note furnished to the Committee has stated that under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan, no targets are fixed by the Ministry because the funds released under the scheme are to be utilised by the State Government through their implementing agencies depending upon the variant needs of different States.

2.18 The Committee wanted to know as to how the Ministry ensures that the benefit of the schemes reaches the grass-root level, when the targets for SCs to cross the poverty line are not kept, the Ministry in a note furnished to the Committee has stated that the Special Component Plan is implemented by the State Governments. It is physically not possible for the Ministry to monitor and review the progress of the utilisation of plan funds of all State Governments and UT Administrations. The Planning Commission does take stock of the situation with regard to the quantum of Special Component Plan of the State Governments while approving their plans. Under the scheme of SCA to SCP the percentage of SC families in the States covered by composite economic development programmes in the State plans to enable them to cross the poverty line is being given a weightage of 25% while releasing the funds under the scheme. Weightage of another 25% is given on the basis of the ratio of special component plan to the annual plan of the State as compared to the SC population.

2.19 In reply to another question whether all the Central Ministries/Departments have since formulated SCP in their Annual Budgets, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has informed the Committee that the Ministries of Agriculture, Industry, Labour, Coal, Commerce, Textiles, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Human Resource Development, Science and Technology, Steel, Health and Family Welfare and Rural Areas & Employment have formulated Special Component Plan in their Annual Budgets.

2.20 During evidence the Committee enquired whether the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was satisfied with performance of these Ministries in regard to formulation of SCP for SCs, the Secretary stated:

“There is some improvement. But it is not at all substantial.”

2.21 In reply to yet another question, the witness stated that all the States/UTs have opened separate budget heads in their respective SC Plans to check the diversion or misutilisation of funds.

2.22 Asked whether the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have ever approached the Planning Commission for allocation of funds in budget of respective Ministries under SCP, the Secretary stated that they have not placed the matter with Planning Commission. When suggested that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment being a nodal Ministry for the Welfare of SC/ST, should place the issue before the Cabinet, the Secretary submitted:

“We take your advice. We have not gone to the Cabinet level on this issue. We have been confining ourselves with the Planning Commission.”

2.23 Asked to explain the steps taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to bring other Central Ministries under the ambit of Special Component Plan, the Committee was informed that the remaining Ministries and Departments expressed their inability to earmark funds to SCP Schemes because in their assessment the nature of the activities carried out by them did not permit a specific earmarking of funds under the Special Component Plan. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had written to all the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government to earmark funds under SCP. A letter had also been addressed to the Planning Commission to

exert pressure on other Central Ministries to earmark SCP funds. This letter was sent by the then Minister of Welfare on 13th January, 1997.

2.24 The Committee drew the attention of the representative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment towards their reply furnished to the Committee during the discussion on SCP in the year 1996-97 in which it had been stated that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was providing funds for the development of SCs in their Annual Budget. In their present reply the Petroleum Ministry did not appear. Asked whether the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment were aware of the reasons for not providing funds by Ministry of Petroleum in the Current Budget allocations for development of SCs the Committee was informed that the Ministry of Petroleum had yet not sent any reply regarding allocation under Special Component Plan in the current budget. They have taken up this matter with the Ministry of Petroleum.

2.25 The Committee note with concern that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not have the information regarding the number of persons who have achieved economic viability after taking Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan. The reasons put forth by the Ministry that SCP is implemented by the State Governments and it is physically not possible for the Ministry to monitor and review the progress of the utilization of plan funds of all State Governments and U.T. Administrations are not satisfactory and not acceptable to the Committee. The Committee have also been informed by the Ministry that under the scheme no targets are fixed because the funds released are utilised by State Governments through their implementing agencies depending upon their variant needs. The Committee view this situation very seriously. They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry in consultation with Planning Commission should ascertain the data regarding the number of Scheduled Castes who have actually crossed the poverty line after availing the assistance of the scheme. Also the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring mechanism in coordination with State Governments/UTs to ensure that the funds earmarked under the scheme reaches the grass root level.

2.26 The Committee regret to note that only 12 out of 35 Central Ministries/Departments, namely, Agriculture, Industry, Labour, Coal, Textiles, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Human Resource Development, Science and Technology, Health and Family Welfare

and Rural and Employment have formulated SCP in their annual Budgets. The reply of the Ministry that there is some improvement in the formulation of SCP by these Ministries, but it is not substantial, is not satisfactory. Further, the Matter has not been taken up by the Ministry in the Cabinet. The Committee are not happy with the situation. In their view every Central Ministry/ Department whose activities have or can have a bearing on the development of SCs should atleast identify such schemes which directly benefit the SCs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be taken up at the highest level with the Planning Commission so that other Central Ministries also fall in line and formulate SCP in their Annual Budget. If necessary, the matter should also be taken up at the Cabinet level.

2.27 The Committee note with concern that though the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had been allocating funds for the development of SCs in their Annual Budget in the past, no allocation of funds has been made by them in the current budget. The Government's reply that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not yet sent any intimation regarding allocation under SCP in the current budget is not satisfactory. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry should have taken the issue with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on priority. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be taken up at the highest level with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas so that funds are allocated under the Ministry's head at Revised Estimate stage.

Major Head: 2225, 3601, 3602

Sub-Head: 08.00.31.02

C. SCHEMES FOR HOSTEL FACILITIES TO SC/ST STUDENTS

2.28 The Committee have been informed that the main objective of the scheme of hostels for SC/ST students is to provide them hostel facilities at Middle, Higher Secondary, college and university levels. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis (100% to Union Territories) for construction of hostels. The expenditure on maintenance of these hostels is to be borne by the State/UT's from their own resources. The centrally controlled universities can get financial assistance upto 90% and other

universities upto 45%. The land for construction of hostels is to be provided by the State/UT's and universities.

2.29 The details of Budget Provision, expenditure incurred and the number of hostels sanctioned during the last three financial years are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Scheme	Year	Budget Provision	Actual Exp.	No. of Hostels Sanctioned
Hostels for SC Boys	1997-98	11.00	9.05	27
	1998-99	11.00	9.11	
	1999-2000	11.50	(Upto Feb. 99)	
Hostels for ST Boys	1997-98	4.00	3.53	103
	1998-99	8.00	4.22	
	1999-2000	12.00	(Upto Feb. 99)	
Hostels for SC Girls	1997-98	8.00	6.00	78 6.61
	1998-99		8.00	
	1999-2000	8.50	(Upto Feb. 99)	
Hostels for ST Girls	1997-98	4.00	3.77	106 3.61
	1998-99		8.00	
	1999-2000	12.00	(Upto Feb. 99)	

2.30 In a note furnished to Committee, the Ministry has informed that the shortfall in expenditure under the scheme during 1997-98 was due to inadequate provision by the State Governments for their matching share under the scheme and non-utilisation of the funds released during previous year.

2.31 The Committee have further been informed that all the States except Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Orissa have provided for matching share under SC Scheme of hostels for SC Boys and Girls. The Ministry has been providing them with the Central Government's

share equivalent to the contribution made by the State Governments. These States are also being requested to provide sufficient funds under the schemes so as to take full advantage of the scheme in their States.

2.32 As regards provision of matching share under the scheme of hostel facility to ST boys and girls, the Committee have been informed that the State Governments of J&K, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikim, West Bengal could not provide for matching share in their State Budgets and thus did not avail this scheme during the last two years. Asked whether the Ministry has ascertained the reasons with the concerned State Governments for not providing the funds, the Committee was informed in a written note furnished to the Committee that the reasons for this was due to financial constraints being experienced by them to provide the necessary 50% matching share in these Centrally Sponsored schemes of construction of boys hostels and girls hostels for STs. The Ministry is planning to revise the scheme of boys hostels and girls hostels for STs where it is being proposed to increase Central share for construction of Hostels to State Governments.

2.33 When asked about the number of SC/ST boys and girls hostels actually constructed during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 and how many SC/ST boys and girls have availed the facility thereof, the Ministry intimated that the information was not available with them.

2.34 During evidence, the Committee enquired as to how the Ministry ensure that the fund allocated under the scheme are utilised properly when they have no information about the number of hostels actually constructed. The Official of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated during evidence that they have been sending their officers to inspect the progress of the work and added:—

“I visited Uttar Pradesh; talked to the officers there and they could not show me any progress in regard to construction of these hostels. That is why, we have not allocated money this year. Similar is the case of Andhra Pradesh. We have not received the actual utilisation certificate from them. There are several other States. Whenever we have not received the utilisation certificate, we are not allocating the money.”

2.35 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their Action Taken Reply to the recommendation at Sl.No.9 para 2.35 contained in the Seventh Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) had stated that the matter regarding irregularities on the working and maintenance for hostels had been taken up with the concerned State Governments. When asked about the present position in this regard, the Ministry have informed that the following shortcomings were noticed in the functioning of hostels in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during evaluation studies:—

- (i) The physical condition of most hostel buildings was poor
- (ii) Many inmates living in the hostels were not pursuing any studies.
- (iii) A proper mechanism for utilisation of funds has been suggested wherein the district authorities could be authorised and held responsible for proper utilisation of funds released under the scheme.
- (iv) Ration supplies made under Public Distribution System are being misutilised.
- (v) In many hostels the number of inmates living in them were more than the capacity of the hostel. As a result of which the hostels were overcrowded.

2.36 As regard steps taken by the Government to rectify the discrepancies in the maintenance of hostels, the Committee was informed as under:

“This Ministry had entrusted the evaluation studies of the Scheme “Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes in Kerala and West Bengal” and “Boys Hostels for STs in Assam and Madhya Pradesh to the Tribal Research Institute (TRIs) of concerned States in 1995-96. This Ministry has now received reports from TRI, West Bengal (Calcutta) and TRI, Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) in addition to earlier report received from TRI, Assam (Guwahati). The final report is still awaited from TRI, (Kerala). The Reports received from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Assam have recommended certain remedial measures for improvement of maintenance of the hostels for STs. The reports have been referred to respective

State Governments and this Ministry has impressed upon the concerned State Governments to take required remedial measures as suggested in those reports."

2.37 The Committee note that the budgetary provisions for the scheme of Hostel facilities for SC/ST students have not been fully utilised by the Ministry during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. The reply of the Ministry that the shortfall in expenditure is due to inadequate provision by the State Governments for their matching share and non-utilisation of funds released during the year is not acceptable to the Committee. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry has not taken any concrete steps so far despite the fact that the Committee have been making recommendations in their previous reports on the issue. The Committee view this situation seriously and urge the Ministry to take up the matter with those State Governments who have not been able to provide their matching share for construction of hostels for SC/ST boys and girls on a firm footing. The Ministry should also ensure that funds earmarked for the scheme is fully utilised by the State Governments/UTs during the same financial year.

2.38 As regards the Ministry's plan to revise the scheme of boys and girls hostels for STs, where it is being proposed to increase the Central share for construction of hostels, the Committee, while appreciating the revision in the proposed scheme desire that the Ministry should also improve its monitoring mechanism so that the benefit of the hostel facilities actually reach the ST students belonging to remote areas.

2.39 The Committee note with concern that the Ministry has no information about the number of SC/ST boys and girls hostels actually constructed during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 as well as the number of SC/ST boys and girls availing hostel facility during the period. In the absence of this data, the Committee fail to understand as to how the Ministry would be able to justify proper utilisation of the funds allocated for the scheme. The Committee also note that consequent upon the recommendation made by them in their Seventh Report on Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98 regarding removal of the discrepancies noticed by the Ministry in the maintenance of hostels in the State of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh during the year 1995-96, the Government has entrusted evaluation studies to the Tribal Research Institutes

(TRIs). The Ministry has now stated that the reports of TRIs have been referred to the respective State Governments for remedial measures. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry has taken casual approach to the scheme as they have simply forwarded the reports to concerned State Governments for compliance. The Committee, therefore, desire that officers from the Ministry should visit the States to ensure that the discrepancies pointed out by the TRIs are actually rectified. The Committee also urge the Ministry to improve its coordination with State Governments/UTs and obtain the requisite information regarding hostels actually constructed before releasing the next instalment of funds. Steps taken and progress achieved in this regard should be communicated to the Committee within six months.

Major Head: 2225, 3601, 3602

Sub Head: 04.341.07, 02.06.31.03, 03.06.31.05

D. POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO SC AND ST STUDENTS

2.40 The Committee have been informed that the objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pursuing post matriculation recognised courses in recognised institutions. The Scheme covers professional, technical as well as non-professional and non-technical courses at various levels and the scheme also includes correspondence courses including distance and continuing education. The scheme is implemented by the State Governments and UT Administrations which receive 100% central assistance over and above the committed liability which is required to be borne by them from their own budgetary provisions. The committed liability is equal to the expenditure reached in the last year of the plan period.

2.41 The following important modifications have been made in the scheme with the approval of Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs:—

- (a) The restriction of eligibility of only two male children of same family has been removed. The Scheme now covers all children of the family.

- (b) The scheme has been made more attractive for disabled SC and ST students by introducing additional benefits for them.
- (c) The income ceiling have been revised to neutralise the increase in consumer price index for industrial workers, upto October, 1997.
- (d) The committed liability of North-East States has been dispensed with. This dispensation is effective from 1997-98 and would provide financial relief of Rs. 20.83 crores per annum to these States, benefiting about 2 lakh SC/ST students of these States.

2.42 For further improvements in the implementation of the scheme, suggestions of all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been sought. On the basis of the suggestions received, the scheme would be reviewed in due course.

2.43 It has been further stated that for monitoring and control over the performance of the scheme, the detailed physical and financial proforma have been devised and are regularly sent to States/UTs for reporting on the scheme. While releasing central assistance to the States/UTs performance of the scheme as received from them in the prescribed proforma is monitored keeping in view the following:—

- (a) Utilisation of central assistance provided during the preceding year.
- (b) Achievements made during the preceding year.
- (c) Confirmation of State Budget provision towards the committed liability requirements.
- (d) Periodical tours by senior officers to State Governments to discuss the performance of the scheme with the concerned authorities in the States/UTs.
- (e) Annual review meetings.
- (f) Review made by EPC/CCEA.

2.44 The Committee have been furnished the following statement showing the Budget Allocation, Actual Expenditure target fixed and there achievements during the last three years:

Year	BE	RE	EXP.	Target Fixed (in lakhs of students)	Achievements
1996-97	149.00	149.00	179.93	20.40	17.12
1997-98	65.00	54.17	54.17	20.88	17.22
1998-99	65.00	100.00	99.86	22.66	20.99
1999-2000	135.00			24.47	

2.45 In reply to a question, the Committee was informed that the target set for 1996-97 could not be fully achieved due to dismal performance of the scheme, particularly in the States of Assam and Bihar. During 1997-98 the targeted coverage could not be achieved due to non-provision of committed liability by the North-Eastern States and some other States like Bihar, Karnataka etc.

2.46 During evidence, the Committee enquired whether the Government would be able to meet the required with fund sanctioned in view of the changes made in the scheme, the Secretary stated as under:

"I would like to place before this Committee a very simple thing. There is a very big demand coming from certain States which have taken up education for the weaker sections in a very big, for example, Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has started special intervention for education through societies for tribal boys and girls, SC/ST boys and even for children belonging to the minorities. In this category of SC/ST, there is a very big demand coming from Andhra Pradesh to increase the quota because they say that the committed liability of the State Government is

very high. Now, ultimately, except the North-Eastern States, the committed liability is going to be very huge amount of money which has to be met from the State Exchequer. Even for the Central Government, this particular provision is going to be increased. Ultimately what happens is that after five years, they say that this is your committed liability, you carry on and we will give you whatever addition is there. So, the trend is that there is going to be a very big pressure on the Central Government."

2.47 The Committee have been further informed that the scholarship is given to those students whose parental income is double the poverty line criteria. The income limit of poverty is decided by the Planning Commission. During evidence the representative of the Ministry informed the Committee that they have received a letter from Planning Commission on 22.3.1999 where the annual income of family under Poverty Line in rural area and urban areas has been fixed Rs. 15,976 and Rs. 21,206 respectively.

2.48 During evidence the Committee, wanted to know whether the income of the family is revised whenever there is an increase in the DA for Central Government employees, the Secretary replied that the income ceiling, would be revised once in every two years linked it with the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker.

2.49 The Committee note that the Ministry has not been able to achieve its target under the scheme of post matric scholarship to SC and ST students during the last three years. The Ministry has stated that the target could not be achieved due to dismal performance of the scheme particularly in the States of Assam and Bihar as well as non-provision of committed liability by the North-eastern States and other States like Bihar, Karnataka etc. In the opinion of the Committee, the monitoring of the Ministry over the States has not been upto the mark. However, the Committee have now been informed that the Ministry has made some modifications in the scheme with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and accordingly detailed proforma has been devised which is regularly sent to States/UTs for reporting on the scheme. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure strict

compliance of the conditions laid down in the proforma before releasing central assistance to the States/UTs. The Committee also desire that constant monitoring and coordination should be maintained with the States/UTs and the progress/implementation of the scheme should be reviewed periodically so that target fixed for assisting the SC/ST students is achieved. Progress achieved in this regard should be communicated to the Committee.

2.50 The Committee note that the Planning Commission has fixed the annual income of the family under poverty line in rural and urban areas to Rs.15,976 and Rs.21,206 respectively. The Committee, feel that even if the Ministry apply the revised criteria of poverty line honestly, the number of students covered within the funds allocated for the post matric scholarship scheme would still be very less. The Committee therefore recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should approach the Planning Commission for more allocation of funds under the scheme so that the eligible SC/ST students are not deprived of the benefit of the scheme. The Committee also desire that the criteria for fixing the income of the family below the poverty line should be revised once in two years and linked with Consumer price index for industrial workers so that maximum number of SC and ST students are benefited under the scheme.

Major Head: 2235

E. SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN WAKF PROPERTIES (NON-PLAN SCHEME)

2.51 It has been stated that with a view to improve the financial position of Wakfs and Wakf Board and to enable them to enlarge the area of their welfare activities, the Central Government has been giving from 1974-75, annual grants-in-aid to the Central Wakf Council, a statutory body set up by the Central Government under Wakf Law to advise it on matter concerning working of Wakf Board and for administration of Wakfs. The Grant-in-aid is used by the council for the specific purpose of advancing loans to the Wakf Boards/Wakf Institutions for the Development of Urban Wakf Properties. The project involve construction/Reconstruction of commercially viable buildings on Urban Wakf Lands.

2.52 The fund allocated for the development of Urban Wakf Properties and number of projects approved during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)	Amount Utilised	Projects Sanctioned
1997-98	1.40	1.08	12
1998-99	1.49	1.49	10
1999-2000	1.47		

2.53 In a note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry has stated the reasons for less utilisation of funds during the year 1997-98 as under:

“An amount of Rs.31.83 lakhs was refunded by the loanee Wakf institutions without utilising the same for the development of Urban Wakf Properties. The audit authorities had observed that this amount should be refunded to the Central Government as the amount could not be utilised for the purpose for which it was released. Therefore, to settle the audit objection the Ministry was requested to deduct the amount of Rs.31.83 lakhs and release the balance grant-in-aid of Rs.108.17 lakhs to the Central Wakf Council.”

2.54 The details of State-wise project sanctioned during the last three years are as under:

State	Year		
	1995-96)	1996-97	1997-98
Karnataka	8	7	5
Kerala	-	1	3
Orissa	1	3	-
Maharashtra	1	1	1
Rajasthan	-	-	1
	10	12	10

2.55 It has been noted from the above statement that 32 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme since 1995-96. Out of this 20 projects were sanctioned to Karnataka State only. When asked the reasons for sanctioning 20 projects to Karnataka State only the Joint-Secretary concerned submitted during evidence:—

“The main reason is that Karnataka had submitted complete proposal for the scheme. The other States lag behind in submitting their projects. Now Uttar Pradesh has also submitted and we are also pursuing that of Bihar. Now, the Delhi State Board has just been constituted. When the proposals are received, we will do it. In Bihar also they have not constituted the board. I think the State Government is pursuing the matter and the representative of the Central Wakf Council has also visited Bihar.”

2.56 The Committee was furnished the following statement regarding number of Wakf Properties encroached upon in various States/UTs:—

Name of the State	Details
1	2
Maharashtra	There are 268 encroachment on the Wakf Properties.
Karnataka	About 108 Wakf Properties encroached by Government/Semi-Government/Local Bodies/Private Persons.
Orissa	12 number of wakf properties encroached.
Manipur	Land measuring 1.11 acre within village No.110 Telepute Imphal east encroached by President & Secretary of the Munuthong Hatiz Hatta Social Welfare Union.
Andhra Pradesh	There are 20 Major incidents of illegal transfer and encroachment of Wakf Properties.
Kerala	About 18 numbers of wakf properties are under encroachment.

1	2
Punjab	391 Numbers of wakf properties are encroached by Government/Semi-Government and individuals.
Haryana	175 Numbers of wakf properties are encroached by Government/Semi-Government and individuals.
Himachal Pradesh	22 Numbers of wakf properties are encroached by Government/Semi-Government and individuals.
Delhi	226 properties are under the possession of individuals. 520 properties are under possession of Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Bodies.
Assam	(i) Late cities belonging two Wakf Estate Guwahati and Rahman Wakf Estate, Jorhan are in encroachment Mosque Wakf.
Uttar Pradesh	151 Wakf Properties encroached.
Pondicherry	Total encroachment No. of properties is 102.
Madhya Pradesh	403 Wakf Properties encroached.

2.57 Asked whether the Government have conducted/proposed to conduct any survey of such properties and action taken by the Government to help the Wakf Board to get back such properties, the Committee have been informed that survey of Wakf Properties including those encroached upon or having gone into adverse possession is required to be carried out by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations by appointing Survey Commissioners under Section 4 of the Wakf Act, 1995.

2.58 When asked whether the above properties have been encroached upon due to lack of proper monitoring by the concerned Board, the Committee has been informed that the State Wakf Boards are under the administrative control of respective State Governments. It is the duty of the State Government concerned to fix responsibility

on the erring Muttawalis/Manager of the Wakf Boards and deal with them under the provision of the Wakf Act, 1995.

2.59 As regards action taken for the restoration of the encroached properties, the Ministry in a note furnished to the Committee has stated that survey of Wakf properties including those encroached upon or having made to adverse possession is required to be carried on by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations by appointing Survey Commissioners under Section (4) of the Wakf Act, 1995. The powers have also been vested under Section 54 of the Wakf Act, 1995 in the Chief Executive Officers of the State Wakf Boards to serve notices on encroachers of Wakf Properties and to order the encroachers to remove encroachments within a specified time mentioned in the order.

2.60 On being suggested that the Government of India should also take necessary steps to restore the Wakf properties due to the fact that Wakf is a concurrent subject, the Secretary of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated as under:

“We are requesting the Hon. Prime Minister to call a meeting of Wakf Ministers to discuss this matter with focussed attention as to what are the areas in which further actions have to be taken in the larger interest of implementing the Wakf Act. The meeting may take place after the Parliament Session is over. We have requested the Hon. Prime Minister to give some time to us.”

2.61 When asked whether the Wakf Tribunals have been given legal powers to order for vacation of the encroached Wakf properties, the Committee was informed that Wakf Tribunals shall be deemed to be civil courts and shall have the same powers as may be exercised by civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 while trying a suit or executing a decree or order. This has been provided under Section 84, Sub-Section 5 of the Wakf Act, 1995.

2.62 The Committee note that out of 32 projects sanctioned during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the development of Urban Wakf Properties, 20 were for Karnataka State only. The reply of the Ministry that other States did not forward their projects during the last three years and in some of the States, State Wakf Board has not yet been constituted is not acceptable to the

Committee in view of the fact that where there is no State Wakf Board, the Wakf properties shall be looked after by the controller. In the opinion of the Committee, Ministry's monitoring in this regard has not been upto the mark. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should pursue the other State Governments also to send their projects for sanction so that they avail the benefit of the scheme. Also, steps should be taken for persuing the State Governments for constitution of State Wakf Boards at the earliest.

2.63 The Committee are concerned to note that large number of Wakf properties have been encroached upon by the Government/ Semi Government/local bodies and private persons in some of the States. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that they have proposed to call a meeting of the Wakf Ministers of States under the Chairmanship of Hon. Prime Minister to discuss the issue of encroachment of wakf properties and to take a decision in the larger interest of implementing the Wakf Act. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to convene a meeting of the Wakf Ministers at the earliest so that a decision is taken to restore the Wakf properties. In the meantime, the State Governments should be persuaded to take up the matter with the concerned Wakf Boards for restoration of encroached property and also responsibility should be fixed on the erring Mutawalli/Manager of the Wakf Board under the provisions of Wakf Act, 1995.

Major Head: 2235

Sub Head: 27.00.31.28

F. SCHEME FOR THE WELFARE OF STREET CHILDREN

2.64 It has been stated that consequent upon the survey conducted by UNICEF in 10 major cities in India, the scheme for the Welfare of Street Children was launched during the year 1992-93 which come into operation during the year 1993-94. The scheme is implemented through NGOs of which 90% of the cost is met by the Government of India and the remaining 10% is borne by the concerned NGOs. It is proposed to cover 43 cities which includes State Capitals and cities with a population of more than one million.

2.65 The allocation for 1997-98 was Rs.6.00 crores against which 3.48 crores was released. Allocation for 1998-99 was Rs.8.00 crore of

which 3.40 crores has been released up to 31.12.1998. Allocation for 1999-2000 is Rs. 9.00 crore.

2.66 The Ministry in a note furnished to the Committee stated that in the absence of the State Governments recommendations on the performance of the ongoing projects, the Ministry has not been able to fully utilise the funds during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99.

2.67 It has been further informed that the scheme is monitored by the respective State Governments. The City Level Task Forces are required to provide guidance to the NGOs implementing the scheme. As per information available such Task Forces have been constituted in all the 43 cities.

2.68 Asked to explain the difficulty in getting recommendations from the States/UTs when City Level Task Forces have been constituted in all the 43 cities to monitor the scheme, the Ministry in a note furnished to the Committee informed that City Level Task Forces only provide guidance to NGOs working for street children and the recommendations relating to their performance are provided by the respective States/UTs. Although the City Level Task Forces have representation of the State Government experience has shown that the task force meetings are not held regularly and many of the high ranking members of the task forces find it difficult to attend the meetings. Under the circumstances, the city level task forces have not been able to expedite State Government recommendations to the Ministry on the performance of the NGOs.

2.69 In reply to a question whether the Government has conducted any survey with a view to knowing the factors responsible for the existence of Street Children, the Committee was informed that no survey has been conducted by the Government to study the factors responsible for the existence of Street Children. However, extreme poverty, broken families, alcoholism and sometimes sheer adventure are known to be responsible for the phenomenon of Street Children.

2.70 The Committee was further informed that as a result of revision of the scheme the target group to be covered has actually been reduced and made more focussed. At present the scheme largely caters to the requirement of children of slum dwellers while in its

revised format it will focus upon children without homes and families including children of sex workers and pavement dwellers. The allocation of an amount of Rs. 9.0 crores is therefore considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the scheme during the year.

2.71 Asked whether the Government have proposed to establish Non-Formal Education and Vocational Training Centres for Street Children on the pattern of earn and learn scheme of child labour, the Committee was informed that while it is not proposed to adopt the pattern of the scheme of child labour, the existing scheme provides for both non formal education as well as vocational training to street children.

2.72 Asked to furnish the nature and period of non-formal education/vocational training being given to the children under the scheme, the Committee was informed vide post evidence reply that under the scheme, an attempt is made to provide for literacy, numeracy and life education to street children with the aim of mainstreaming them in the formal education system. Linking facilities for training in gainful vocations, trades and skills so as to enhance their earning capacity are also provided. Since street children are very mobile and prone to migration it is difficult to provide them education or vocational training for any fixed period.

2.73 The Committee note that the funds allocated under the scheme for the welfare of street children have not been fully utilised by the Ministry during 1997-98 and 1998-99 for want of State Government's recommendation on the performance of the on-going projects. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should ensure that the funds earmarked for the scheme of welfare of street children is fully utilised and they should strengthen their monitoring mechanism and make all out efforts for timely obtaining State Government's recommendations on the performance of the on-going projects.

2.74 The Committee further note that although City Level Task Force have been constituted in all the 43 cities to monitor the scheme, they have not furnished the performance report of NGOs

well in time. Further, the meetings of the task force are not held regularly and many of the high ranking members of the task force find it difficult to attend the meetings. In the opinion of the Committee, the very purpose of setting up of the Task Forces is defeated in case they are not able to guide and improve the performance of the NGOs. The Committee, therefore, desire that efforts should be made to ensure that the meetings of the Task Forces are held regularly and attended to by all the members for proper implementation of the scheme.

2.75 The Committee further note that no survey has been conducted by the Ministry in all the States to see the factors responsible for the existence of street children. The Committee have also been informed that since street children are very mobile and prone to migration, it is difficult to provide education or vocational training to them for any fixed period. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry is not giving due attention to the scheme which it deserves. Every year a considerable amount for the scheme is allocated in the Budget which is not fully utilised. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should conduct a survey in all the States to see the factors responsible for the existence of street children and monitor the scheme in all its earnest by utilising fully the funds allocated so that maximum number of street children are brought into the mainstream of the formal education system and vocational training system. Also, the vocational training should be linked with gainful employment.

Major Head: 2235

Sub Head: 01.03.31.03

G. WELFARE SCHEMES FOR DISABLED—NATIONAL INSTITUTES

2.76 It has been stated that in order to provide a comprehensive package of welfare service to the physically and mentally disabled and also to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the disabled population, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up five National Institutes and two apex level

Institution. The Budget allocation and expenditure during the last three years is as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000
		BE	Exp.	BE	Exp. (upto Dec.1998)	
1.	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	3.92	2.36	4.65	3.40	5.15
2.	National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped Calcutta.	2.94	1.62	3.50	1.75	4.25
3.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.	4.19	4.13	5.10	3.13	6.10
4.	National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad	3.59	4.05	4.01	2.41	4.91
5.	National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi.	1.10	0.95	2.40	0.60	2.40
6.	National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research Cuttack	3.76	4.84	4.54	4.54	6.29
7.	National Institute for the Physically Handicapped New Delhi.	2.39	2.33	3.10	1.75	4.00
Total		21.89	20.08	27.30	17.56	33.10

2.77 Asked to explain the reasons for enhancing the Budget allocation of the Institute during the year 1999-2000, the Ministry in a written note furnished to the Committee has informed that in the plan side, it is due to increase in developmental activities which includes increase in short-term/long term courses, National level workshop, holding of camps, upgradation of the quality of course by recruiting required number of qualified professors (as required by RCI), construction of buildings for taking up new activities in the Institute campuses as well for setting up Regional Chapter of various Institutes etc. Many buildings are nearing completion and the final bills are to be paid.

2.78 As regards monitoring being done by the Ministry to judge the performance of these Institutes, the Committee have been informed that the Executive Council Meetings are held every quarter to review

the overall performance of the Institute. General Council Meeting is also held once in a year in which the performance is reviewed. In addition to it, officers from the Ministry and from the Office of the Controller of Accounts are sent to the Institutes to observe/review their functioning, which is a part of monitoring. In fact the activities of the National/Apex Institutes are monitored on regular basis.

2.79 Asked whether the Government is satisfied with the overall performance of these Institutes, the Committee have been informed that the Government is satisfied with the overall performance of these Institutes. However, in order to further improve the performance of these Institutes, they have decided to undertake the evaluation study of these Institutes by a professional body namely National Productivity Council. Steps will be taken to enhance the performance of the Institutes as per its recommendation.

2.80 To a query about the complaints received by the Government in regard to functioning of these Institutes particularly in misutilisation/ misappropriation of funds, the Committee have been informed that the Government has received complaints in regard to functioning of the National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, Calcutta relating to certain financial and administrative matters. The enquiry in this matter has been conducted in two parts. The complaints relating to administrative matters have been enquired by a Deputy Secretary level officer of the Ministry, who has already submitted his report. The complaints relating to financial irregularities have been enquired separately by the Deputy Controller of Accounts. The report is awaited. A final view in this matter will be taken after receiving the report of the Deputy Controller of Accounts, which is expected shortly.

2.81 The Committee note that to deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the disabled population, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment gets specialised and technical inputs from five National Institutes and two Apex Level Institutions. In the opinion of the Committee, the role of these institutions is significant as they impart specialised training for the welfare of disabled persons besides providing a forum for creating awareness among the community for bringing the disabled population closer to the organisations working for their welfare. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the funds allocated for these Institutes in the last two financial years have not been fully utilised, which is indicative of the fact that Ministry's monitoring over these 2 institutes has not been satisfactory. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should improve its monitoring so that

the funds allocated are fully utilised during the financial year and also the quality of services rendered by these institutes in conducting short term/long term courses, national level workshops, holding of Camps for disabled etc. is improved.

2.82 The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has received complaints in regard to mal-functioning of the National Institute of Orthopedically Handicapped, Calcutta. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that an enquiry into the complaints is in progress. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter should be thoroughly investigated and action is taken against the erring officials so that such irregularities do not occur in other Institutes. Also details of enquiry report alongwith the action taken in this regard should be communicated to the Committee within six months' time.

NEW DELHI;
8 April, 1999

18 Chaitra, 1921 (Saka)

HARIN PATHAK,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare.

(Vide Para 1.12 of Chapter I)

**DIVISION-WISE SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED
BY THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

- A. SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION**
1. Special Central Assistance to the State Special Component Plans.
 2. Post-Matric Scholarships for SCs & STs.
 3. Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.
 4. Scheme for Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST Students.
 5. Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs & STs.
 6. Book Bank for SCs & STs students.
 7. Girls Hostels.
 8. Boys Hostels.
 9. Research & Training.
 10. Implementation of PCR Act and Prevention of Atrocities Act.
 11. National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependants.
 12. National Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.
 13. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations.
 14. Special Education Development Programmes for girls belonging to very low literacy level.
 15. Share Capital Contribution to Scheduled Caste Development Corporations.
 16. National Commission for Safai Karmacharis.
 17. National Commission for SCs/STs.
 18. National Safai Karmachari Finance & Development Corporation.

B. SCHEDULED TRIBES DIVISION

1. Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan.
2. Grants under First Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
3. Investment in Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
4. Price Support to TRIFED.
5. Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Tribal Development.
6. Boys' Hostels.
7. Girls' Hostels.
8. Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas.
9. Research and Training.
 - a) Grants to Tribal Research Institutes and Award of Research Scholars' fellowship;
 - b) Supporting projects of All India or Inter State Nature for Scheduled Tribes.
10. Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of Scheduled Tribes girls Literacy in Tribal Areas.
11. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
12. Grants in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce Operations.
13. Grants to Assam Govt. under clause (a) of the Second Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution (Non-Plan)
14. Village Grain Banks.
15. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups.

C. DISABLED DIVISION

1. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Disabled persons.
2. Aids & appliances for Physically Handicapped.
3. S&T Project in Mission Mode on Application of Technology for Rehabilitation of the handicapped.
4. Employment of the Handicapped.
5. National Rehabilitation Programme for the Disabled.

6. Establishment of District Rehabilitation Programme for the Disabled.
7. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Manpower Development in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.
8. National Trust for Mentally Retarded and Cerebral Palsy.
9. Establishment and Development of Special Schools.
10. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy-Cured Persons.
11. National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.

D. SOCIAL DEFENCE DIVISION

1. Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention.
2. Grant-in-aid to Schools of Social Work.
3. Grant in aid to all India Organisations in the field of Social Welfare.
4. Grants-in-aid for Research Studies & Research Publications.
5. Information & Mass Education Cell.
6. Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment.
7. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Providing Social Defence Services.
8. National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi.
9. Assistance to Homes (Shishu grah) for infants to promote in-country adoption.
10. Central Adoption Resources Agency.
11. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes relating to the aged.
12. Scheme for welfare of the street children.
13. Scheme for Beggary Prevention.
14. Scheme of Assistance to Panchyati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisation for construction of Old Age Homes (Non-Plan).

E. MINORITIES AND BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

1. Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections Based on Economic Criteria.
2. Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.
3. National Commission for Minorities.
4. Maulana Azad Education Foundation.
5. National Commission for Backward Classes.
6. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.
7. National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.
8. Scheme for Development of Urban Wakf Properties Multi-Sectoral Plans for Minorities Concentration Districts.
10. Ex-Gratia Payment to Riot Victims.
11. Pre-examination Coaching for OBC Students.
12. Hostel for OBS Boys and Girls.
13. Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBC Students.
14. Post-Metric Scholarships for OBC Students.
15. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of OBCs.

F. ANIMAL WELFARE DIVISION

1. Animal Welfare Board of India.
2. Scheme for Shelter for looking after animals.
3. Scheme for Ambulance service.
4. Scheme for birth control and immunisation of stray dogs.
5. National Institute for Animal Welfare.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE HELD ON
THURSDAY, 8 APRIL, 1999

The Committee met from 11.30 hrs. to 13.30 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Harin Pathak — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Surender Singh Barwala
3. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
4. Shri Ajmeera Chandulal
5. Shri Manubhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
6. Shri Jayasinhji Manshinji Chauhan
7. Shri Thawarchand Gehlot
8. Smt. Kamal Rani
9. Shri Ayanur Manjunath
10. Shri Bheru Lal Meena
11. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
12. Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan
13. Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh
14. Shri A. Siddaraju
15. Shri Virendra Kumar
16. Shri Sita Ram Yadav
17. Shri Chinta Mohan

Rajya Sabha

18. Shri Sanatan Bisi
19. Shri Vijay J. Darda
20. Shri Hiphei
21. Shri Bangaru Laxman
22. Shri Jibon Roy
23. Shri Janardan Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Joginder Singh	—	<i>Joint Secretary</i>
2. Shri J.P. Sharma	—	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>
3. Shri R.S. Misra	—	<i>Under Secretary</i>
**	**	**
**	**	**

3. The Committee then took up draft Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 1999-2000 and adopted the same with the following amendments:—

Sl.No.	Page No.	Amendments	
1.	9	Delete	Paragraph Nos. "2.11" and "2.12"
2.	13	Delete	Paragraph No. "2.16"

4. The Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report in the light of above amendments and present the same to Parliament on their behalf.

The Committee then adjourned.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS
CONTAINED IN THE REPORT**

Sl. No.	Para No.	Recommendations/Conclusions
1	2	3
1.	1.15	The Committee note that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has reviewed all the on-going programmes/schemes, and restructured most of them in the light of the approach and objective envisaged for Ninth Five Year Plan. In addition many new measures have been taken to strengthen participation by both Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies in extending benefits to the target groups. The Committee, expect that with the new measures taken by the Ministry there shall be an overall improvement in the functioning of the schemes. They would appreciate if the Ministry is able to coordinate its activities better with the State Governments and Non-Governmental agencies through intensive monitoring of the schemes.
2.	2.11	The Committee note that Rs. 2045.65 crores was allocated to the Ministry during the financial

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year 1998-99, which was reduced to Rs. 1654.44 crores at the Revised Estimate stage. Out of this, the Ministry has utilised Rs. 1263.91 crores upto February, 28, 1999. The remaining 390.53 crore i.e. almost 31% of the Budget would be utilised in the last month of the Financial Year. The reply of the Ministry that the funds are released to States/UTs at the fag end of the financial year due to late receipt of the progress Report and utilisation certificate from them is not acceptable to the Committee. In the opinion of the Committee the practice prevailing in the Ministry that a large amount is released to States/UTs at the fag end of the year should hence be discouraged. For this, vigorous consultations with the State Governments should be made at the highest level and a strong monitoring over the schemes should be done by the Ministry so that funds are released in the beginning of the Financial Year and the bills for reimbursement from State Governments are received in time.

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2.12

The Committee further note that the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 6608 crore to the Ministry to meet its requirements during the Ninth Five Year Plan out of which the Ministry is likely to spend Rs. 4700 crores in the

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first three year of the plan period i.e. upto 1999-2000 leaving the balance of Rs. 1908 crores for the remaining two years of the plan period. The Committee fail to understand as to how Ministry would be able to meet their commitments/requirement for the remaining two years for want of sufficient funds. The Committee view this situation very seriously. They, therefore, desire that the Ministry should take up the issue with the Planning Commission at the highest level for allocation of more funds during the remaining part of the Ninth Five Year Plan so that the ongoing schemes do not suffer for want of funds.

4.

2.13

The Committee note that an amount of Rs. 250 crore was allocated to the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya during the financial year 1997-98, which was reduced to Rs. 1 crore at the revised estimate stage. Similarly, in 1998-99 the same amount was kept in the Budget estimate which was revised to Rs. 20 crore and the expenditure was nil upto 31.12.98. This year the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 50 crore for the scheme. The Committee have now been informed that the Scheme would be launched by the Ministry as soon as the scheme is cleared by Cabinet Committee on Economic

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Affairs. In the opinion of the Committee, much time has been taken in resolving the issue between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Human Resource Development over the question of integration of scheme with Mahila Samiridhi Yojana. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should taken up the matter with CCEA on priority for early clearance of the scheme. Also vigorous efforts should be made by the Ministry to make the scheme functional during the year 1999-2000.

5.**2.25**

The Committee note with concern that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not have the information regarding the number of persons who have achieved economic viability after taking Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan. The reasons put forth by the Ministry that SCP is implemented by the State Governments and it is physically not possible for the Ministry to monitor and review the progress of the utilization of plan funds of all State Governments and U.T. administration are not satisfactory and not acceptable of the Committee The Committee have also been informed by the

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Ministry that under the scheme no targets are fixed because the funds released are utilised by State Government through their implementing agencies depending upon their variant needs. The Committee view this situation very seriously. They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry in consultation with Planning Commission should ascertain the data regarding the number of Scheduled Castes who have actually crossed the poverty line after availing the assistance of the scheme. Also the Ministry should strengthen its monitoring mechanism in coordination with State Governments/UTs to ensure that the funds earmarked under the scheme reaches the grassroot level.

6.

2.26

The Committee regret to note that only 12 out of 35 Central Ministries/Department, namely, Agriculture, Industry, Labour, Coal, Textile, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Human Resource Development, Science and Technology, Health and Family Welfare and Rural and Employment have formulated SCP in their annual Budgets. The reply of the Ministry that there is some improvement in the formulation of SCP by these Ministries, but it is not substantial, is not satisfactory.

Further, the Matter has not been take by the Ministry in the Cabinet. The Committee are not happy with the situation. In their view every Central Ministry/ Department whose activities have or can have a bearing on the development of SCs should atleast identify such schemes which directly benefit the SCs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be taken up at the highest level with the Planning Commission so that other Central Ministries also fall in line and formulate SCP in their Annual Budget. If necessary, the matter should also be taken up at the Cabinet level.

7.

2.27

The Committee note with concern that though the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had been allocating funds for the development of SCs in their Annual Budget in the past, no allocation of funds has been made by them in the current budget. The Government's reply that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not yet sent any intimation regarding allocation under SCP in the current budget is not satisfactory. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry should have taken the issue with the Ministry of petroleum and Natural Gas on priority. The

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Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be taken up at the highest level with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas so that funds are allocated under the Ministry's head at Revised Estimate stage.

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2.37

The Committee note that the budgetary provisions for the scheme of Hostel facilities for SC/ST students have not been fully utilised by the Ministry during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. The reply of the Ministry that the shortfall in expenditure is due to inadequate provision by the State Governments for their matching share and non-utilisation of funds released during the year is not acceptable to the Committee. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry has not taken any concrete steps so far despite the fact that the Committee have been making recommendations in their previous reports on the issue. The Committee view situation seriously and urge the Ministry to take up the matter with those State Governments who have not been able to provide their matching share for construction of hostels for SC/ST boys and girls on a firm footing. The Ministry should also ensure that funds earmarked for the scheme is fully utilised by

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9.	2.38	the state by the State Governments/UTs during the same financial year.
		As regards the Ministry's plan to revise the scheme of boys and girls hostels for STs, where it is being proposed to increase the Central share for construction of hostels, the Committee, while appreciating the revision in the proposed scheme desire that the Ministry should also improve its monitoring mechanism so that the benefit of the hostel facilities actually reach the ST students belonging to remote areas.
10.	2.39	The Committee note with concern that the Ministry has no information about the number of SC/ST boys and girls hostels acutally constructed during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 as well as the number of SC/ST boys and girls availing hostel facility during the period. In the absence of this data, the Committee fail to understand as to how the Ministry would be able to justify proper utilisation of the funds allocated for the scheme. The Committee also note that consequent upon the recommendation made by them in their Seventh Report on Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98 regarding removal of the

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discrepancies noticed by the Ministry in the maintenance of hostels in the State of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh during the year 1995-96, the Government has entrusted evaluation studies to the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs). The Ministry has now stated that the reports of TRIs have been referred to the respective State Governments for remedial measures. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry has taken casual approach to the scheme as they have simply forwarded the reports to concerned State Governments for compliance. The Committee, therefore, desire that officers from the Ministry should visit the States to ensure that the discrepancies pointed out by the TRIs are actually rectified. The Committee also urge the Ministry to improve its coordination with State Governments/UTs and obtain the requisite information regarding hostels actually constructed before releasing the next instalment of funds. Steps taken and progress achieved in this regard should be communicated to the Committee within six month.

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2.49

The Committee note that the Ministry has not been able to achieve its target under the scheme of post matric scholarship to SC and ST students during the last three years. The Ministry has stated that the target could not

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be achieved due to dismal performance of the scheme particularly in the States of Assam and Bihar as well as non-provision of committed liability by the North-eastern States and other States like Bihar, Karnataka etc. In the opinion of the Committee, the monitoring of the Ministry over the States has not been upto the mark. However, the Committee have now been informed that the Ministry has made some modifications in the scheme with the approval of the cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and accordingly detailed proforma has been devised which is regularly sent to States/UTs for reporting on the scheme. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure strict compliance of the conditions laid down in the proforma before releasing Central assistance to the States/UTs. The Committee also desire that constant monitoring and coordination should be maintained with the States/UTs and the progress/implementation of the scheme should be reviewed periodically so that target fixed for assisting the SC/ST students is achieved. Progress achieved in this regard should be communicated to the Committee.

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2.50

The Committee note that the Planning Commission has fixed the annual income of the family under poverty line in rural and

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urban areas to Rs. 15,976 and Rs. 21,206 respectively. The Committee, feel that even if the Ministry apply the revised criteria of poverty line honestly, the number of students covered within the funds allocated for the post matric scholarship scheme would still be very less. The Committee therefore recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should approach the Planning Commission for more allocation of funds under the scheme so that the eligible SC/ST students are not deprived of the benefit of the scheme. The Committee also desire that the criteria for fixing the income of the family below the poverty line should be revised once in two years and linked with Consumer price index for industrial workers so that maximum number of SC and ST students are benefited under the scheme.

13.

2.62

The Committee note that out of 32 projects sanctioned during the years 1995-96, 1996-98 and 1997-98 for the development of Urban Wakf Properties, 20 were for Karnataka State only. The reply of the Ministry that other States did not forward their projects during the last three years and in some of the States, State Wakf Board has not yet been constituted is not acceptable to the Committee in view of the fact that where there is no State Wakf Board, the Wakf properties shall be looked after by the Controller. In the opinion of

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the Committee, Ministry's monitoring in this regard has not been upto the mark. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should pursue the other State Governments also to send their projects for sanction so that they avail the benefit of the scheme. Also, steps should be taken for persuading the State Governments for constitution of State Wakf Boards at the earliest.

14.

2.63

The Committee are concerned to note that large number of Wakf properties have been encroached upon by the Government/Semi Government/local bodies and private persons in some of the States. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that they have proposed to call a meeting of the Wakf Ministers of States under the Chairmanship of Hon. Prime Minister to discuss the issue of encroachment of Wakf properties and to take a decision in the larger interest of implementing the Wakf Act. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to convene a meeting of the Wakf Ministers at the earliest so that a decision is taken to restore the Wakf properties. In the meantime, the State Governments should be pursued to take up the matter with the concerned Wakf Boards for restoration of encroached property and also responsibility should be fixed on the erring Mutawalli/ Manager of the Wakf Board under the provisions of Wakf Act, 1995.

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15.	2.73	<p>The Committee note that the funds allocated under the scheme for the welfare of street children have not been fully utilised by the Ministry during 1997-98 and 1998-99 for want of State Government's recommendation on the performance of the on-going projects. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should ensure that the funds earmarked for the scheme of welfare of street children is fully utilised and they should strengthen their monitoring mechanism and make all-out efforts for timely obtaining State Government's recommendations on the performance of the ongoing projects.</p>
16.	2.74	<p>The Committee further note that although City Level Task Force have been constituted in all the 43 cities to monitor the scheme, they have not furnished the performance report of NGOs well in time. Further, the meetings of the task force are not held regularly and many of the high ranking members of the task force find it difficult to attend the meetings. In the opinion of the Committee, the very purpose of setting up of the Task Forces is defeated in case they are not able to guide and improve the performance of the NGOs. The Committee, therefore, desire that efforts should be made to ensure that the meetings of the task forces are held regularly and attended to by all the members for proper implementation of the scheme.</p>

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17.	2.75	<p>The Committee further note that no survey has been conducted by the Ministry in all the States to see the factors responsible for the existence of street children. The Committee have also been informed that since street children are very mobile and prone to migration, it is difficult to provide education or vocational training to them for any fixed period. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry is not giving due attention to the scheme which it deserves. Every year a considerable amount for the scheme is allocated in the Budget which is not fully utilised. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should conduct a survey in all the States to see the factors responsible for the existence of street children and monitor the scheme in all its earnest by utilising fully the funds allocated so that maximum number of street children are brought into the mainstream of the formal educational system and vocational training system. Also the vocational training should be linked with gainful employment.</p>
18.	2.81	<p>The Committee note that to deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the disabled population, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment gets specialised and technical inputs from five National Institutes and two Apex Level Institutions. In the opinion of the Committee, the role of these institutions is significant as they impart specialised training for the welfare of disabled persons besides providing a forum for</p>

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creating awareness among the community for bringing the disabled population closer to the organisations working for their welfare. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that the funds allocated for these institutes in the last two financial years have not been fully utilised, which is indicative of the fact that Ministry's monitoring over these institutes has not been satisfactory. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should improve its monitoring so that the funds allocated are fully utilised during the financial year and also the quality of services rendered by these institutes in conducting short term/long term courses, national level workshops, holding of camps for disabled etc. is improved.

19.

2.82

The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has received complaints in regard to mal-functioning of the National Institute of Orthopedically Handicapped, Calcutta. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that an enquiry into the complaints is in progress. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter should be thoroughly investigated and action is taken against the erring officials so that such irregularities do not occur in other Institutes. Also details of enquiry report alongwith the action taken in this regard should be communicated to the Committee within six months time.