

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE
OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**Central Grants to Voluntary Organisations Engaged
in the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes.**

(Presented on 7th May, 1974)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(1973—75)

Shri D. Basumatari—*Chairman*

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23. Shri Jamnalal Berwa

*Resigned from the Committee with effect from the 26th April, 1974

(iv)

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Shri B. K. Mukerjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

*Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his/her retirement from Rajya Sabha with effect from the 2nd April, 1974.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-sixth Report on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Central Grants to Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

2. The Committee took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the 16th and 17th January, 1974. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs for placing before the Committee material and information the Committee wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on the 26th April, 1974.

4. A summary of conclusions/recommendations contained in the Report is appended (*See Appendix-IV*).

—D. BASUMATARI,

Chairman,

NEW DELHI;

April 29, 1974

Vaisakha 9, 1896 (Saka).

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I

OBJECTIVES

The Committee have been informed that the Government of India started the scheme of giving grants-in-aid to the Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes from the First Five Year Plan in 1951. The grants-in-aid are now given to the Voluntary Organisations for the following purposes:—

- (i) In respect of Scheduled Castes for propaganda and publicity for the removal of untouchability through the employment of *Pracharaks*, *Bhajan Mandalies*, film shows, posters etc., opening of schools, hostels, training in arts and crafts, improvement in the living and working conditions of scavengers and sweepers.
- (ii) For the Scheduled Tribes, for the conduct of *Ashram* Schools, hostels, training of workers, running of schools, organisation of *Balwadis* and *Balkendras* in crafts, research work etc.
- (iii) For 'Other Backward Classes', for the running of hostels, community centres, hospitals, maternity and child welfare services.
- (iv) For the Nomadic Tribes, for the running of hostels, workshops, and training in crafts.
- (v) For the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for pre-examination training for I.A.S. and allied Services examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

1.2. The Committee enquired about the objectives for giving grants to the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that the Voluntary Organisations have always played a pioneering role in the field of social work. Community support, rather than State aid, is their main-stay. But, in the present hard times, they are unable to undertake large-scale welfare programmes without assistance from public funds, as sources of contribution have dried up. He has added that Voluntary Organisations could lend a human touch,

particularly necessary for social welfare, which the State's impersonal machinery would not be able to provide. Voluntary Organisations have flexibility in their approach and possess an ability to mobilise community support for the programmes. The Committee asked about the role played by the Voluntary Organisations in ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence:—

“Voluntary Organisations have supplemented Governmental efforts for removal of untouchability. They have also run educational institutions, *Balwadis* etc. and have been imparting training in arts and crafts for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They also train workers for undertaking social work. In fact, these Voluntary Organisations are providing support to official efforts. Further, they also strive to rouse the consciousness of all sections of the people who are better placed in order that they may also contribute their mite for ameliorating the lot of the neglected sections of the society.”

1.3. On being asked whether the Voluntary Organisations have fulfilled the objectives for which grants are given to them, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that the performance of the Voluntary Organisations has, on the whole, been satisfactory. This is borne out by the response they are getting from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in their areas. Considerable headway has been made by them, particularly in the field of education. He has added that, by and large, they have fulfilled the objectives, for which grants are given to them. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said:—

“By and large, within the constraint of the resources and the limited funds placed at the disposal of these Voluntary Organisations results achieved have been more than commensurate. I submit that due to paucity of the resources, we have most regretfully been compelled to deny financial assistance to certain Voluntary Organisations. Perhaps, if we had engaged these organisations in the same purpose for which they are now engaged, much result would have come forward.”

1.4. The Committee desired to know the reaction of the Government to a suggestion that Government need not give any grants to

Voluntary Organisations and , instead, utilise the money thus saved through their own agencies for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that this suggestion runs counter to the principle behind the policy of promoting non-official efforts and invoking better participation. Since the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are national in character, it is necessary to involve the public at large in the process of resolving those problems. He has added that the amount given to Voluntary Organisations is relatively small, and, if that is taken over for being spent directly by Government, it is not going to add substantially to the government efforts on the other hand, it would have serious repercussions on voluntary effort.

1.5. The Committee agree that voluntary efforts, besides Governmental activities, are essential for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee also note the objectives for which grants-in-aid are given by the Government of India to the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee would like the Government to make an assessment of the impact made on the removal of untouchability through the employment of Pracharaks and Bhajan Mandalies. The Committee suggest that assistance to the affected Scheduled Caste persons and pursuing with the Police authorities the stricter enforcement of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, should also be one of the objectives of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the removal of untouchability.

1.6. Another objective which the Voluntary Organisations should have is to help Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in getting employment. In this context, the Committee would like to point out that in numerous cases, when the Committee have examined the various Departments and Public Undertakings, the Committee have been informed that copies of recruitment notifications/ advertisements are forwarded to the recognised Voluntary Organisations to sponsor Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates for employment but the response from such Organisations is either nil or extremely poor. The Committee would like the Government to impress on the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants-in-aid for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to play an effective and positive role in this respect.

SELECTION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR GRANTS

The Committee enquired whether the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Government of India were registered with the Government. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that the Government of India are not registering any Voluntary Organisations for the purpose of giving grants. The only criterion is that the Organisation should be of an all-India character, that is, its work should extend to more than one State and that it should be a registered body under the Registration of Societies Act. The guiding factors in selecting the Organisations for payment of grants are their record of service, the standing of their workers and the management and the benefits which the backward classes derive from their activities. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has added that the following types of Voluntary Organisations of a local character, that is, whose work is restricted to a particular State or area can also be given grants by the Government of India:—

- (i) Organisations working in border areas or in interior areas with a large concentration of Scheduled Tribes or Castes and Tribes which are very backward.
- (ii) Organisations which do not require assistance for recurring expenses but are in need of funds for undertaking small capital works which will greatly enhance the benefits flowing from their schemes.
- (iii) Organisations working for Scheduled Tribes in areas where there is a vacuum, that is, where no other organisation is working for the time being. Before sanctioning grants to such organisations, the State Governments' recommendations are obtained.

2.2. Asked whether applications for grants were also called for from the local organisations, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that they entertain applications from new organisations if such organisations are of an all-India character in areas where local organisations are not functioning. He has stressed that such applications are entertained within the constraint of financial resources. The Committee enquired whether

the Voluntary Organisations whose activities were confined only in one State and which were functioning effectively, were entitled for receipt of Central grants. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence:—

“Where the activities of any organisation are confined only to a State, where the quality of work is of a unique nature, the case of such an organisation is considered on its merits and a grant given”.

2.3. In reply to a question, it has been stated by the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs that at the initial stage itself when funds are given to any organisation, it is impressed upon the Organisation that it should not indulge in any political activities and that the funds given by the Government are not intended for any political purpose.

2.4. The Committee desired to know whether equitable distribution of the funds was made to all the States. The representative of the Ministry has stated:—

“An effort is made to make the distribution of funds and assistance equitably. There is one element which may not make the spread even in the sense that some organisations working in some areas may have pre-ponderance in those areas and in other areas, they may not be operative. To that extent, the objective of an even spread of the funds to the Voluntary Organisations gets qualified.”

2.5 The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Eighteenth Report (1968-69) has stated that D.A.V. College Trust and Management Society has undertaken a programme for the spread of education in the tribal belt of Orissa and opened a number of Colleges and Schools there. That Organisation's plan of development envisaged the setting up in each district or section of a scheduled area an educational complex which, in course of time, would have a College of Arts, Science, Commerce, a Teacher Training School, a High School, Polytechnic, Junior Technical Schools, Vocational Institutes, Student Training Programmes, Training-cum-Production Centres, Medical Aid Centres, etc. This complex would run a number of Primary, Middle and High Schools as well as vocational Schools in the remote and isolated parts in the interior areas to be within easy reach of the school going children. The third phase of the above plan envisaged extension

of their activities to the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and other parts of India which have a sizeable tribal population. The Committee desired to know whether Government intended to give grant-in-aid to the D.A.V. College Trust and Management Society to spread their educational activities for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In a note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated that the D.A.V. College Trust and Management Society has not approached the Government of India for grant-in-aid in this respect so far. If and when such a request is received from that Society, it will be examined in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

2.6. The Committee desire that such Voluntary Organisations as are prepared to work in border areas or in interior/remote and difficult areas, where there is a large concentration of Scheduled Tribes/Castes, should be given preference in the allocation of grants.

2.7. The Committee suggest that while selecting Voluntary Organisations for grants, the Ministry of Home Affairs should also consult the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Voluntary Organisations, whose work has been commendable, for example, the Ramakrishna Mission, to cite as an instance should be persuaded to enlarge the scope and area of their activities for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and greater allocations made for grants to them. Voluntary Organisations, whose work has not been found satisfactory, either by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or by the Director General of Backward Classes Welfare should be removed from the list of Organisations entitled to such grants.

III

LIAISON BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR WORKING

The Committee desired to know the nature of liaison between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that the Officers of the Government of India are frequently visiting these Organisations to see for themselves the working of the schemes undertaken by them. In addition, representatives of these Organisations, on their own, also come in contact with the Ministry to report the progress and to relate the problems that are facing them in the field. The Director-General, Backward Classes Welfare, or his nominee, namely, the Zonal Director or the Deputy Director, functions as the Government's representative on the Managing Committees of the various Voluntary Organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is considered a fairly effective way of maintaining liaison and also overseeing the activities of these Organisations. In reply to a question, it has been stated that apart from inspections that are carried out, there has not been any separate detailed evaluation of the activities of the Voluntary Organisations.

3.2 The Committee pointed out that it was brought to their notice that the work of the Voluntary Organisations was not inspected by any one and enquired whether it was possible for a few Zonal Directors or Deputy Directors to inspect the activities of the numerous Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence:—

“All the Zonal Officers under the Directorate General have instructions to inspect at least once a year the activities of the Organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Government of India. It is possible that as a sample some types of work are only inspected and some places are not visited. The visit of a Zonal Officer to a particular non-official Organisation is combined along with his inspection of other programmes. It is likely that some such works might not have been visited. But by and large, supposing a particular All India Organisation has got branches in 23 loca-

tions, it is possible that five locations were not inspected in a particular year or may be four or may be seven. It is conceded that all the institutions are not visited”.

3.3. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the country has been divided into five Zones. The headquarters of the Zone for the Southern region is at Madras, for the Western Zone, it is at Ahmedabad, for the Northern Zone it is at Chandigarh, for the Eastern Zone it is at Patna and for the Central Zone it is at Bhopal. In addition, there are Offices at Bhubaneswar, Shillong and Lucknow. In reply to a query, it has been stated that the Government nominee ensures that the Voluntary Organisations comply with the terms and conditions under which the grant is given. The Committee enquired whether it was possible for one person to examine the activities of the Voluntary Organisations in three or four States. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“I can say that the Zonal Director or the Deputy Director may not be in a position to visit all the activities of all the Organisations in his jurisdiction within one year. That is why I submitted earlier that it is possible that some Organisations might have been left out unvisited, but, as my colleague has assured, we shall again issue instructions to our Zonal Officers to increase the frequency of their visits and inspections.”

3.4. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the reports of the field Officers under the Director General, Backward Classes Welfare are also made available to the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for scrutiny. He has added that the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can directly ask any field Officer of the Directorate General of Backward Classes Welfare to submit to him a report on any subject. In reply to another question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that each Zonal Director covers more than one State.

3.5. The Committee desired to know whether prior approval of the Government was taken by the Voluntary Organisations on expenditure exceeding Rupees one lakh (or any other limit prescribed in this behalf) incurred on a single item by the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has replied:—

“Voluntary Organisations have to take the approval of the Government for any scheme. Even if the cost of the scheme does not exceed one lakh rupees, for every single item detailed information is to be furnished by them at the beginning of the year. While asking for the grant-in-aid, approval of the Government has to be atken for running these schemes. It is only after such approval that the Voluntary Organisations can go ahead with the schemes proposed by them and accepted by the Government”.

3.6. In a written note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated that the accounts of the Voluntary Organisations are regularly audited. In the case of Organisations receiving grants-in-aid of more than Rs. one lakh, the auditing is done by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Any defects pointed out by the audit are brought to the notice of the Organisations concerned and the steps taken by them to rectify the defects are intimated to the Government of India and to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for their information by the Organisations concerned. In the case of Organisations receiving grant-in-aid of less than rupees one lakh, the auditing is done by recognised Chartered Accounts. However, even in these cases, the audit party which examines the accounts of this Ministry every year, goes through the accounts furnished by these Organisations.

3.7. The Committee enquired about the action taken on the six-monthly and yearly progress reports submitted by the Voluntary Organisations to the Government of India. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the progress reports furnished by the Organisations are examined with a view to finding out whether the grants released for the schemes are properly utilised or not and whehter there have been any diversion of funds. If, however, it is found that there are shortfalls in utilising any funds, the amount utilised is reduced from the subsequent grant-in-aid. These reports enable the Ministry to keep a watch on the quality and quantity of work done by these Organisations.

3.8. Asked whether the Government can interfere in the working of the Voluntary Organisations, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that, normally, the Government do not interfere ir, the working of the Organisations in order that their voluntary character is protected. Explaining further, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that once it is generally known that it is the Government which have the reins of the Organisation

in their hands, then the efficacy and effectiveness of that Organisation would stand reduced correspondingly in the eyes of the people for whose benefit the Organisation is working, because the Voluntary Organisations have a role which governmental organisations cannot perform. If the Government take control of these Voluntary Organisations, then that role gets affected. He has added that if any adverse report is received about the working of a Voluntary Organisation, the Government of India, after necessary inquiry, stop the grant-in-aid of that Organisation.

3.9. The Committee desired to know whether the Government of India had received complaints from the Government nominees on the Managing Committees of the grantee Organisations or from the Zonal Directors or from the State Governments that the Voluntary Organisations were not functioning properly. In a written note furnished to the Committee, it has been stated:—

“No such complaint has so far been received from any nominees of the Government on the Managing Committees of the Voluntary Organisations but an adverse report in respect of the Andhra Pradesh Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Hyderabad, was received from the Deputy Director, Backward Classes Welfare, Madras during 1972-73. It may be added that the grants to the Andhra Pradesh Adimjati Sevak Sangh have been stopped with effect from 1973-74.”

3.10. The Committee asked whether the Ministry of Home Affairs intended to bring out any publication for the guidance of the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said:—

“There is no difficulty in bringing out the publication on the working of the aided Voluntary Organisations. This material could be included in the Annual Report of the Ministry which is presented to Parliament on the eve of the Budget discussion. This matter will be pursued further on those lines. Certainly we shall consider including a chapter on the role of the working of the Voluntary Organisations in the report of the Ministry itself.”

3.11. **The Committee need hardly emphasise that in order to assess the proper working of the Voluntary Organisations, it is essential that the schemes undertaken by them for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be thoroughly inspected by the Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee are sorry to note that the Zonal Directors|Deputy Directors of the Directorate**

General of Backward Classes Welfare have not been able to inspect each year all the **Voluntary Organisations** receiving grants from the **Government of India**. The **Committee** desire that the **Ministry of Home Affairs** should tighten their inspection machinery so that the working of each and every **Voluntary Organisation** receiving grant-in-aid is thoroughly inspected every year. This will have a proper check on the implementation of approved schemes by the **Voluntary Organisations**.

3.12. Besides including a chapter on the working of the **Voluntary Organisations** in their **Annual Reports** made available to **Members of Parliament** during the **General Budget** discussions, the **Committee** would like the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to bring out a pamphlet or brochure publicising the objectives for, and terms and conditions on, which grants-in-aid can be availed of by **Voluntary Organisations** working for the **Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**. Such a pamphlet or brochure may also describe the procedure for making applications for grants-in-aid, inspections, achievements etc. for guidance of all concerned.

IV

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Committee have been informed that grants-in-aid are given to the Voluntary Organisations on the following terms and conditions:—

- (1) The funds will not be used for party, political or anti-Government propoganda. If it is found that this has been done, future grants will be withheld and those already sanctioned recovered.
- (2) The Organisations will submit to the Government of India a detailed report of the work done with the statement of accounts audited by a registered auditor within a month of the close of the financial year.
- (3) The Organisations will agree to the occasional visits of the Government Officers and consider their suggestions for the progressive working of the schemes.
- (4) The Organisations will agree to take a nominee of the Government as a member of their managing committee appointed for this purpose.
- (5) The accounts in so far as they relate to the Central grant for the proposed schemes will be subject to the test check by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion.
- (6) The Organisations will have no authority to dispose of any capital equipment for which grant-in-aid has been sanctioned to them without prior approval of the Government of India and in the event of the Organisations dropping the schemes or being wound up, the ownership of such equipment and property would vest in the Government. The assets acquired by an Organisation out of Central grants should not be utilised for purposes other than those for which the grants are sanctioned. The Organisations will also maintain an audited record of all assets acquired wholly or substantially out of the Government grants (the term assets will mean (i) immovable property (ii) movable

property of a capital nature, where the value exceeds Rs. 1,000|-).

- (7) The funds will be spent exclusively for the purpose for which they are meant.
- (8) Propaganda for the removal of Untouchability has to be conducted systematically and vigorously specially in the rural areas. The workers should be drawn both from Harijans and non-Harijans.
- (9) The Organisation will agree to make reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the posts under it on the lines of the reservations provided in service under the Central Government for these communities.

4.2. The Ministry of Home Affairs have informed the Committee that during the first two Plan periods, no special amount was earmarked for aid to Voluntary Organisations. The expenditure during these Plan periods was Rs. 22.63 lakhs and Rs. 87 lakhs respectively. During the Third Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 1.05 crores was allocated and spent. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, an allocation of Rs. 2 crores was made for this purpose but the actual amount made available was only Rs. 1.69 crores. The entire amount has been spent. For the Fifth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 4 crores is proposed to be allocated for the purpose. This is the amount proposed by this Ministry and allowed by the Planning Commission.

4.3. The proposals for grants-in-aid to the Voluntary Organisations during 1971-72 and 1972-73 were discussed in the meetings of the Working Group consisting of Officers of the Department of Social Welfare, a representative each from the Planning Commission and the Voluntary Organisation concerned. In the light of the recommendations made by the Working Group, the proposals were processed with the Ministry of Finance in order to give grants-in-aid to the Voluntary Organisations. The practice of setting up of Working Group has since been discontinued as it was found that this process takes a long time resulting in delay in according sanctions for the schemes.

4.4. At the instance of the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished statements showing names of Voluntary Organisations which applied for grants-in-aid during 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 and names and the amounts of grants-in-aid released directly by the Government of India to the non-official Organisations working for the welfare of the Backward Classes during the years

1970-71 to 1972-73 (See Appendices I & II respectively). A statement showing the names of the Voluntary Organisations, schemes run by them and the grants-in-aid given to them during 1972-73 is at Appendix III.

4.5. The Committee desired to know the procedure followed by the Government of India for the release of grants to the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that the proposals received from the Organisations are first scrutinised in the Ministry. The schemes approved after scrutiny are referred to the Ministry of Finance for their concurrence. Thereafter, an administrative sanction for the grant-in-aid is issued. Simultaneously, half the amount of grant-in-aid approved for an Organisation is released. If the grant in-aid is released for an Organisation that has already received such grant during the previous year, the first instalment will be released after scrutinising the unaudited statement of accounts and the progress report for the previous year. If the un-audited statement of accounts disclosed any unspent balance, that balance is deducted provisionally from the first instalment. The Organisations are required to send their progress reports for the first six months and also audited accounts of the previous year by the 15th of October. After these are received and examined, the second instalment is released after deducting finally any unspent balance of the grant-in aid. In order to ensure that the grantees comply with the terms and conditions of the grant-in-aid and that the sanctioned schemes are run on proper lines, the Director General, Backward Classes Welfare, or his nominee, has been appointed as Government nominee on the Managing Committee of each of the grantee Organisations. The schemes run by the grantee Organisations are also inspected by the Officers of the Director's General, Backward Classes Welfare, and the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The grantees submit six monthly and yearly progress reports of the work done by them which are examined in the Ministry. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also reviews the work done by the non-official organisations in his annual reports. The accounts are audited by the Accountant General Central Revenues where the grant of an Organisation is rupees one lakh or more.

4.6. The Committee asked how it was ensured that the grants were not misused by the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry has said during evidence that under the terms and conditions of grants-in-aid the Organisations have to spend the grant only on the approved schemes. Any modification or change

in the approved pattern can be made only after obtaining the approval of the Government, However, if the statement of accounts discloses that the grantee has not used any part of the grant or did not spend the grant on any approved item, that amount is deducted from the subsequent grants.

4.7. Asked whether Voluntary Organisations experienced any difficulty in getting the grants-in-aid, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said during evidence that no serious difficulty has been experienced by the Voluntary Organisations in getting the grants-in-aid. He has added that in view of the limited amount available with the Government, it is not possible for the Government to meet the demands fully of the Voluntary Organisations. This has certainly affected expansion of the programmes of the Voluntary Organisations. The Committee pointed out that it was represented to them that the Voluntary Organisations faced serious difficulties due to non-payment of the grant-in-aid sought by them. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the grants-in-aid have to be determined after taking into account several factors—for example, the possibility and the extent of utility of the programmes suggested by the Voluntary Organisations and the overall availability of funds. It is, therefore, not possible to accept *in toto* the estimates furnished by an Organisation in each and every case. Asked to state the reasons for not paying the full amount of the grant-in-aid asked for by the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. All India Services Pre-Examination Training Centre, Allahabad, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“Presumably, the Committee is referring to the demand from the Allahabad Pre-Examination Training Centre for some additional posts and some additional buildings. I had occasion to inspect this Centre about four months back, and the proposal was for setting up additional lecture halls and additional full time posts.

I may submit for the information of the Committee that when we conceived of the Pre-Examination Coaching Centre in Allahabad, the idea was to make use of the entire facilities available in the University, the existing lecture halls, the existing library and the existing lecturers on a part-time basis to lecture to these boys. The great name of the Allahabad University was there, and the idea was not to create their own lecture halls in the University exclusively for the Scheduled Castes or their

own library or separate lecturers. In pursuance of that original concept of making use of the infra-structure already available in the Allahabad University, we decided, apart from the financial constraints that we had, that the existing facilities should be made use of to the fullest extent possible."

4.8. The Committee pointed out that it was represented to them that the grants were not paid in time to the Voluntary Organisations and as such the activities of the Voluntary Organisations were hampered. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence:—

"With regard to the payment of grants to different Voluntary Organisations timely, I have to submit that the grant-in-aid is released in two instalments. The first is released in June-July and the second in October-November. For the release of the first instalment of the grant-in-aid, the Organisations have to submit the audited accounts of the grants-in-aid received by them during the past year, the progress reports etc., and before the second instalment is released, they have to submit the audited statement of accounts and other documents like half-yearly progress reports, half-yearly accounts etc. In fact, in order to ensure that it is released timely, we are not insisting on audited accounts of the past year, and this is a facility that we extend to them. Sometimes, these documents are not forthcoming from these Organisations with the result that the release of grant-in-aid is delayed. Otherwise, this Ministry takes sufficient care to see that the grants-in-aid are released to the Organisations in time so that their work is not hampered."

4.9. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

"Very strict vigilance is exercised in the release of grants. Firstly, we have the audited statements of accounts which is a thorough financial statement. Secondly, we have an enumeration by our Zonal Officer of the physical and financial targets achieved. Thirdly, we have a physical check by way of a sample or a random nature of the physical targets achieved. Fourthly, we have a qualitative check of the nature of work done. Fifthly, in regard to the illustration given by the hon. Member, if there is a differ-

ence between the total number of boys for whom the claim is made and the actual number existing on boarding grants, we certainly tell the Organisation concerned, that it is most regrettable and we deduct the amount to that extent."

4.10. On being asked whether grants were paid to Voluntary Organisations for meeting their non-recurring-expenditure, like construction of building etc., the representative of the Ministry has stated that grants-in-aid are now given to Voluntary Organisations for meeting non-recurring expenditure like construction of building. during 1973-74, Rs. 1,50,000 has till then been sanctioned for such expenditure. But due to paucity of funds, such expenditure has not been sanctioned in all cases applied for, but only in restricted cases.

4.11. The Committee asked what the minimum and maximum amounts by way of grants given to Voluntary Organisations by the Government were. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence:—

"We have not fixed any minimum or maximum limit in this regard. The financial assistance depends on the nature of the schemes undertaken by them. We are discussing this very carefully at various levels in the Ministry, including the Ministry of Finance. As far as these Organisations are concerned, we are also taking into consideration the areas of their operation. There are difficult areas like border areas and extremely inaccessible areas where normally these Organisations are functioning. We would like to undertake this job with a total sense of dedication."

4.12. The Committee enquired whether there was any machinery to watch that the grants given to the Voluntary Organisations were actually utilised by them for the purpose for which they were given. The representative of the Ministry has stated:—

"The Organisations under the Director-General and the Officers of the Ministry during their tour examine the functioning of the various schemes entrusted to the Voluntary Organisations. The Zonal Officers have got copies of the sanctioned issued to them and the details of the financial and physical targets to be achieved by their particular Organisations. The Zonal Officers inspect their working so as to find out as to what extent the targets claimed by them have been achieved. They have also

examined whether the funds which were placed at their disposal were properly utilised or not and what were their difficulties. So, all these things have been gone into very closely. Whenever we find any difficulty in the matter, we refer to them. These Organisations give us their progress reports on their functioning. With reference to their progress reports, we take up the actual performance. As far as financial control is concerned, the Comptroller and Auditor General has the power to inspect the activities of these Organisations which receive more than rupees one lakh. In the case of other Organisations which are receiving lesser amount, the local audit is competent to examine them."

4.13. The Committee enquired whether before release of the grants, State Governments were consulted about the operational activities of the Voluntary Organisations which had a number of branches in more than one State. The representative of the Ministry has stated:—

"If the activities of an organisation are found to be isolated in a State alone, we get the opinion of the concerned State Government. It becomes easy thereby and quickens the issue of our sanction. But, if an all-India Organisation has branches all over, we have necessarily to depend upon the comments of all the State Governments before we actually release the grants. These will lead to a lot of delay resulting in the Organisations not being in a position to function. That is actually the difficulty."

4.14. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry has stated that the Voluntary Organisations of the concerned State consult the State Welfare Department because that Organisation receives other forms of grants from the State Welfare Department. It has also been stated by the representative of the Ministry that a copy of the sanction of the amount is also endorsed to the State Governments concerned by the Government of India.

4.15. The Committee asked for the reasons for continuous shortfalls in the expenditure incurred by the Scheduled Castes and Tribes All India Services Pre-Examination Training Centre, Allahabad, from 1959-60 to 1971-72. The representative of the Ministry

of Home Affairs has stated during evidence:—

“The shortfall during the years 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71, and 1971-72 was because the Centre could not utilise the grants given to it fully in respect of living conditions, medical facilities and pay and allowances of the staff. In 1970-71, the non-recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 made available to the Centre for additional rooms could not be utilised. The reasons for the shortfall are generally due to some trainees dropping out of the session in the event of securing jobs etc.”

4.16. The Committee note that during the First, Second and the Third Five Year Plans, Rs. 22.63 lakhs, Rs. 87 lakhs and Rs. 1.05 crores, respectively, were given to the Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, out of Rs. 2 crores allocated for this purpose, only Rs. 1.69 crores was actually made available to the Voluntary Organisations. For the Fifth Five Year Plan, Rs. 4 crores is allocated for distribution to the Voluntary Organisations. Looking to the gigantic task and the extent of voluntary effort needed to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee regret to note that from the very beginning insignificant amounts have been allocated for payment to Voluntary Organisations for their activities. The Committee are of the opinion that with the steep rise in the costs of everything, the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose during the Fifth Five Year Plan is very meagre and the Voluntary Organisations will not be able to do full justice to the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee strongly urge the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Planning Commission to reconsider the matter and substantially increase the allocation for grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The allocation of more funds will also enable the Ministry of Home Affairs to give grants to such of the deserving Voluntary Organisations which could not get grants in the past.

4.17. The Committee recommend that with a view to avoid complaints of delay in making payment of grants to the Voluntary Organisations, the Ministry of Home Affairs should endeavour to release the first instalment of the grants-in-aid by the 31st May and the second instalment by the 30th September of each year on getting the relevant information and documents from the concerned Voluntary Organisation so that the schemes launched by them are not liampered. The Committee would also like the Ministry of

Home Affairs to simplify the procedure and forms in this connection to cut down the delays to the minimum necessary for the purpose.

4.18. The Committee are glad to find that one of the conditions on which grants-in-aid are given to Voluntary Organisations is that the Organisations will agree to make reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the posts under them on the lines of the reservations provided in service under the Central Government for these communities. The Committee, however, regret to point out that this condition is by and large observed by the Voluntary Organisations in its breach. For instance, the Committee appointed by the Delhi Administration to enquire into the happenings of the Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, New Delhi, which is run by the Harijan Sewak Sangh, an Organisation receiving grants from the Government, has pointed out that there was not a single Scheduled Caste teacher in this Vidyalaya and among the other employees also there were very few Scheduled Castes. The Committee would, therefore, like the Government to ensure that this condition prescribed by them for making grants to Voluntary Organisations is fulfilled by each and every such Organisation.

6.19. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to impress upon the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants from the Government of India to have on their managing committees and among their workers representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SCAVENGERS AND SWEEPERS

The Committee enquired, during evidence, about the measures undertaken by the Voluntary Organisations to improve the living and working conditions of the scavengers and sweepers. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that grants-in-aid are given to the Harijan Sevak Sangh and the Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj for this purpose. The Harijan Sevak Sangh is running a *Bhangi Kusht Mukti Programme* under which workers are trained in hygiene and environmental sanitation at the *Safai Vidyalaya* at Ahmedabad where workers are imparted training on conversion of dry latrines into water-borne type so that manual scavenging may be done away with. The Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj, New Delhi, has been running 10 social welfare and educational centres for children and women of Scheduled Castes at Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, Varanasi, Gurgaon, Patiala Katni, Ranaghat and Latehpur. In these centres, a *Balwadi* is run for the children of Scheduled Castes, particularly those belonging to sweepers and scavengers. Women and girls are also trained in tailoring and embroidery in these centres.

5.2. At the instance of the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note stating that the following grants-in-aid were sanctioned to those Organisations during the last ten years for this purpose:—

Year	Amount sanctioned for the improvement of the scavengers and sweepers	
	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi	Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj, New Delhi
	Rs.	Rs.
1963-64	72,000	26,410
1964-65	1,10,100	31,600
1965-66	1,10,100	31,770
1966-67	1,19,200	35,250
1967-68	1,27,300	38,480
1968-69	1,27,300	43,200
1969-70	1,25,000	43,200
1970-71	1,00,000	43,200
1971-72	1,12,000	43,200
1972-73	1,25,000	52,800

5.3. The Committee are sorry to note that only two Voluntary Organisations, namely, the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi and the Hind Sweepers Sevak Samaj, New Delhi, are given grants by the Ministry of Home Affairs for improvement in the living and working conditions of the scavengers and sweepers. The scavengers and sweepers are the lowliest of the low. The Committee need hardly emphasise that greater importance should be given to the improvement of the miserable conditions in which the scavengers and sweepers live and work. The Committee recommend that more and more Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to undertake this work and, if necessary, more liberal grants, with less rigid terms and conditions, may be given for this purpose.

RAISING OF FUNDS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Committee desired to know whether Government had emphasised on the Voluntary Organisations to raise matching funds from private sources so that more funds might be available to them for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated during evidence that Government do not insist on a matching contribution on every item, but their general financial condition and the sources they are able to mobilise on their own are taken into account before sanctioning grants. He has added that a number of Voluntary Organisations are raising funds from private sources. In quite a number of cases, funds given to them by Government are just a fraction of the total resources they mobilise for such purpose. But some Organisations are finding it difficult to raise a large quantum of funds on their own.

6.2. The Committee wanted to know the possible sources/agencies to whom the Voluntary Organisations should approach for financial help for their useful Schemes. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has added during evidence:

“About the question as to who are the possible sources/agencies, I may say that they are mainly the various Government Organisations, the State Governments and other Central Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Health. For example, in respect of nutrition programmes the Department of Social Welfare should be the organisation and in respect of health programmes the Ministry of Health and Family Planning would be the appropriate official organisation; the entire intention is that their efforts should not be restricted to get grants from the Ministry of Home Affairs because there are allied programmes which are being conducted by other Ministries and departments, and they could get the maximum out of those programmes also.”

6.3. The Committee enquired about the action taken by the Government on the recommendation made in the Report of the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes (Reruka

Ray Report) that Voluntary Organisations should reorient their fund raising programmes so that they depended on the willing support of large majority of citizens, rather than on the generosity of a few philanthropists. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that they agree with that recommendation and will welcome if Voluntary Organisations raise large quantum of such funds.

6.4. At the instance of the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note stating that the following Voluntary Organisations have raised funds from private sources for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73:

- (1) The Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi
- (2) The Bhartiya Ghumantoo Jan (Khanabadosh) Sevak Sangh, New Delhi.
- (3) The Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi
- (4) The Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj, New Delhi.
- (5) The Iswar Saran Ashram, Allahabad.
- (6) The Servants of India Society, Poona.
- (7) All India Backward Classes Federation, New Delhi.
- (8) The Bharatiya Depressed Classes League, New Delhi.
- (9) The Andhra Pradesh Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Hyderabad.
- (10) The Andhra Rashtra Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Nellore.
- (11) The All India Women's Conference, New Delhi.
- (12) Shillong Budhists Association, Shillong.
- (13) Ramakrishna Mission, Kokrajhar.
- (14) Ramakrishna Mission, Vidyapith, Deogarh.

6.5. The Committee realise that in these days of hard times it is rather difficult for private Voluntary Organisations to raise funds by donations received from philanthropists. It is precisely for this reason that the Committee have recommended in para 4.16 above that the allocation for grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Fifth Five Year Plan should be substantially increased.

6.6. In view of the above position, the Committee appreciate the efforts of the Voluntary Organisations mentioned in para 6.4 above which raised funds from private sources for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee would like all Voluntary Organisations to emulate this example and make special and consistent efforts to enlist financial help from the general public maximum possible extent for their welfare schemes.

VII.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN TRIBAL AREAS.

As the instance of the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note stating that the special problems in the tribal areas which require attention are education, health and improvement of agricultural practices. So far as education is concerned, the Voluntary Organisations working in tribal areas, particularly the Ramakrishna Mission has been devoting special attention to the opening of schools in the isolated tribal areas for the benefit of the tribal children. The Indian Red Cross Society has been doing good work in regard to the improvement of health services in backward tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh. The Ramakrishna Mission, Ranchi, has been giving training in modern methods of agriculture to Scheduled Tribes farmers under the Divyayan Programme.

7.2. On being asked whether all the Tribal areas were served by the Voluntary Organisations, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has replied in the negative. He has added that it is not possible for a few organisations to cover the entire tribal areas in the country. Asked to state whether the Voluntary Organisations were serving Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in remote areas of the country, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that some Organisations are working in certain remote areas. For example, the Ramakrishna Mission has activities in the North-Eastern region. The Indian Red Cross Society is working in the Garhwal District, Uttar Pradesh.

7.3. The Committee asked whether Voluntary Organisations were working in the areas predominantly inhabited by the tribals. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that some organisations, like the Ramakrishna Mission, are working in areas predominantly inhabited by the tribals.

7.4. The Committee enquired how far the Voluntary Organisations could prevent alienation of land possessed by tribals. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said during evidence :—

“Non-official Organisations could initiate activities by way of arousing the consciousness among the tribals in this regard. Even official aid could come forward by way of

grant for such Organisations, in my personal opinion. I do not think that any non-official Organisation has seriously taken to this type of work in the tribals areas, as far as I know. For arousing the consciousness among the tribals of their rights, societies could be formed and they could get legal aid from the government, wherever it is provided for. Some financial provision, as I said, could be made for this. In many States legal aid provisions were made but those provisions are not fully utilised."

7.5. The Committee note that all the tribal areas of the country are not served by the Voluntary Organisations. The Committee need not emphasise that the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes deserve special attention. The Scheduled Tribes are generally at the lowest level of literacy. Their lands have been encroached upon by non-tribals. They are also subjected to other forms of exploitation. In the opinion of the Committee, the Voluntary Organisations can play an important role in bringing about an improvement in the affairs of the tribals. The Committee desire that more Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to undertake social and educational work in areas having concentration of Scheduled Tribes. Government should also impress upon the Voluntary Organisations to take special interest in educating the Scheduled Tribes regarding the laws and regulations made for their benefit and help in getting them financial and legal assistance.

VIII

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During evidence, the Committee desired to know whether the Ministry of Home Affairs had any suggestion to make to the Voluntary Organisations regarding accelerating the pace of progress of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various fields. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the activities of the Voluntary Organisations are, by and large, so far confined to the sphere of education, health and, to a certain extent, propaganda against untouchability. These are the main spheres in which these Voluntary Organisations are working. The Voluntary Organisations have not been devoting sufficient attention to the economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It will be helpful if these Organisations, in the coming years, give some attention to this aspect also. This, perhaps, can be done by undertaking schemes like giving training in employment-oriented schemes. The Harijan Sevak Sangh is already training Scheduled Caste persons in various trades. Likewise, other Organisations can also take up similar schemes in order that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are better equipped to take up technical jobs. They may also promote certain small scale and cottage industries so that these persons can secure employment or can become self-employed persons. In respect of the economic upliftment programmes and promotion of small scale industries, the important thing is that cooperative organisations should be developed in which the Voluntary Organisations can certainly play a part. He has added that an individual by himself, in these crafts, does not normally succeed because it depends on the supply of raw material, supply of credit and marketing facilities, etc. This has to be supported by a cooperative network, and if the Voluntary Organisations are to take part in organising the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who have been trained in various crafts, and small scale industries, into cooperatives, that can be a sphere where voluntary effort may be worthwhile.

8.2. The Committee enquired whether the students who complete such courses are absorbed by the Government in the services under them. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the training imparted by the Harijan Sevak Sangh

is recognised by the Ministry of Labour under the programme of imparting technical training.

8.3. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the Voluntary Organisations are not in a position to set up training centres because of the huge outlay involved. He has added that there are not many private institutions exclusively for Scheduled Caste candidates, except the Harijan Udyog Shala run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh.

8.4. In a written note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated that the Voluntary Organisations have been running 467 institutions (Schools, Arts and Crafts Training Centres and Hostels) for providing educational, arts and crafts training in various fields and hostel facilities to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and 26,905 persons benefited during the year 1972-73. No study has been made about the number of persons trained by the Voluntary Organisations and who have found employment.

8.5. The Committee asked whether Government has received any representations from the students studying in the Scheduled Castes and Tribes All India Services Pre-Examination Training Centre, Allahabad, regarding their problems. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said:

“Yes, Sir. Sometimes we do receive representations about the inadequacy of the facilities at the Centre and the inadequacy of the amount given for food. For instance, proper library facilities are not available. We do receive representations, not only representations but also oral complaints.”

8.6. The Committee asked about the type of work which the Voluntary Organisations could do in a better way than a governmental organisation could do. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“There are certain fields of activity where voluntary appeal has a greater impact on the conscience of man than a formal functioning of the Government official. I will illustrate it with reference to the work for the removal of social disabilities. For example, the work relating to the improving of living and working conditions of scavengers and others practising unclean occupations. I refer to the

work that might be done by voluntary agencies in going to tribal areas and improving the level of productivity in agriculture, in preventing wasteful practices such as *jhumming*, in adopting measures that would ensure a greater return from the land, etc. Measures such as these could be more effectively undertaken by Voluntary Organisations."

8.7. The Ministry of Home Affairs have informed the Committee that no guidelines have been laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs for formulation of schemes by the Voluntary Organisations. It is open to these Organisations to conceive of any scheme for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and approach the Government for financial help for their implementation. It may however be pointed out that issuing of guidelines to these Organisations may not be appropriate in view of their voluntary nature. As, however, the workers of these Organisations are more or less in constant touch with the Officers of the Government of India, the problems of these Organisations are discussed and guidance provided wherever necessary.

8.8. On being asked whether the activities of the Voluntary Organisations and those of the Welfare Departments of the State Governments could be integrated to bring about better results, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs had stated that full integration may not be the appropriate answer to the problem. He has added that it is ensured that there is no overlapping of activities. It is not a question of supplanting one Organisation by another, but supplementing Government effort by voluntary effort. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

"In all these activities, there are certain areas where there are certain spheres of activities which, perhaps, Government, by its very impersonal nature, may not be able to deliver in a perfect manner with such a sense of zeal and dedication as we can get through non-official effort. For instance, take medical care in the remote areas. Perhaps we may not even find the doctors or the para-medical personnel willing to work in such areas. I have seen from my own experience the remote and inaccessible areas where non-official organisations, missionaries from foreign countries or from our own country rendering a very remarkable work. Likewise they are doing a remarkable

work in the field of education. This is only a supplementary effort and perhaps the supplementary effort can be the real effort; that has an impact on the local people."

8.9. The Committee pointed out that the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Twentieth Report (1970-71) had commented on the working of the workers of the Bharatiya Depressed Classes League in the districts of Gaya and Sahabad. The main work assigned to them was to help removal of the practice of untouchability and to secure equality for the Scheduled Castes with the rest of the society. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had observed:—

"It is very disheartening to note that due to lack of systematic planning, coordination and proper supervision this scheme was not at all functioning satisfactorily. The field of activities allotted to each worker was so vast that physically it was not possible to cover it by a single man. It is desirable that a fresh look be given to such schemes so that the jurisdiction is reduced and their scope of work is increased effectively."

8.10. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had also remarked adversely about the propaganda work done by the *pracharak*s of the Bharatiya Depressed Classes League. The Committee enquired whether Government had taken up the matter with the Bharatiya Depressed Classes League and, if so, what remedial measures had been taken. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that the matter has been considered and it is felt that it will be better if that Organisation takes more constructive work. He has added that it has also been decided progressively to reduce the grants for propaganda purposes. In reply to a query, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that a grant of Rs. 1,07,535 was paid to that Organisation during 1970-71. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the Bhartiya Depressed Classes League has been specially requested not to cover the same area, not to repeat their activities in the same area, but to cover different areas. In reply to another question, it has been stated that there are 46 *Pracharak*s and two regional supervisors. Rs. 90,000 is spent by the Depressed Classes League annually on *Pracharak*s.

8.11. The Committee asked whether the Voluntary Organisations were able to mobilise public cooperation in getting their various schemes implemented. The representative of the Ministry of Home

Affairs has stated that on the basis of the progress reports furnished by the Organisations receiving grants-in-aid, it does appear that the Voluntary Organisations are able to mobilise public cooperation in getting their various schemes implemented.

8.12. The Committee enquired whether measures now adopted by the Voluntary Organisations for eradication of untouchability are adequate to meet the situation. In reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note stating that the voluntary Organisations are working within limited areas and it is not possible for them to tackle the question of untouchability in respect of the whole country. Till now, the main problem has been to ensure that the Scheduled Castes become aware of their rights and privileges under the Constitution. This phase has now been completed and the main question is the education of the general public against the evils of untouchability. For this purpose, it will be necessary not only to utilise the Voluntary Organisations but also to make use of other agencies of the Government, for example, All India Radio, Films Division etc. During the Fifth Five Year Plan we have proposed an allotment of Rs. 5 crores for setting up a proper machinery for eradication of untouchability including the proper enforcement of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955. The details of the measures which will be undertaken are being worked out.

8.13. The Committee wanted to know whether there was any agency at present, either departmental or otherwise, to evaluate periodically the achievements and the progress of the schemes undertaken by the Voluntary Organisations in the various fields and whether any evaluation had been made by that agency so far. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note stating that the work done by the Voluntary Organisations is constantly evaluated by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and he invariably makes a mention about the working of these Organisations in his Annual Reports submitted to the President. Besides the Officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Organisation of the Director General, Backward Classes Welfare, also inspect the schemes and evaluate them. The progress reports submitted by the Voluntary Organisations also give an idea of the progress achieved by them in the various fields. Generally, progress made is considered satisfactory. The reports of the Officers of the Directorate General, Backward Classes Welfare, are scrutinised in the Ministry of Home Affairs for deciding whether the grant-in-aid should be continued or not in cases where mismanagement or misuse is reported. It may be pointed out in this connection that, as a result of such reports, the Government of India have stopped giving grants-in-aid

to the following Voluntary Organisations that have been receiving such grants-in-aid over the past few years:—

- (1) Bharat Dalit Sevak Sangh.
- (2) All India Federation of Backward Classes.
- (3) The Andhra Pradesh Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Hyderabad.

8.14. The Committee enquired how far the total expenditure incurred so far in payment of grants-in-aid had been commensurate with the results achieved by the Voluntary Organisations. The representative of the Ministry has stated:—

“The Voluntary Organisations have played an important role in meeting the needs of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in the fields of education and health and work has been done by them in making the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes aware of the benefits and concessions to which they are entitled. The amount of grant-in-aid given to these Voluntary Organisations has been very small. While during the Fourth Five Year Plan period, an amount of Rs. 172.70 crores has been spent by Government directly, only Rs. 1.69 crores have been spent on the Voluntary Organisation. The role played by these Organisations in isolated tribal areas is particularly noteworthy. In this connection, the work done by the Ramakrishna Mission in Chirapunji and Arunachal Pradesh has been of the nature of a pioneering effort in bringing education to the doorsteps of the tribals in those areas. The role of Harijan Sevak Sangh in undertaking a scheme, for the Scheduled Castes people, particularly the lowest among them, has been noteworthy. Similarly, the Organisations have also been doing good-work in raising the educational standards of the backward sections of the people. It is indeed said that the Government have not been able to help the Organisations in a more suitable manner due to financial constraints. If the availability of funds was adequate, it would have been possible for the Government to give more assistance to these Organisations. It has also not been possible for the Government to give more assistance to these Organisations. It has also not been possible for the Government to increase substantially the number of Organisations to whom such help could be given. It is expected that in the Fifth Five Year Plan greater help would be given to the Voluntary Organisations. The amount allocated for this purpose in the Fifth Plan is likely to be substantially higher than the amount allocated in the Fourth Plan period.”

Fifth Plan is likely to be substantially higher than the amount allocated in the Fourth Plan period."

8.15. The Committee note that the Voluntary Organisations have not so far devoted sufficient attention to the economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Home Affairs should advise the Voluntary Organisations to explore the possibilities of development of handicrafts and village industries for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They should also start training-cum-production centres and the training programme should be linked up with the production activity. This will facilitate the trainees to acquire the manual skill in a particular craft, and also knowledge of the methods of business organisation in the respective trade.

8.16. The Committee feel that the Voluntary Organisations can play a very useful role in organising cooperatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the fields or arts and crafts, small scale industries and agricultural activities. Formation of Cooperatives will help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to get the required raw materials, credit and marketing facilities with less difficulty. Voluntary Organisations can also help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in availing of the legal aid, provision for which is made by several State Governments for the benefit of these communities.

8.17. The Committee would like the Government to prepare some guidelines for the benefit of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of formulation of their schemes and properly channelising their activities so that optimum benefits is derived from the money spent for this purpose. The Voluntary Organisations should also be advised to seek the cooperation and help of the Social Welfare Departments of the State concerned for better implementation of their schemes.

NEW DELHI;

April 29, 1974.

Vaisakha 9, 1896 (Saka)

D. BASUMATARI,
Chairman,

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

APPENDIX I

(See para 4.4 of the Report)

Names of the Voluntary Organisations which applied for grants-in-aid during 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73.

1. Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi.
2. Bharatiya Depressed Classes League, New Delhi.
3. Iswar Saran Ashram, Allahabad.
4. Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi.
5. Servants of India Society, Poona.
6. Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi.
7. All India Backward Classes Federation, Delhi.
8. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.
9. Andhra Pradesh Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Hyderabad.
10. Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi.
11. Ramakrishna Mission, Chirapunji.
12. Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur.
13. Ramakrishna Mission, Shillong.
14. Sri Ramakrishna Advaita Ashram, Kalady.
15. Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Ranchi.
16. Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Puri.
17. Ramakrishna Mission Sevasram, Silchar.
18. Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Deoghar.
19. Ramakrishna Mission, Along.
20. Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Orissa Unit, Rayagada.
21. Scheduled Castes and Tribes, All India Services etc. Pre-Examination Training Centre, Allahabad.
22. Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj, New Delhi.
23. Bharatiya Ghamantu Jan (Khanabadosh) Sevak Sangh, New Delhi.
24. National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi.
25. Andhra Rashtra Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Nellore.

26. Thakkar Bapa Ashram, Nimakhandi (Orissa).
27. The Government of Madras/Mysore (for Pre-Examination Training Centre).
28. Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Nimpith.
29. All India Women's Conference, New Delhi.
30. Sri Ramakrishna Seva Kendra, Ranchi.
31. Jagjiwan Ram Trust, New Delhi.
32. Ramakrishna Mission, Kokrajhar.
33. Shillong Buddhist Association, Shillong.
34. Akhil Bharatiya Vimukita Jati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi.
35. Sarvodaya Bal Ashram, Rockwood, Simla.
36. Gour Mohan Sachin Mandal Mahavidyalaya, Hireswarpur, 24 Parganas.
37. Sri Ramakrishna Seva Ashram, Ranchi.
38. Mikir Hills Sevakendra, Sarihajam, Assam.
39. All India Crime Prevention Society, Lucknow.
40. Andhra Pradesh Ghamantu Jan Sevak Sangh, Guntur.
41. All India Federation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, Backward and Minorities Employees Association, New Delhi.
42. Panchrur Colleges, West Bengal.
43. Rev. Fr. S. Coelho of the Jesuit Fathers, Kohima.
44. The Savar Krishi Sumbaya Simiti, Distt. Midnapur.
45. The Anand Marga Relief Committee.
46. Ramakrishna Mission, Vidyapith.
47. Gandhi Harijan Vidyalaya, Manipur.
48. M.C.T. Trust, Agra.
49. P. Muthuramalinga Thevar College, Distt. Madurai.
50. Elementary School, Alligaran, Madurai.
51. Nitya Vyshnava Sangham, Hyderabad.
52. Santhal Pahadia Seva Mandal, Bihar.
53. Loyola School, Kohima.
54. Scheduled Tribes Education Society, Ellore.
55. Notified Area Council, Hinjilicut.
56. Darappur Deshbandhu Pathagar 'O' Club, Nadia.
57. Social Welfare Advisory Board, Calcutta.

58. Ravidas Bhawan Nirwan Committee, Charkhi Dadri, (Haryana).
 59. Tamil Nadu Harijan Sevak Sangh, Lalgudi.
 60. Jagjivan Institute of Social Reconstruction, New Delhi.
 61. Akhil Bharatiya Kashyap Sabha, Allahabad.
 62. Mysore State Nanadev Shivji Samaj.
 63. Balmiki Sabha, Ajmer.
 64. Rawal Yogi Mandal, Gujarat State.
 65. Sabarkantha Education Society, Poona.
 66. Halpati Sevak Sangh, Barooli (Gujarat).
 67. National Memorial Trust, Indore.
 68. Akhil Bharatiya Adivasi Vikas Parishad, Ranchi.
 69. Bharat Dalit Sevak Sangh, Poona.
 70. Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Samiti, Shillong.
 71. Catholic Church, Bettiah.
 72. Kalopong High School, Kalipong (West Bengal).
 73. Sar Guru Sevak Samarasa Sangh, Coonoor (Tamil Nadu).
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APPENDIX II
(See para 4.4 of the Report)

Names and the amounts of grants in-aid released directly by the Government of India to the non-official organisations working for the Welfare of the Backward Class during the years 1970-71 to 1972-73 are given below.

(Figures in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	AMOUNT RELEASED		
		1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi	8,71,430	9,07,776	7,96,196
2.	Bharatiya Depressed Classes League, New Delhi	1,07,535	93,285	2,29,234
3.	Isvar Saran Ashram, Allahabad	43,940	42,735	43,713
4.	Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi	2,75,244	2,27,043	3,15,695
5.	Servants of India Society, Poona	2,14,938	1,98,430	2,47,457
6.	Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi	1,62,653	1,37,646	2,69,309
7.	All India Backward Classes Federation, Delhi	86,797	..	..
8.	Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi . . . . .	..	13,000	..
9.	Andhra Pradesh Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Hyderabad	78,833	83,105	78,971
10.	Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi	31,824	..	..
11.	Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur	92,385	1,51,532	2,67,656
12.	Ramakrishna Mission, Cherrapunji	4,42,149	4,05,187	4,33,944
13.	Ramakrishna Mission, Shillong	26,830	33,070	40,209
14.	Shri Ramakrishna Advaita Ashrama, Kalady	1,05,340	39,121	68,275
15.	Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Ranchi.	55,881	144,000	1,46,750
16.	Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Puri	40,240	39,500	56,300
17.	Ramakrishna Mission Sevasram, Silchar	38,900	32,400	87,650
18.	Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Deoghar . . . . .	..	25,000	..
19.	Ramakrishna Mission, Along	1,91,328	1,96,353	2,06,263
20.	Scheduled Castes and Tribes All India Services etc. Pre-Examination Training Centre, Allahabad	1,68,460	2,09,417	2,88,192
21.	Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj, New Delhi	63,403	86,486	2,07,556
22.	Bharatiya Ghamantu Jan (Khanabadosh) Sevak Sangh, New Delhi	75,210	97,711	96,107

1	2	3	4	5
23.	National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi	69,893	46,727	..
24.	Andhra Rashtra Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Nellore .	15,000	14,760	14,906
25.	Thakkar Bapa Ashram, Nimakhandi . . . . .	..	15,000	20,000
26.	Shri Ramakrishna Ashram, Nimpith	16,000	..	..
27.	All India Women's Conference, New Delhi	6,057	9,889	16,800
28.	Sri Ramakrishna Seva Kendra, Ranchi. . . . .	..	..	5,000
29.	Jagjwan Ram Trust, New Delhi . . . . .	..	..	20,000
30.	Ramakrishna Mission, Kokrajhar	20,000	10,000	..
31.	Shillong Buddhist Association, Shillong . . . . .	..	30,000	..

APPENDIX III

(See para 4.4 of the Report)

**Statement showing the names of the Voluntary Organisations, schemes run by them and the grants-in-aid given to them during 1973-74.*

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Schemes run	Area of Operation	Grants-in-aid given in 1973-74
1	2	3	4	5
1	Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narendrapur (West Bengal)	Hostel for Scheduled Caste students, Training in crafts and dispensary	24-Parganas (W.B.)	Rs. 1,53,769
2	Ramakrishna Mission, Cherrapunji.	Hostel and educational facilities for Scheduled Tribes, Training in crafts etc.	United K & J Hills	4,24,327
3	Ramakrishna Mission, Shillong	Hostel for Scheduled Tribe students and a Mobile Dispensary.	Shillong	41,110
4	Sri Ramakrishna Advaita Ashrama, Kerala	Hostel for Scheduled Tribe students	Ernakulam Distt.	63,445
5	Ramakrishna Mission Sevasram, Silchar	Hostel for Scheduled Tribe students.	Cachar Distt.	63,025
6	Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Puri	Hostel for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe and other Backward Classes students.	Puri District	48,650
7	Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Along, Arunachal Pradesh	Hostel and School for Scheduled Tribe students.	Siang Distt. Arunachal Pradesh	2,16,265
8	Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Delhi	(i) Ashram School for Scheduled Tribes (ii) Training of Workers (iii) Training in Co-operation (iv) Publication of a Magazine	Uttar Pradesh Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi	2,00,588

**Vide Report of Ministry of Home affairs (1973-74), pp. 109-11.*

1	2	3	4	5
9	Servants of India Society, Poona.	Hostel, educational institutions, Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes, Women's Welfare Centre, Training in drafts, etc.	U. P., Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka State.	2,48,532.50
10	All India Women's Conference, New Delhi.	Hostel for Scheduled Tribe girls.	Nilgiri District (T. Nadu).	12,793
11	Bharatiya Ghumanru Jan (Khana Bodosah) Sevak Sangh, New Delhi.	Mobile Schools, Vocational Ashram Schools, and technical training for nomadic tribes.	Ambala, Godhra, Ujjain, Yootmal, Bikaner, Dehradun District and Delhi.	87,510
12	Andhra Rastra Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Nellore.	Hostels, Schools and Training in Crafts for Scheduled Tribes.	Nellore and Krishna District.	Under Consideration,
13	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi.	(i) Ashram Schools for Scheduled Castes and Balwadis, Technical Training Schools. (ii) Crochos (iii) Propaganda and publicity against untouchability (iv) Improvement in the working conditions of Sweepers and scavengers	Anand, Calicut, Raipur, Bhopal, Ganjam, Bhuiwara, Madurai, Ghazipur, Rajasthan, Delhi, Tripura and Orissa.	7,76,370
14	Ramakrishna Mission, Ranchi.	Training of tribals in modern agricultural techniques, Animal husbandry and poultry farming	Around Ranchi in Chotanagpur areas.	1,16,934
15	Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi.	Maternity and Child Welfare services in backward areas.	Tehri Garwhal and Jaunsar, Bawar areas (U.P.).	3,47,214
16	Scheduled Castes & Tribes All India Services Pre-Examination Training Centre, Allahabad.	Pre-Examination Training for I.A.S. etc. examinations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe and Denotified Tribe candidates.	All India.	2,49,703

1	2	3	4	5
17	Bharatiya Depressed Classes League, New Delhi.	Propaganda and publicity against untouchability, hostels for post-matric & pre-matric Scheduled Castes students.	All India.	1,43, 880
18	Hind Sweepers' Sevak Samaj, New Delhi.	Improvement in the working conditions of sweepers, Training in crafts and social welfare centres, Hostel for Scheduled Caste students	U. P., Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.	1,70,276
19	Iswar Saran Ashram, Allahabad.	Propaganda and publicity against untouchability, training in printing technology.	Around Allahabad Distt.	4,905
20	Thakkar Bapa Ashram, Nimakhandi.	Schemes for the benefits of Orissa Scheduled Castes/Tribes.	Orissa.	20,000
21	Rao's IAS Study Circle New Delhi.	Providing pre-examination coaching to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates.	All India.	30,650
22	Convention of Teenagers New Delhi.	Convention on the problems of Adivasis and Harijans held on 19th and 20th November, 1973.	New Delhi.	10,000 (Ad-hoc)
23	The Cheshire Home Eastern Regional Council, New Delhi.	Initial equipment for a Cheshire Home, Ranchi.	Ranchi	10,000 (Ad-hoc)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide para 4 of Introduction)

Summary of conclusions|recommendations contained in the Report

Sl. No.	Reference to para number in the Report	Recommendations
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	1.5	The Committee agree that voluntary efforts, besides Governmental activities, are essential for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee also note the objectives for which grant-in-aid are given by the Government of India to the Voluntary Organisation engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee would like the Government to make an assessment of the impact made on the removal of untouchability through the employment of <i>Pracharaks</i> and <i>Bhajan Mandulies</i> . The Committee suggest that assistance to the affected Scheduled Castes persons and pursuing with the Police authorities the stricter enforcement of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, should also be one of the objectives of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the removal of untouchability.
2	1.6	Another objective which the Voluntary Organisations should have is to help Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in getting employment. In this context, the Committee would like to point out that in numerous cases, when the Committee have examined the various Departments and Public Undertakings, the Committee have been informed that copies of recruit-

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ment notifications|advertisements are forwarded to the recognised Voluntary Organisations to sponsor Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates for employment but the response from such Organisations is either nil or extremely poor. The Committee would like the Government to impress on the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants-in-aid for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to play an effective and positive role in this respect.

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2.6

The Committee desire that such Voluntary Organisations as are prepared to work in border areas or in interior|remote and difficult areas, where there is a large concentration of Scheduled Tribes|Castes, should be given preference in the allocation of grants.

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2.7

The Committee suggest that while selecting Voluntary Organisations for grants, the Ministry of Home Affairs should also consult the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Voluntary Organisations, whose work has been commendable, for example, the Ramakrishna Mission, to cite as an instance, should be persuaded to enlarge the scope and area of their activities for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and greater allocations made for grants to them. Voluntary Organisations, whose work has not been found satisfactory, either by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or by the Director General of Backward Classes Welfare should be removed from the list of Organisations entitled to such grants.

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3.11

The Committee need hardly emphasise that in order to assess the proper working of the Voluntary Organisations, it is essential that the schemes undertaken by them for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be thoroughly inspected by the Officials of the

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Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee are sorry to note that the Zonal Directors|Deputy Directors of the Directorate General of Backward Classes Welfare have not been able to inspect each year all the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants from the Government of India. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Home Affairs should tighten their inspection machinery so that the working of each and every Voluntary Organisations receiving grant-in-aid is thoroughly inspected every year. This will have a proper check on the implementation of approved schemes by the Voluntary Organisations.

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3.12

Besides including a chapter on the working of the Voluntary Organisations in their Annual Reports made available to Members of Parliament during the General Budget discussions, the Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to bring out a pamphlet or brochure publicising the objectives for, and terms and conditions on, which grants-in-aid can be availed of by Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Such a pamphlet or brochure may also describe the procedure for making applications for grants-in-aid, inspections, achievements etc. for guidance of all concerned.

7

4.16

The Committee note that during the First, Second and the Third Five Year Plans, Rs. 22.63 lakhs, Rs. 87 lakhs and Rs. 1.05 crores, respectively, were given to the Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, out of Rs. 2 crores allocated for this purpose, only Rs. 1.69 crores was actually made available to the Voluntary Organisations. For the Fifth Five Year Plan, Rs. 4 crores is allocated for distribution to the Voluntary Organisations. Looking to the

(1)	(2)	(3)
		<p>gigantic task and the extent of Voluntary effort needed to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee regret to note that from the very beginning insignificant amounts have been allocated for payment to Voluntary Organisations for their activities. The Committee are of the opinion that with the steep rise in the costs of everything the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose during the Fifth Five Year Plan is very meagre and the Voluntary Organisation will not be able to do full justice to the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee strongly urge the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Planning Commission to reconsider the matter and substantially increase the allocation for grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The allocation of more funds will also enable the Ministry of Home Affairs to give grants to such of the deserving Voluntary Organisations which could not get grants in the past.</p>
8	4.17	<p>The Committee recommend that with a view to avoid complaints of delay in making payment of grants to the Voluntary Organisations, the Ministry of Home Affairs should endeavour to release the first instalment of the grants-in aid by the 31st May and the second instalment by the 30th September of each year on getting the relevant information and documents from the concerned Voluntary Organisations so that the schemes launched by them are not hampered. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to simplify the procedure and forms in this connection to cut down the delays to the minimum necessary for the purpose.</p>
9	4.18	<p>The Committee are glad to find that one of the conditions on which grants-in-aid are given to Voluntary Organisations is that the Organisations will agree to make reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the posts under them on the lines of the reservations pro-</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)
		<p>vided in service under the Central Government for these communities. The Committee, however, regret to point out that this condition is by and large observed by the Voluntary Organisations in its breach. For instance, the committee appointed by the Delhi Administration to enquire into the happenings of the Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, New Delhi, which is run by the Harijan Sewak Sangh, an Organisation receiving grants from the Government, has pointed out that there was not a single Scheduled Caste teacher in this Vidyalaya and among the other employees also there were very few Scheduled Castes. The Committee, would, therefore, like the Government to ensure that this condition prescribed by them for making grants for Voluntary Organisations is fulfilled by each and every such Organisation.</p>
10	4.19	<p>The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to impress upon the Voluntary Organisations receiving grants from the Government of India to have on their managing committees and among their workers representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.</p>
11	5.3	<p>The Committee are sorry to note that only two Voluntary Organisations, namely, the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi and the Hind Sweepers Sevak Samaj, New Delhi, are given grants by the Ministry of Home Affairs for improvement in the living and working conditions of the scavengers and sweepers. The scavengers and sweepers are the lowliest of the low. The Committee need hardly emphasise that greater importance should be given to the improvement of the miserable conditions in which the scavengers and sweepers live and work. The Committee recommend that more and more Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to undertake this work and, if necessary, more liberal grants, with less rigid terms and conditions, may be given for this purpose.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)
12	6.5	<p>The Committee realise that in these days of hard times it is rather difficult for private Voluntary Organisations to raise funds by donations received from philanthropists. It is precisely for this reason that the Committee have recommended in para. 4.16 of the Report that the allocation for grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Fifth Five Year Plan should be substantially increased.</p>
13	6.6	<p>In view of the above position, the Committee appreciate the efforts of the Voluntary Organisations mentioned in para 6.4 of the Report which raised funds from private sources for ameliorating the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee would like all Voluntary Organisations to emulate this example and made special and consistent efforts to enlist financial help from the general public to maximum possible extent for their welfare schemes.</p>
14	7.5	<p>The Committee note that all the tribal areas of the country are not served by the Voluntary Organisations. The Committee need not emphasise that the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes deserve special attention. The Scheduled Tribes are generally at the lowest level of literacy. Their lands have been encroached upon by non-tribals. They are also subjected to other forms of exploitation. In the opinion of the Committee, the Voluntary Organisations can play an important role in bringing about an improvement in the affairs of the tribals. The Committee desire that more Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to undertake social and educational work in areas having concentration of Scheduled Tribes. Government should also impress upon the Voluntary Organisations to take special interest in educating the Scheduled Tribes regarding the laws and regulations</p>

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- | (1) | (2) | (3) |
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| | | made for their benefit and help in getting them financial and legal assistance. |
| 15 | 8.15 | The Committee note that the Voluntary Organisations have not so far devoted sufficient attention to the economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Home Affairs should advise the Voluntary Organisations to explore the possibilities of development of handicrafts and village industries for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They should also start training-cum-production centres and the training programme should be linked up with the production activity. This will facilitate the trainees to acquire the manual skill in a particular craft, and also knowledge of the methods of business organisation in the respective trade. |
| 16 | 8.16 | The Committee feel that the Voluntary Organisations can play a very useful role in organising cooperatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the fields of arts and crafts, small scale industries and agricultural activities. Formation of cooperatives will help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to get the required raw materials, credit and marketing facilities with less difficulty. Voluntary Organisations can also help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in availing of the legal aid, provision for which is made by several State Governments for the benefit of these communities. |
| 17 | 8.17 | The Committee would like the Government to prepare some guidelines for the benefit of the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the |
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matter of formulation of their schemes and properly channelising their activities so that optimum benefit is derived from the money spent for this purpose. The Voluntary Organisations should also be advised to seek the cooperation and help of the Social Welfare Department of the States concerned for better implementation of their schemes.
