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**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN
(2006-2007)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**'HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR
WORKING WOMEN'**

**MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND
CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

TENTH REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2006 / Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2006
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2006



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2006 / Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN (2006-2007)

Smt. Krishna Tirath — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Priya Dutt
3. Smt. Jayaprada
4. Smt. Preneet Kaur
5. Smt. Sushila Kerketta
6. Smt. Manorama Madhavraj
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SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.K. Sharma | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri J.P. Sharma | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 3. Smt. Veena Sharma | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 4. Shri V.P. Goel | — | <i>Assistant Director</i> |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of Committee on Empowerment of Women, present the Tenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Hostel Accommodation for Working Women'.

2. The Report is based on the inputs received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, State Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and impressions gained by the Committee during their study visit to Guwahati.

3. The Committee on Empowerment of Women took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 1st March, 2006 and 11th October, 2006. On 7th November, 2006, the Committee heard the views of the representatives of Ministry of Women and Child Development along with officials of the aforementioned State Governments in connection with examination of the subject.

4. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2006-07) at their sitting held on 14th December, 2006. The Minutes of the sitting form Part II of the Report.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officials of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the concerned State Governments for placing before them the material and information in connection with the examination of the subject and tendering evidence before them.

6. For facility of reference, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
14 December, 2006
23 Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)

KRISHNA TIRATH,
Chairperson,
Committee on Empowerment of Women.

REPORT

'HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR WORKING WOMEN'

Introductory

Women constitute around 48.3% of India's population as per 2001 Census and are the precious human resource of our country. The development of our country as a whole is deeply intertwined with the development and empowerment of women. Acknowledging this aspect, priority has been accorded to empower this section through a holistic combination of legal and statutory safeguards along with social and economic initiatives. The principles of gender equality and privileges for women are enshrined in the Constitution of India in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy. The Constitution not only guarantees equal status for women *vis-a-vis* men, but also advocates positive discrimination in their favour. But, in spite of the constitutional safeguards in favour of women there are a number of constraints being faced by them.

2. Today in the era of globalization, progressive changes in the social and economic structure and activities have been bringing more and more women to big cities and urban and rural townships in search of employment. As per the Ministry of Labour's statistics as brought out on 31st March, 2005, there are 50.69 lakh working women in the organized sector in our country. Of these, the Central Government employs about 6 lakh; the State Government and bodies under the State Governments employ about 17 lakh; local bodies employ a little under 6 lakh; and the private sector and the smaller establishments employ about 18 lakh and 3 lakh respectively.

3. One of the main difficulties faced by these women has been lack of suitable and safe accommodation in a healthy and wholesome environment. Appreciating the difficulties faced by such women in accessing good accommodation, the Government of India launched the 'Scheme of Assistance for Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building' in order to provide hostel accommodation to working women. The scheme was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 22nd May 1972 and has been in operation since then. The scheme has been modified from time to time to widen its scope and to make changes consistent with the socio-economic transition in the society.

4. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the nodal Ministry implementing this Scheme have informed the Committee that initially the scheme was restricted to cities and towns having a population of 10 lakh and above. The scheme was subsequently modified by amending such limits. Similarly, single working women with income of Rs. 600 p.m. were eligible for hostel accommodation. The income limit was enhanced with increases in the income levels and presently it is Rs. 16000 p.m. in 'A' class cities and Rs. 15,000 p.m. in other cities/towns/places. The financial assistance was originally restricted to 60% of the construction cost of the hostel building. This was raised to 75% from 1st January, 1975 and was further raised to 50% of the cost of land and 75% of the cost of construction of the hostel building, with effect from 1st February, 1987. The provision of day care centre for children in the working women hostel was introduced from 30th September, 1982. A copy of the scheme as it stands at present is given at Annexure-I.

5. The Ministry of Women and Child Development have further informed that since the inception of this Scheme in 1972-73, 873 hostels have been sanctioned. A statement showing the State-wise distribution of these hostels is shown at Annexure II. Out of the sanctioned hostels, 607 have been completed. Completion Report in respect of 266 hostels are still awaited. A statement indicating the number of hostels sanctioned State-wise and the number of hostels incomplete in the Ministry's records is given at Annexure III. In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development further stated during evidence that:—

“Apart from these hostels, there is also a small scheme of giving grants to working women hostels by the Central Social Welfare Board. In the last two years, we have given grant to 56 cases for the salary of *chowkidar*, warden and for a few other facilities. We are giving a small grant to maintain, to run the hostel. It is a small scheme. Last year, we had given grant to 56 cases but this is a very small scheme. It is a very partial grant but the real working women hostel is the one where we pay 75 per cent of the grant for construction.”

6. A brief note on working women hostels run by Central Social Welfare Board is given at Annexure IV.

7. The Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development in this context further stated during oral evidence that:—

“All the working women may not need the accommodation provided by us or by the employers but a fair percentage would need accommodation since women today are moving out of their homes and their own towns or villages to work.”

8. She further added:

“There is a demand, and in the foreseeable future I know, this demand will be there. For the next 20 or 30 years, this demand will be there. It is, therefore, our role to meet this demand to the extent possible.

I know that the Government cannot meet all the demand but we have to meet some percentage of it..... As I just mentioned, considering the number of working population of women and their pathetic conditions, we need to cater to this demand. Therefore, Madam, there is a case for more hostels, and, I think, in the Eleventh Plan we should try and meet this demand to the extent possible.”

Objectives of the Scheme

9. According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the objectives of the Scheme are as under:—

- (a) To provide accommodation for single working women, unmarried, widows, divorced, separated, married when husband is out of town;
- (b) To provide accommodation for women who are being trained for employment provided the training period does not exceed one year. The number of working women falling in this category should not be more than 30% of the total number of women in the hostel;
- (c) To provide accommodation to the girl students for a period of five years on the condition that first preference will be given to working women only. After that if there are any vacancies, accommodation will be provided to the students also but amongst them, preference will be given to those studying in post-school professionals courses. The category of women who are being trained for employment and the girl students together should not be more than 30% of the total number of women in the hostel.

Implementing Agencies

10. The Committee are given to understand that financial assistance is provided under the scheme to:

- voluntary agencies/public trusts working in the field of women's welfare/social welfare/women's education;

- women's development corporations;
- universities and schools/colleges of social work;
- Local Bodies or cooperative institutions are also eligible for assistance.

11. The Voluntary Organizations are required to submit their application in the prescribed form to the Ministry of Women and Child Development through the concerned Department of State/Union Territory in which the Voluntary Organization is situated. The Ministry of Women and Child Development have stated that they also write to the State Governments/Universities/Councils etc. for inviting applications.

12. The Committee desired to know the role of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in screening/processing of applications under the scheme. The Ministry in reply have stated that they examine the applications, received through State Level Empowered Committee, in detail as per a check-list (copy enclosed at *Annexure V*). The applications are also sent to CPWD for technical appraisal of the proposed construction.

13. All the proposals meeting the schematic requirements are placed before the Project Sanctioning Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, and the grant is sanctioned by the Ministry after clearance of the proposal by the Project Sanctioning Committee with the concurrence of the integrated Finance Division.

14. In incomplete or otherwise unfit cases, deficiency letters are issued to the State Governments and the applicant organizations. In reply to a query, whether any time frame has been fixed for sanction of applications, the Ministry have stated that no time frame has been fixed for the sanction of any application.

15. As regards verification of credentials of the applicant organisations, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry relies upon (i) the inspection reports and recommendations of the State Government, and (ii) the applicant organization's annual report and accounts, for verifying the credentials of the organizations.

16. In this context, the Committee desired to know that considering the amount of money sanctioned for the scheme, why the Ministry had not evolved any mechanism at Central level to verify the credentials of Voluntary Organizations.

17. Responding to the query, the Ministry stated that inspection and verification/appraisal of the voluntary organization and its project proposal by the Ministry itself, rather than depending upon inspection and recommendations of the State Governments may not be a better alternative. Moreover, the Ministry does not have any infrastructure for verification of the credentials of each and every applicant organization. Further, the Ministry have stated that wherever any case of an organization not running the working women's hostel sanctioned to it as per the provisions of the Scheme comes to the notice of the Ministry, the same is taken up with the concerned State Government for taking appropriate remedial action. In this context, the Committee desired to know whether FIR is lodged against the office bearers of defaulting NGOs/VOs. The Ministry in their reply have stated that they have not lodged FIR in any case.

Financial Assistance

18. The Ministry, in a note have informed the Committee that under the Scheme, grants to the extent of 90% of the total assistance approved is paid in three equal instalments. First instalment is normally released with the sanction of the project. The second and subsequent instalments are released when the organization spends the previous instalment along with its own proportionate share of cost. Remaining 10% of the approved grant is released on production of documents mentioned in Para 16 of the Scheme (as enclosed at *Annexure I*). The Ministry have further stated that the grant is released directly to the grantee organization and not through State Governments. The grantee organizations are reminded to utilize the released fund and to submit their claim for the next instalment. Subsequent instalments are released only after the earlier instalments are fully utilized and the Utilization Certificate is furnished by the organization through the State Government and Physical Progress is vetted by the State PWD.

19. On being asked whether any time limit has been prescribed by the Ministry for the grantee organization to utilize the released fund and submit their claim for the next instalment, the Ministry have stated that as per the scheme, the grantee organization has to complete the construction work for the hostel building within 24 months of the receipt of first instalment. The organization is allowed 6 months for the utilization of each instalment. The fourth and final instalment is released after completion of the hostel building.

20. When the Committee desired to know whether they were satisfied with the present mode of disbursing grants, the representatives

of the Ministry replied that the present system of releasing grants directly to the organization, based upon the recommendations of the State Government concerned, has been by and large satisfactory.

21. As regards keeping a check on the construction work, the Ministry have submitted that besides the overall role of the State Governments in this regard, every organization which has been sanctioned grant for the construction of working women's hostel building has to set up a Hostel Building Committee of the prescribed composition (having representation of, among others, the State Government and the State PWD), in order to monitor the progress of the construction work. In this regard, while replying to a query during oral evidence, the representatives of the Ministry stated as under:—

“there are clear instructions that there has to be a Construction Committee during the construction of the building and that Construction Committee has to have a representative of the State Government. Similarly, there has to be a Management Committee once the building is ready and is functional and in that also there has to be a representative of the State Government. These Committees are supposed to report every six months, based on their experience and on the formats that have been prescribed, as to how the construction is going and how the hostel, once running, is functioning.”

Allocation of Funds

22. As regards the funds allocated and disbursed under the Scheme to the grantee organizations since 2002-03, the Committee have been furnished the following details:—

Year	Allocation (approved B.E.)	Expenditure (grants released)
2002-03	Rs. 10.00 crore	Rs. 6.00 crore
2003-04	Rs. 10.00 crore	Rs. 5.16 crore
2004-05	Rs. 10.00 crore	Rs. 4.82 crore
2005-06	Rs. 6.00 crore	Rs. 2.10 crore

23. While noting that during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, the Ministry have allocated Rs. 10 crores (approved Budget Estimate) for each year for implementation of the scheme. However, the amount released was Rs. 6 crore during the year 2002-2003

Rs. 5.16 crore during 2003-2004 and Rs. 4.82 crores during the year 2004-05. The Committee enquired about the reasons for variation between the allocated and released budget during the last three years. In response, the Ministry stated that the shortfall in the expenditure over the allotted budget under the Scheme has been due to lack of good proposals meeting the schematic norms and requirements. The budgetary allocation was kept at the same level in the year 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 in anticipation of receipt of viable proposals under the Scheme.

24. The Ministry have stated that out of the sanctioned budget *i.e.* Rs. 5 crores for the year 2006-2007, so far only Rs. 1.2 crore has been spent. When the Committee enquired about the reasons for the slow pace of disbursement of funds, the representatives of the Ministry stated that the budget allocation for the Scheme for 2006-2007 is expected to be utilized in the proposed 500-seater hostel in Delhi for working women hailing from the North-Eastern States. On being asked about the reasons for not utilizing the funds to the optimum level, the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development stated as under:—

“Around 95% of the Ministry’s Budget has been spent for respective schemes, but there are some schemes like this Scheme due to which 5% had not been spent.”

Refund of Unutilized Grants

25. The Committee have been given to understand that in case the construction work is not taken up, the Ministry seeks refund of grants from the Voluntary Organization through the State Government. In this context the Committee desired to know the number of cases in which refund has been sought from Voluntary Organizations. The Committee also desired the Ministry to comment as to the role of State Governments in the process.

26. Responding to the query, the Ministry stated that there have been five instances of recovery/refund of grants in the recent past as per details given at *Annexure VI*. As regards the role of State Governments in the refund process, the Ministry have merely stated that the States are needed to be more proactive in the process.

Monitoring of the Scheme

27. The Committee have been furnished a set of guidelines that are to be followed for project formulation, execution and submissions

of documentation under this Scheme and is shown at *Annexure VII*. After perusing the above-mentioned guidelines, the Committee enquired about the mechanism available with the Ministry to monitor the work-in-progress of the hostels that are under construction and hostels that have been completed and are functional. In reply, the Ministry informed that the grantee organization is requested to set up a Hostel Building Committee having representative of State WCD/SW and State PWD also to monitor the works in progress. One of the pre-requisites for release of every instalment of funds is submission of Physical Progress Certificate certified by State PWD and the State Government Inspection Report. The organization is further required to set up a Hostel Management Committee giving representation to State Government Authorities and the representative of hostels as well. State Governments have also to send Inspection Reports in case of completed hostels.

28. The Committee further desired to know whether the Ministry exercise any control over the management of the hostels and selection of occupants. The Ministry in reply stated that they do not exercise any control over the management, as it is not feasible to manage the hostels set up all over the country being seated in Delhi. They further stated that as per the provisions of the Scheme the State Governments are expected to regularly monitor the hostels and to submit a Consolidated Report to the Ministry.

29. The Ministry in a subsequent note stated that the State Government/Union Territory Administration have to obtain Quarterly Progress Report from each of the Voluntary Organization/Institution and monitor it regularly and promptly to ensure that the hostels are neither over-crowded nor remain unutilized. The State Government have also to submit a consolidated Quarterly Progress Report to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

30. In the same context, the representatives of the Ministry while agreeing that there was no regular monitoring mechanism at the Central level stated as under:—

“...there is a certain missing link in the monitoring of the construction, functioning and management of these hostels. Experience shows that the formatting that has been prescribed for monitoring by the State Governments, not all the State Governments are being as responsive as perhaps they should be. During the construction, there is a Construction Committee which has to send a report every three months on the state of construction. Once it

is constructed and ready and is functional, then the State Government has to send a six-monthly report on how is it functioning, whether it is functioning, as you mentioned, for the purpose for which it was set up, how many working women are there, what is the status of maintenance and so on”.

She further stated that:

“It is extremely important to remember that the State Government’s monitoring mechanisms need to be activated. They exist on papers, but what is happening is that because the State Governments do not have a stake in the scheme in the sense that their moneys are not going into the scheme, they do not feel the need to monitor, as they should”.

The Secretary of the Ministry further added:

“Our role is to get these reports from the State Governments, but I must confess that we have not been successful in doing that”.

31. Expressing their inability to monitor the scheme in the right perspective the representatives of the Ministry during evidence further stated that:

“we have tried to ask the State Governments to give us an assessment. They do not really reply to our letters because they feel the scheme is ours. We are funding the NGOs directly and they feel that they do not retain any control. The money is not given through the State Governments. So, feedback is not coming to us.”

32. Replying to a query as to whether a team of officials from the Ministry is sent to get the required information in such cases, the Ministry stated that they do not have necessary staff to visit the States regularly to inspect the hostels and prepare consolidated reports on their functioning. Hence, the role of the respective State Governments in monitoring the functioning of the hostels is paramount.

33. The Secretary further clarified by stating:—

“I have tried to send my officers in certain cases to do the inspection like we do our own routine inspection. But we have a very small staff in Delhi. We have done a complete inspection of the North-East. We have tried to do a complete inspection of the North-East but we have not been able to cover all the territory of India.”

34. The Committee desired to know that whenever misuse of hostels was reported to the Ministry, what corrective steps were taken and whether any legal action was taken against them? Responding to the query the Ministry have stated that whenever any misuse of a hostel building is reported, the Ministry requests that concerned State Government to take remedial action, as monitoring of the hostels devolves under the Scheme on the State Governments.

Evaluation of the Scheme

35. The Committee have been given to understand that an evaluation study of working women's hostel was conducted through Tata Institute of Social Services in 1997 in which it was found that only 53.1% women working hostels were functional at the time of the study conducted. As this study was done 8-9 years ago, the Committee enquired whether any fresh study was undertaken in this regard. In reply the Ministry stated that "another 5-city based study relating to working women's hostels has been undertaken recently (2005-06). Considering the importance of evaluating the Scheme to assess its outcome, it is being proposed to include periodic evaluation in the revised guidelines of the Scheme."

Awareness

36. The Committee enquired about the steps taken to make the voluntary organizations etc. and the beneficiaries of the scheme aware about the Scheme. In response, the Ministry stated that:—

"The scheme is very old and is in existence since 1972. NGOs are already aware of this scheme. The scheme has been advertised in newspapers and is placed in the website of the Ministry. Secondly, the scheme has been specially circulated from time to time to universities and State Governments. Also, the hostel is required to mention on its name board that the hostel building has been constructed with financial assistance from the Ministry of Women and Child Development."

Revamping of the Scheme

37. Responding to a query as to whether the Ministry of Women and Child Development is satisfied with the functioning of hostels all over the country, the Ministry stated that once the construction is completed, the Ministry does not have much control over the working of these hostels. As per the inspection reports received from time to time, some of the hostels were found to be run satisfactorily like the

hostels run by AIWC, YWCA, NDMC (Swati), Maharashtra Sahakari Udyogini Limited etc. It was also observed that some of the hostels shown as incomplete in their records due to non-receipt of request for the final instalment were actually complete and running as a hostel. However, there were also cases, where the hostels were being used for other purposes or were lying vacant due to its location.

38. The Ministry added that "Officers were recently deputed to inspect the hostels in the North-East and it was found that most of the hostels are being occupied by the girl students. This is the case not only in North East but all over the country. In one State (Nagaland) the location of the hostels were far from satisfactory. NIPCCD has also been requested to inspect the hostels located in the cities where they have a regional centre. Reports of Delhi, Indore and Lucknow have been received so far. Though most of the hostels have been found to be working satisfactorily, one hostel was found being run as a Government College." While deposing before the Committee during the oral evidence, the Secretary of the Ministry highlighted some of the aspects that were ailing the scheme and admitted that this scheme which was started in 1972-73 needs a fresh look and is required to be redrafted/revamped to suit the present demands and conditions. Elaborating further, the Ministry stated that the scheme is beset with many problems *viz.*

- (a) Availability of land in a suitable location. In some cases, only an assurance for the land was given by the District Authority.
- (b) To ensure that the funds released are utilized for the purpose for which they are being released, a number of formalities are required to be fulfilled which the NGOs are finding difficult to complete. This is obvious from the fact that quite a number of them have not asked for the 4th & Final instalment though they have completed the construction and running the hostel.
- (c) Monitoring is also very difficult.
- (d) Receipt of incomplete proposals or proposals not as per our prescribed norms.
- (e) Sometimes, the approved plan or site of construction is changed by the organization without taking prior approval of the Department.

39. The Ministry have stated that in view of these observations and problems, it has been decided to revamp the scheme before the

beginning of Eleventh Plan in consultation with NGOs who are running the hostel satisfactorily.

40. The Committee enquired about the steps taken by the Ministry to revamp this scheme as per requirements today. Responding to the query, Secretary stated:—

“.....a Committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Secretary. It has 16 members, 8 of whom are from different concerned government bodies and 8 of whom represent NGOs.... This Committee is working on it....”

41. In subsequent information furnished, the Ministry have stated that the Revamping Committee have held 4 meetings so far. The suggestions/views expressed therein are given at *Annexure VIII*. The Ministry also informed that after the Revamping Committee finalizes its recommendations a memorandum for the Expenditure Finance Committee will be moved proposing revisions in the scheme in accordance with the recommendations. The decisions of the Expenditure Finance Committee on the proposed revisions will be taken up for the final approval of the competent authority.

42. The Committee having taken note of the shortcomings that have been hampering the effective implementation of the Scheme, decided to visit some of the working women hostels, in the country so as to see for themselves the situation prevailing in such hostels as well as the problems being faced by the inmates and Management of the hostels. The Committee, therefore, undertook study visit to Guwahati and visited two hostels that have been running under this scheme *viz.* Young Women Christian Association and Yuva Niwas Mahila Sanstha. During the visit the Committee interacted with the women inmates and the representatives of the NGOs/Management of the Hostels. The following points were put forth before the Committee by them:—

43. YWCA Working Women Hostel:

- (a) There was improper functioning of the hostel due to lack of physical monitoring by the Central/State Government regularly.
- (b) The Committee observed that maintenance of the hostel was very poor and there was no proper light. Ventilation facility was also not enough.

- (c) The surrounding area of the Hostel was not properly maintained by the PWD.
- (d) The Committee were informed that 10% of the basic salary of inmates was charged as monthly fee.
- (e) To supplement the income, a school from nursery to Xth Standard was being run by the authorities to meet the expenses of the Hostel.
- (f) There was no vocational training programme organized by the Hostel. However, the Committee noted that there was sufficient space for running such a training course, provided financial assistance was provided to them by the State/ Central Government.
- (g) There had been decrease in the number of inmates since past three years. In this regard, Committee were informed that due to disturbed environment in the North East, the students preferred to stay in hostel and attend school. And moreover, working women stayed in private hostels as they got better facilities at such private hostels.
- (h) Regarding the physical monitoring by the Government officials, the Committee found that none of the representatives of either Central or State Government had ever visited the Hostel.

44. Yuva Niwas Mahila Sanstha:

- (a) The sanitary condition of the hostel was not proper.
- (b) The plaster on the walls and service lane was found in poor condition, which required to be attended to on priority basis.
- (c) Hostel premises needed white washing at regular intervals.
- (d) There was a need for the local authorities to extend help to the Hostel Management to improve the conditions of the roads connecting the Hostel.
- (e) The space of the Hostel needed to be fully utilized by the State Government by starting vocational training programmes.
- (f) Government officials needed to visit the hostel to know their requirements/difficulties and help the Management of the Hostel.

45. In the light of the impressions gathered during the visit, the Committee decided to have informal discussion with the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to ascertain their views on the discrepancies noticed by them and the points voiced by the inmates and the management of the hostels.

46. The Committee, therefore, heard the evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Women and Child Development on 11th October, 2006.

47. Considering that the replies/submission of the ministry needed clarification on some points *viz.* the role of State Governments in implementation of the scheme, feasibility of allotment of land directly by State Governments to the concerned NGOs at concessional rates, delay in furnishing of Completion and Consolidated Reports by the State Governments to the Central Government, role of State Governments in monitoring the scheme and the extent of involvement of State Governments in revamping the scheme, the Committee decided to hear the representatives of Ministry of Women and Child Development along with concerned officials of some State Governments that have major working women population.

48. Consequently, the Committee heard the views of Ministry of Women and Child Development along with the State Government officials of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi on 7th November, 2006. During the discussion, representatives of respective State Governments gave their views over the issues *viz.* feasibility of availability of land, insufficient number of hostels, maintenance of hostels, ineffective monitoring of the implementation of this Scheme etc. The views expressed by the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and these State Governments on each of the aforementioned issues are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Availability of land

49. The Committee pointed out that considering the situation of real estate market today, it has become difficult for the NGOs to secure land at prime locations for building hostels for working women. In this scenario the hostels are mainly built at the outskirts of the city where it does not benefit the needy working women in real terms. The Committee expressed in view that the land issue has been dealt in a cursory fashion by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as well as the State Governments.

50. One of the primary aspects that figured during the discussion was to make available the land for the construction of Working Women Hostel by the respective State Governments at concessional rates or free of cost. The Committee desired the Ministry of Women and Child Development to express their views with regard to feasibility of the proposal. The Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development responded as under:

“we could welcome any recommendation that this Committee makes, particularly, on an issue as vital as land. I am saying this because we are facing this problem. In fact, the greater the need the more pressure on the land, specially, in metro cities and now even in the smaller town”.

The Secretary further stated:

“100% cost of land should be borne by them (State Governments)”.

51. In this regard, the submissions of the representatives of the respective State Governments are given in the following paragraphs:

- Andhra Pradesh

52. Regarding further requirement of working women hostels in Andhra Pradesh and making the land available in the State for them, the Secretary, Women Development and Child Welfare and Disabled Welfare Department of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh stated as follows:

“.....About the further demand, we would like to give a professional agency to assess the exact requirement as to where we require the new working women hostels. From the Department, we have got some assessment done, as per which about 5 more different locations in Hyderabad may be required. Then, there would be one each in every district. We may require about 13-14 hostels which figure is subject to change after an indepth needs assessment by a professional agency. Once we get this proper survey done, we would come back to the Government of India. Our suggestion is that instead of giving the land to the NGOs and the ownership of the building to them, departmentally we can have the ownership of the building and the Management can be done either by the NGOs who are interested or co-management by the NGOs and the overall control by the Department. Either way we can do it. Land is difficult to identify in the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad and surrounding areas but it is not an

insurmountable difficulty. We have been negotiating with the Revenue Authorities and we hope that we will get some suitable land once we really arrive at the exact locational requirements.”

•**Maharashtra**

53. In this regard, the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development of the Maharashtra Government informed the Committee as under:

“.....On the issue of land, I had discussed with our Chief Secretary... Land allotment is basically with the Urban Development Department rather specifically with the Revenue Department in Maharashtra... he (Chief Secretary) expressed his inability to give any commitment specially for Mumbai because of the acute shortage of land in Mumbai.”

•**Karnataka**

54. The Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development Department & Social Welfare from the Karnataka Government informed the Committee as under:

“.....regarding the availability of land, I checked with all the agencies. Our Urban Development Secretary says that in the Bangalore Development Authority, there is a scheme to give civic amenity sites and these civic amenity sites could be earmarked for a specific purpose. For instance, if there is demand for a working women hostel in a particular area, the civic amenity site could be earmarked for that purpose, and then application could be called and it could be allotted. But the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore has responded saying that within the Bangalore city limits there is no Government land available but in the Bangalore urban districts, some land can be found for Working Women Hostels because there is a very great need for these...”

•**NCT of Delhi**

55. The Secretary, Women and Child Development Department from the NCT of Delhi Government who appeared before the Committee gave some suggestions in this regard which are as given below:

“Land should be given in favour of the local bodies and the Government to construct, because in Delhi the cost of land is very high. When the Delhi Government get the land at around Rs. 65

lakh to Rs. 70 lakh per acre. So, I do not think that the NGOs can afford the high construction cost and the land cost. We have been requesting the DDA; and the DDA has allotted us about 2,009 plots, out of which 3 are clearly in our possession. We have started activity of trying to protect the land because it is prone to encroachment and all. Construction will start from the current year.....”

• **Uttar Pradesh**

56. On this aspect, the Secretary, Women and Child Welfare Department of Uttar Pradesh Government gave his views as per details given below:

“All these hostels are located at the outskirts of the city because of the price of land and the NGOs have to contribute 50 per cent of the cost. So, naturally they preferred cheaper land... The main thing is that we must ensure that the land is allotted at the subsidized rates. We have spoken to our Housing Department as well as Noida and Greater Noida Authorities. So far there is no such scheme. Educational institutions are clubbed under institutional land. But now the Housing Department has promised us that they will try to keep these working women hostels under the institutional category so that they get land at the institutional rate... We have asked all the District Magistrates to get a detailed survey conducted where there is a need for further hostels.”

• **Tamil Nadu**

57. While giving suggestions in this regard as desired by the Committee, the Secretary, Social Welfare and Nutrition Meal Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu stated as follows:

“..... They have mentioned about the land value. Fifty per cent is given by the Government of India. As our colleagues have suggested, you can reduce it to even 25 per cent because the land value is very heavy. There is a Land Allotment Committee in the State of Tamil Nadu. So, once you want to allot, we can take it up through the local bodies or through the Government. That will be welcome. Once you give it to the NGOs straightway the valuable land, we may not be able to have any control. That is the suggestion”.

B. Insufficient number of Hostels

58. As per the information furnished by the Ministry, since 1973, as many as 873 Working Women Hostel had been sanctioned in the country.

59. In this context the representatives of the State Governments agreed that considering demographic shift in the working women population there should be more such hostels for working women. Some of the submissions made by the representatives of State Governments during their deposition before the Committee on 7 November, 2006 are as mentioned below:

• **Karnataka**

“..... I feel that there is definitely a need to have more hostels in Bangalore to cater to high medium and low end requirements and we could do it by having the Scheme revamped and having the State Government to have a larger control in the process.”

• **Tamil Nadu**

“Recently, there are reports in the newspapers stating that working women are on the increase in the rural areas and also in the urban areas. In both the segments, there is considerable increase in the percentage of working women. So, definitely there is a need for working women hostels”.

• **West Bengal**

“There is a demand for working women hostels, in Kolkata and in the newly developing cities”.

C. Ineffective Monitoring Mechanism and misuse of hostels

60. As per the guidelines of the scheme, the State Governments are responsible to monitor the scheme but as discussed elsewhere in the Report, the Committee have been given to understand that the State Governments do not have active role in the monitoring of the Scheme.

61. During the discussion the representatives of the State Government also conceded that they have not been able to monitor the scheme as per the guidelines and expressed the view that once the money is disbursed to the concerned NGO/VO they are left with no control over them. In this regard the following points were put forward before the Committee by the representatives of the respective State Governments:

• **Maharashtra**

“Regarding Maharashtra, we agree that there are problems in the implementation of the scheme. We find that there are several cases

where either construction is incomplete or the buildings are being used for some other purposes. At present, if we find that the hostel is being misused for some other purpose, then there is no way or it is very difficult to recover grants. Of course, there is no lever in the hand of the State Government to check their wrong doings on an ongoing basis. In a few cases, some agencies have even returned funds. We find that they have returned the money with interest because it seems that the interest rate is quite nominal."

"One of the recommendations which has come from the field is that perhaps the rate of interest is so low compared to the market rate that they still find it worthwhile to use the funds elsewhere. Even if they return the money, they would still have made profit, if they really want to misuse. So, one of the recommendations is that the rate of interest should be increased to a penal rate of interest. One of the important suggestions which we are getting from the field is this. Of course, there are no annual or maintenance grants under the scheme. We only give initial grant for land and construction. So the recommendation is that if we can change the pattern of funding under the scheme from one of initial investment funding or construction funding to one of annual maintenance grants or grants for payment of rent, then it will solve many of the problems of the scheme".

"If we shift to a pattern of giving them rental grants or maintenance grants, then this will be a very effective tool in the hands of the Government to control them because any time we find that they are not using the hostel properly or whatever, we can issue them show cause notice as to why your grants can not be stopped or some such action can be taken against them".

"Though the case initially goes with our recommendation, when the sanction is given or the payment is released for construction, sometimes we do not get to know. Perhaps there is some communication gap".

•Karnataka

"Monitoring perhaps may not have been closely done. Recovering the cost as arrears of land revenues is very long drawn out process. Notice has been given and some action has been taken. The Deputy Directors has told to recover it but that action is not really an easy task. So, we felt that the Scheme is to be revamped. It would be better if land is allotted by the State Governments and about 75 to 80 per cent construction cost could be met by the Government".

“For poor performance, we can immediately take corrective action and we can call the shots. Otherwise, it is very difficult to exercise control over these hostels”.

• **NCT of Delhi:**

“.....Well, I must admit that monitoring was not really done by the State Governments. We had recommended the application but then when the sanction was released, we are not really kept on the loop. The sanction was released directly by the Central Government. There was no lever with the State Government to control the functioning of the working women hostel and we are not represented in the Managing Committee.”

• **Andhra Pradesh**

“Regarding monitoring, I agree that we have not monitored as well as should have probably because the Department, at one point of time, was under the impression once recommended, this is between the Government of India and the NGOs and they were interacting directly, but not we tend to monitor it. We have already started the process, and we will continue it that way”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

62. The changing economic structure in India has compelled more and more women to live out of their homes for employment in big cities, urban and rural townships. Today, the working women in India constitute vital part of human workforce. One of the primary requirements of such women is safe and suitable accommodation. Considering the fact that economic empowerment is the precondition for upliftment of social status of women, it becomes all the more important to address the issue of safe and suitable accommodation for working women. In the wake of difficulties being faced by such women in accessing good accommodation, the Government of India launched the Scheme of assistance for construction/expansion of hostel building in order to provide hostel accommodation to working women. The Scheme was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 22nd May, 1972 and has been in operation since then.

63. The Committee, however, are concerned to note that the Scheme has not achieved its slated objectives. The Committee find that the Scheme is not being implemented in the right perspective as the hostels were not functioning as per the stated norms. During its study visits to certain States, the Committee witnessed the poor state of maintenance, utilization of hostel premises for commercial and other purposes, hostels building lying vacant, hostels being occupied by girl students, non-involvement of local bodies, indifference of the State Government Departments and lack of monitoring both at the Centre and State level. The Committee express their deep anguish over the poor implementation of the Scheme and deplore the indifference of the Government towards such a vital issue concerning women. They are equally disturbed to know that the Ministry despite conceding that the Scheme was beset with many problems/shortcomings, have not taken any corrective measures to remove the shortcomings in the implementation of the Scheme. The apathy exhibited by the Ministry in this regard is nothing but regrettable. The Committee, therefore, desire that concrete steps in this regard should be taken to remove these shortcomings in the implementation of the Scheme. The State Governments should be directed to strengthen their monitoring mechanism to ensure that the hostels are run by NGOs as per the stated norms and they provide the basic amenities to the inmates of the hostels. Further, it should be ensured that the hostels are neither over-crowded nor remain unutilized.

64. The Committee note that since the inception of this Scheme in 1972-73, so far 873 hostels have been sanctioned but only 607 of them have been completed as the completion reports have not been received in respect of 266 of these sanctioned hostels. The Committee are given to understand that as per statistics of Ministry of Labour, there are 50.69 lakh working women in the country working in the organized sector. In the opinion of the Committee the number of completed hostels to cater to the needs of 50.69 lakh working women population is highly in-sufficient and totally unrealistic. The Committee find that with the increase in the number of working women population the number of hostels has not correspondingly been increased. The Committee are, therefore, constrained to note that the efforts made by the Government in this regard are very dismal. It has been admitted by the Secretary of the Ministry and the representatives of the State Governments that there is a definite need to have more hostels to cater to high, medium and low end requirements of working women in the urban and rural areas. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry, in coordination with State Governments get a survey conducted to ascertain the actual demand of working women hostels throughout the country. The Committee also recommend that urgent steps be taken for construction of more hostels so that the increasing demand of working women hostels is met satisfactorily.

65. The Committee note that it has been almost 20 years since the Scheme was last revised in 1987. The Committee feel that during the past two decades there has been major demographic shift which necessitated substantial modification in the Scheme. The Committee, however, are dismayed to note that the Ministry did not take any steps to revise the Scheme to make it more effective as per the changing needs of working women. What has surprised the Committee most is the fact that the Ministry do not possess the original copy of the Scheme. The Committee deplore this callous attitude of the Ministry in this regard. The Committee was assured that the Scheme would be revamped within a period of six months, but as of now, the Revamping Committee constituted by the Government has met only 3 to 4 times and no concrete decisions have so far been taken in this regard. The Committee deplore the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry and desire that expeditious steps should be taken to revamp the Scheme in consultation with the State Governments and NGOs, with a view to making it more realistic and fruitful.

66. The Committee note that the financial assistance under the Scheme comprises 50% of cost of the land and 75% of the cost of construction of the building. The Committee feel that the Scheme was conceived 30 years back, and since then the real estate market has boomed and land price has increased tremendously. In this scenario, it has become far more impractical for the NGOs to contribute 50% of the cost of the land. Moreover, if at all some NGOs manage to arrange funds for the land, it will be at the suburbs or outskirts of the city. In the opinion of the Committee, locating hostels at outskirts of the city may not be a good proposal as such hostels will neither be accessible due to lack of transport nor viable for occupancy. In this regard the Committee recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments to earmark space for the hostels in a safe place preferably in the institutional areas. The Committee further desire that in case appropriate land is not available, the hostels under the Scheme could also be run in rented building as is done by the Central Social Welfare Board which provide recurring financial assistance to voluntary organizations for running working women hostels in the rental buildings.

67. The Committee are constrained to note that in spite of there being a mechanism to verify the credentials of the implementing agencies, there have been instances when NGOs/VOs were not running the hostel as per provisions of the Scheme and were misusing the building for commercial purpose etc. The Committee are surprised to note that no FIR has been lodged against the defaulting NGOs/Voluntary Organizations. The Committee, therefore, recommend that FIR should be lodged against the defaulting NGOs/VOs and strict legal action should be taken against them. The Committee also suggest that in the case of default, the recommending authority should be held responsible and action against them should also be initiated. The Committee are of the view that the role of State Governments is required not only at the stage of screening credible NGOs, but also in the regular monitoring of the construction work under the Scheme. In this regard, the Committee are given to understand that State Governments are expected to regularly monitor the hostels and submit a Consolidated Report to the Ministry. The Secretary of the Ministry admitted that the State Government's monitoring mechanisms need to be activated as it exists on paper, but because the State Governments do not have a stake in the Scheme they do not feel the need to monitor as they should.

The Committee are surprised to note that though the State Governments recommend the applications of NGOs, the funds are

released by the Ministry directly to the grantee organizations. The State Governments again come into the picture when the subsequent installments are released which is done after the utilization certificate is furnished by the organization through the State Governments. The Committee have been apprised by the representatives of the State Governments that though the proposals of the NGOs are routed through them, they are not informed when the sanction is given or payment is released for construction. The Committee, therefore, feel that there is indeed a missing link in the monitoring of construction, functioning and management of these hostels and this aspect needs to be properly looked into. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that while revamping the Scheme, this aspect should be properly looked into.

68. The Committee are of the view that there is lack of coordination among the Centre and the State Governments due to which the requisite information is not forthcoming from the State Governments. The Committee feel that the objective of the Scheme can be achieved only with the cooperation and greater involvement of the State Governments. In this scenario, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should convene meeting of Ministers of Women and Child Developments of all the State Governments to find out the reasons for the reluctance of the State Governments in this regard and take suitable remedial action.

69. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry while revamping the Scheme, make provisions for greater involvement of State Governments in the funding process so as the State Governments exercise control over the NGOs and the Scheme is implemented effectively.

70. The Committee during visit of some hostels noted that hostels built under this Scheme are poorly maintained and run short of basic infrastructure. In this regard, the representatives of Management of one of the hostels visited by the Committee also informed that there were financial constraints for maintenance of hostels. Therefore, in some of the hostels a school from Nursery to Class 10th was being run by the hostel authorities to meet the expenses, though, it is against the prescribed norms. The Committee feel that the poor conditions of hostels will discourage the working women to stay in such hostels and they will prefer to stay in the hostels built by private organizations where they get better facilities even at higher rent. The Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development also accepted this drawback, which was equally supported by the

representatives of State Governments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that there should be provision for recurring annual maintenance grant in the Scheme, which would not only help the Government to keep a check on the NGOs/Management of the hostels effectively but also facilitate the improvement in the basic amenities at these hostels. The Committee further recommend that this aspect may be properly looked into while revamping the Scheme.

71. The Committee are constrained to note that during each of the last three years *i.e.* 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, the Ministry, as against the allocation of Rs. 10 crore for implementation of the Scheme, had released Rs. 6 crore, Rs. 5.16 crore and Rs. 4.82 crore respectively. The reason advanced by the Ministry for this variation between the allocated and released budget was that during these years there has been lack of good proposals meeting the schematic norms and requirements. The Committee are not convinced with the reasoning and desire that the Ministry should take initiatives to persuade the State Governments to send viable and genuine proposals for construction of hostels, keeping in view the demand of hostels in the respective States so that the funds allocated under the Scheme are fully utilized and the working women are benefited the most.

72. In view of the shortcomings noted in the implementation of the Scheme, the Committee feel that to make this Scheme successful it needs holistic revision. The Committee, therefore, recommend that besides the aforementioned suggestions of the Committee made in the earlier paragraphs, the following points may also be considered while revising the Scheme:

- (i) As the rate of interest is low as compared to market rate, sometimes NGOs still find it worthwhile to use funds elsewhere and make profit even if they have refunded the money. The Committee, therefore, desire that the rate of interest should be increased to penal rate of interest so that the NGOs will not find it worthwhile to invest the grant elsewhere.
- (ii) The accommodation in the hostel could be a mix of different types to cater to the needs of women at different income levels, such as single rooms, 2/3/4-seater rooms or dormitories, rooms with attached baths and toilets etc.
- (iii) It should be ensured that the hostels are centrally located where ample and easy transport facilities are available.

- (iv) The hostels should be well maintained with green and clean neighbouring environment.
- (v) There should be adequate support facilities such as food, water, electricity etc.
- (vi) Hostels should be managed by professionally qualified staff.
- (vii) There should be an easy mechanism whereby the inmates can communicate their grievances.
- (viii) As far as possible, all the facilities should be provided by a single agency which has to be indoor.
- (ix) In view of the rising income levels in the country, fixing an upper income limit may not be appropriate, hence, the income ceiling should be removed.
- (x) There should be no limit laid down in the Scheme on the capacity of the hostels.
- (xi) The inmates at these hostels should be reasonably charged.
- (xii) Periodic evaluation of the Scheme may be done, considering the importance of evaluation in order to assess its shortcomings and impact.
- (xiii) To make the Scheme more transparent and free from procedural delays, public-private partnership should be initiated. The services of eminent private persons may be utilized to supplement some of State Government functions under the Scheme.
- (xiv) The Ministry in coordination with State Governments should organize surprise inspections and visits to have first-hand information of the functioning of these hostels under the Scheme.

73. The Committee feel that if the aforementioned aspects are taken into consideration while revamping the Scheme, it would go a long way in making the Scheme more effective and useful for the working women and to achieve its avowed objectives.

NEW DELHI;
 14 December, 2006
 23 Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)

KRISHNA TIRATH,
 Chairperson,
 Committee on Empowerment of Women.

SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL

1. Introduction
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Introduction

With the progressive change in the economic structure of the country more and more women are living out of their homes in search of employment in big cities and urban and rural townships. One of the main difficulties faced by such women is lack of suitable and safe accommodation. Voluntary Organisations have been approaching the Government of India, from time to time for financial assistance with a view to providing hostel facilities to such women. The Government of India having appreciated the difficulties faced by such women and have decided to introduce a scheme for grant-in-aid for construction of new/expansion of existing building for providing hostel facilities to working women in cities, smaller towns and also in rural areas.

Objectives

- 2(a) Proposal for construction of hostel should be made for one or more than one of the following objectives:
- (i) To provide accommodation for single working women, unmarried, widows, divorced, separated, married when husband is out of town.

- (ii) To provide accommodation to women who are being trained for employment provided the training period does not exceed one year. The number of working women falling in this category should not be more than 30% of the total number of women in the hostel.
- (iii) To provide accommodation to the girl students for a period of five years on the condition that first preference will be given to working women only. After that if there are any vacancies, accommodation will be provided to the students also but amongst them, preference will be given to those studying in post school professional courses. The category of women who are being trained for employment and the girl students together should not be more than 30% of the total number of women in hostels.

Explanation

After the training period when women trainees gets employment she will be entitled for hostel accommodation provided she fulfills all other criteria.

- (b) (i) A proposal for separate hostel for providing accommodation for working women and their children up to 8 years of age may be considered. The working women will fall in the same category as (i) and (ii) of (a) above.
- (ii) Such hostels should provide facilities required for pre-school children.

Income Limit

3. Working Women falling in category (i) and (ii) of will be entitled to hostel facilities provided her income does not exceed Rs. 16,000 consolidated (gross) per month in a class 'A' City or Rs. 15,000 consolidated (gross) per month in any other city/town/place.

1. When the income of the working woman exceeds the prescribed limits she will have to leave the hostel within a period of six months of crossing the income ceiling.

Eligibility

4. Voluntary agencies/public trusts working in the field of women's welfare/social welfare women's education are eligible for assistance under the Scheme. A voluntary organization should be registered under

the Indian Societies Registration Act 1860 or corresponding State Acts. Public Trust should be registered under any law for the time being in force. Women Development Corporations, Universities, Schools/Colleges of Social work shall also be eligible for financial assistance under the scheme.

In addition such bodies like local bodies or cooperative institutions may also be eligible for seeking assistance under the Scheme. Such body should have the following characteristics:

- (i) It should be recognized and its work should be reported to be satisfactory by the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned.
- (ii) It should have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in a written constitution.
- (iii) It should ordinarily have been engaged in the field of women's welfare/social welfare/women's education for a minimum period of two years prior to the request for grant-in-aid under the scheme.
- (iv) Its financial position should be sound and it should have facilities, resources, personnel and experience to initiate the construction of hostel.
- (v) It should not be run for profit to any individual or a body of individuals and it should be prepared to run the hostel and the Day-care Centre/pre-school for children on a no profit basis.
- (vi) It should be in possession of land for construction of building.

Financial Pattern of Assistance

5. Assistance will be given for:

- (a) 50% of the cost of the land, and
- (b) 75% of the cost of construction of the building, or
- (c) Purchase of ready-constructed building as assessed by State PWD or CPWD. Assistance will be restricted to 50% of the cost of land and 75% of the cost of the building.
- (d) No grant will be admissible for furniture or other fixtures.

6. Ordinarily hostels with capacity of more than 100 inmates and day care centres for more than 30 children will not be sanctioned. Preference will be given to hostels proposed in (a) small towns (b) bigger towns/cities with no hostels, that order over proposed in the cities or towns in which grants for hostels have already been sanctioned by Department of Women and Child Development.

7. If a voluntary organization/institution has already received or is expected to receive a grant from some other official sources including such bodies as the Central Social Welfare Board etc. as are mainly financed by the Government the assessment of the Central grant will normally be made after taking into account the grant received from such official sources.

Procedure for Submission of Applications

8. Application in the prescribed form complete in all respect should be submitted to the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi through the Department of State/Union Territory dealing with women's welfare in which the voluntary organization/institution is situated. The voluntary organization will also submit an advance copy of the application together with all relevant documents to the Department of Women and Child Development.

9. The State Government will scrutinise the application and forward it with their recommendations in the prescribed form.

The Department of Women & Child Development will after awaiting recommendations of the State Government for a period of three months may have enquiries must through institutions/organisation and take a decision.

10. Each application should be accompanied by the following documents:

- (i) Prospectus of the voluntary organization/institution or a brief description of its objects and activities.
- (ii) Constitution of the Organization/Institution;
- (iii) Constitution of the Board of Management, giving names of members;
- (iv) A copy of the latest available Annual Reports;
- (v) Detailed structural/financial estimates of the building giving items-wise details of recurring and non-recurring expenditure and the sources from which the remaining funds will be obtained.

- (vi) Information relating to the grant received from promised by or the request made to other bodies for construction of the proposed hostel building. The decisions of these bodies on such requests should be communicated to the Ministry;
- (vii) A statement of full receipts and expenditure of the voluntary organization/institution for the last two years and a copy of the balance sheet for the previous year certified by authorized auditors/chartered accountant.
- (viii) A copy of site-plan and building plan of the proposed building with a certificate from the local Municipal Authorities that its construction has been permitted; and
- (ix) Documentary proof of ownership of plot on which the building is proposed to be constructed.

Conditions of Grants

11. Grant to the extent of 90% or the total assistance approved; will be paid in three equal instalments, First instalment being normally released with the sanction of the Project. The second and subsequent installment will be released when the organization has spent the previous installment along with its own proportionate share of cost. Requests for release of these instalments will be accompanied by a certificate from a Chartered Accountant or a Government Auditor indicating the total expenditure incurred on the construction of the building up to date. In case of construction is being carried out either by the CPWD or the State PWD or the Housing Board of any State or Union Territory, the second and subsequent installments of the grant may be released on receipt of the requisite certificate duly signed by an officer of the State Government or Union Territory, as the case may be. The balance grant to the extent of 10% will be release on production of documents mentioned in Para 16 of the Scheme.

12. The building will be constructed in accordance with the plan approved by the Government of India while sanctioning the grant. No change in the plan can be made without the prior approval of the Department of Women & Child Development Government of India.

13. The rates of construction to be adopted in the detailed structural/financial estimates shall not be in excess of the schedule of rates of the PWD of the State concerned and a certificate to that effect shall be furnished by the Head of the State PWD or his nominee concerned. The Scrutiny Charges/Centage Fee levied by State PWD/CPWD would be qualifiable for grant-in-aid under the scheme.

14. A certificate shall be furnished at the time of the application that a site for the construction of the building has been acquired by the voluntary organization/institution concerned. No grant shall be sanctioned unless a site has already been acquired.

15. The building shall be completed as soon as possible and in any case not later than 24 months from the date of receipt of the first instalment of grant-in-aid unless extension is granted by the Government of India.

16. After the completion of the building the organization shall furnish to the Central Government copies of the following documents:

- (a) A certificate from State PWD/CPWD/Housing Board to the effect that the building has been completed in accordance with the approved plans and estimates; and
- (b) A statement of Expenditure incurred on the construction of building duly audited by the authorized auditors.

17. Any unspent portion of the grant shall be refunded to the Government of India at once.

18. The head of the organization shall ensure that the building is thrown open to inspect by the officer of the State PWD or of the CPWD or any other officers designated for the purpose by the Central or State Government both during the period of construction as well as after the construction is completed. It shall be the duty of the head of the organization to carry out any instruction which may be issued in this behalf by the Central Government or this State Government as the case may be.

19. The hostel accommodation constructed with the assistance under the Scheme and admission in the day-care centres shall be open for admission to all working women and children residing or seeking accommodation in the city/town rural areas without any distinction of religion, caste, race, place of birth, language subject only to the qualification prescribed in para 2 above. The members of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes shall be given preference in the matter of allotment of accommodation in the hostel. 15% and $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ seats in the hostel and the Day-care Centre shall be reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

20. The voluntary organisation will furnish to the Department of Women & Child Development Government of India, Quarterly Progress

Report on the construction work and expenditure incurred; and such reports shall continue to be furnished until the building is completed.

21. The accounts of the building shall be maintained properly and separately and submitted as and when required. They shall always be open to check by an officer of the Central or State Government deputed for the purpose. The account shall be open to a test check by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion.

22. The voluntary organisation/institution shall maintain record of all assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government Grant. Such assets shall not be disposed of encumbered or utilise for purposes other than those for which grant was given without prior sanction of the Government of India. Should the organisation/institution cease to exist at any time such properties shall revert to the Government of India.

23. The head of the voluntary organisation/institution shall execute an agreement bond in the approved form securing to the Government of India a prior lien on the building for the recovery of the amount paid as grant in the event of the building ceasing to be applied for the purpose for which the grant was given.

24. If the Deptt. require clarification on any point not contained in the statements the institution/organisation shall supply it within the time specified by the Deptt. failing which the application will not be considered.

25. The organisation/institution will charge from the residents reasonably rent/Licence not exceeding 15% of their total emoluments in the case of single bedrooms, 10% for double bedrooms and $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the case of other rooms. Rent/licence Fee does not include expenses on mess, water & electricity charges and furniture maintenance. The charges for these items should be no-profit no-loss basis.

25-A. The organisation/institution may charge the fees from the children in the Day-care Centre at the rates not more than 5% of the emoluments of the parent or the actual expenditure whichever is less.

25-B. In the case of trainees falling under 2(ii) the objectives of the Scheme Rent/Licence Fee will be paid by the trainees or by the institution/organisation who is sponsoring training programme.

26. An inmate may be allowed to stay in a working Women's Hostel for a maximum period of five years. No extension beyond five years should be granted to an inmate for stay in a Working Women's Hostel.

27. The State Government/Union Territory Administration would obtain the Quarterly Progress Report from each of the Voluntary Organisation/Institution and monitor it regularly and promptly to ensure that the hostels are neither over-crowded nor remain unutilised. The State Government would also submit a consolidated Quarterly Progress Report to the Department of Women and Child Development also.

Further, the State Government/Union Territory Administration should constitute a Committee giving adequate representation to non-officials to review the functioning of each of the hostels in the State/ Union Territory Administration to ensure that the Voluntary organisation pay adequate attention to maintain minimum standard of sanitary, hygienic, security and other arrangements. These Committees may submit their reports once a year.

28. The organisation will prominently display on the building with the name of the hostel the endorsement "Assisted by the Government of India, Department of Women & Child Development".

29. The organisation shall prominently display on the Notice Board and on its application forms the following conditions:

- (i) the hostel provides accommodation to working women whose income does not exceed Rs. 16,000 consolidated (gross) per month or Rs. 15,000 consolidated (gross) per month as the case may be.
- (ii) Fee not exceeding 15% of the total emoluments in the case of single bedrooms, 10% in the case of double bedrooms and 7¹/₂% in the case of other rooms shall be charged from the inmates. Fee not exceeding 5% of the total emoluments of the parent(s) shall be charged from the girl students.
- (iii) the hostel shall be open to working women of all categories without any discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, race, place of birth or language.

30. Guidelines for the construction/expansion of hostel has been appended to this booklet.

*Application for Grant-in-aid under the Central Scheme for
Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for
Working Women with A Day-Care-Centre*

SUPPLEMENT TO THE APPLICATION FORM

(To be submitted in duplicate)

Government of India

Department of Women & Child Development

*Central Scheme of Assistance for Construction/Expansion of Hostel
Building for Working Women with a Day-Care-Centre*

SUPPLEMENT TO THE APPLICATION FORM

PART-I

Note: Application received in an incomplete form or after the prescribed date will not be entertained.

(To be completed by the applicant)

1. Name of Organisation/Institution _____
2. Brief history of organisation/institution and description of its objects and activities:

3. Whether recognised by the State Government _____
4. Whether the organisation/institution is registered under Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860) or corresponding State Acts, or it is managed by a Trust or Body of Trustees. (Details of registration with the Name of Act).

5. Whether the organisation/institution is managed by Central Government/State Government or Local Body.

6. Whether the organisation/institution is of All-India Character. If so, give the nature of its All India activities.

7. Whether organisation/institution has already a hostel if so, whether in its own or a rented building stating number of inmates.

8. Number of working women for whom hostel is intended to be constructed and also the number of the pre-school children for whom the Day-Care-Centre is proposed.

9. Likely date of commencement and completion of hostel building.

10. Whether the project is likely to be assisted by some other official or non-official agency. If so, their name and the extent of assistance proposed to be provided by each may be indicated.

11. Justification of the project indicating the Outstanding features which entitle it to Central Assistance.

12. (a) Total estimated expenditure on the Project _____

(b) Amount of grant required from the Government of India

(c) Source(s) from which the balance expenditure is proposed to be met _____

13. Whether necessary land for the proposed building is available if so, give details in India (location and area) with evidence for ownership.

14. (a) Details of plinth area to be constructed in relation to the number of working women for whom construction to be undertaken including number of rooms with capacity, number of floors, toilets and common facilities.

(b) Whether plinth area is according to the standard laid down by the State Govt./local Admn. for similar projects.

(c) Whether trained staff and other suitable facilities for undertaking construction are available, if so, give details.

15. Whether the institution/organisation is in a position to meet the balance expenditure, if so, indicate the source(s).

16. List of papers/statements to be attached

(a) prospectus of the voluntary organisation/institution of a brief description of its objects and activities;

(b) Constitution of the Organisation/Institution;

(c) Constitution of the Board of Management and the particulars of each member;

(d) Copy of the latest available Annual Report;

(e) Detailed structural/Financial estimates of the hostel building, giving item-wise details of recurring and non-recurring expenditure and the sources from which the remaining funds will be obtained;

(f) Information relating to the grant received from promised by or the requests made to other bodies, *e.g.* State Governments, Local Bodies, etc. for the construction of the proposed hostel building. The decisions of these bodies on such requests would be communicated to them;

(g) A statement of the full receipts and expenditure of the voluntary organisation/institution for the last two years and a copy of the balance sheet for the previous year certified by authorised Auditors/Chartered Accountant;

(h) A copy of site-plan of the proposed hostel building with a certificate from the local municipal authorities that the construction of the building has been permitted;

(i) A certificates to the effect that the rates of construction to be adopted are not in excess of the Schedule of rates of the PWD of the State concerned duly countersigned by the Head of the State PWD concerned or its nominee;

(j) Documentary proof of ownership of plot on which the hostel is proposed to be constructed.

17. List of additional papers, if any.

18. Additional information, if any.

(Signature)

(Name in Block Letters)

Date Designation

Office Stamp

PART-II

Recommendation of State Government/ Union Territory Administration

The application from.....is forwarded duly recommended to the Department of Women & Child Development Government of India with the following comments:

- (i) That a senior officer of the.....Department has visited the institution/organisation with a copy of his report is attached;
- (ii) That the institution/organisation is recognised and/or registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860 or corresponding State Act/Public Trust (give numbers);
- (iii) That the application has been examined and that it is found to be covered under the scheme;
- (iv) That the hostel building for which the application is being recommended is absolutely essential in the area for the following reasons_____
- (v) That there is a minimum of 25 working women in the area.
- (vi) That its work in the field of welfare of women/social welfare/women's education has been reported as satisfactory during the last three years;
- (vii) That the organisation/institution is not run for profit to any individual or a body of individuals;

- (viii) That the organisation/institution does not charge capitation or other similar fees from inmates of other States;
- (ix) That the land for the construction of hostel building is available. The locality is good and respectable;
- (x) That the accommodation proposed to be constructed and rates of the proposed construction conform to the standards laid down by the State Government;
- (xi) That assistance has/has not given by the State Govt. in the former case, details of the assistance sanctioned during the last five years for the purpose may be given;
- (xii) That the organisation/institution is on a sound financial position; and
- (xiii) The organisation/institution has facilities, resources, personnel and experience to initiate construction of the hostel building and the balance expenditure will be met by the organisation/institution or by the State Government.

2. The State Government/Union Territory Administration recommend that the grant for Rs. _____ may be sanctioned to the organisation/institution by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women & Child Development for the construction of the hostel building.

(Signature)

(Name in Block Letters)

Data Designation

Office Stamp

Note: The officer signing this certificate should be of above the rank of an Under Secretary to the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

GUIDELINES

1. Please ensure that you have land available and it is suitably located for a Working Women's Hostel.
2. Please remember that the hostel is meant for working women whose income does not exceed Rs. 16,000/- consolidated (gross) per month in a Class 'A' or Rs. 15,000/- consolidated (gross) per month in any other city/town/place as their needs are for privacy, comfort, economy, safety and friendly company.

3. Please keep in view the potential residents of your hostel and try to provide essential needs and comforts for them.
4. Discuss the needs with your architect and then see the land sketch of the building before getting the plans made. Do not leave it to your architect only.
5. Please exercise maximum economy in the layout and building specifications.
6. You may try to provide (a) Common bathrooms and toilets on each floor instead of attaching them to each room. It saves cost. (b) Lockable Cupboards for each inmate in a room with storage space over/below it, and (c) Small Kitchenetts on each floor which can give facility to women to cook and save money and avoid use of rooms for cooking leading to maintenance problems. You may also attach a Day-Care-Centre for children to your hostel for 25-30 pre-school children. It should have a minimum floor space of 20 sq. ft. per child. There can be 2-3 rooms of 150 sq. ft. each and a kitchen, a washroom and a lavatory each of 50 sq. ft. in a city and one room and about 150 sq. ft. with a small wash room in a rural areas.
7. A common lounge/recreation room, dining room, kitchen and store are essential.
8. The size of single room can be about 10x10. The room and toilets should be so laid out that they are well ventilated and well lighted.
9. Accommodation for the warden should be provided in the hostel building itself to facilitate Supervision and guidance.
10. Please keep adequate funds for furniture and furnishing in the hostel as this is not an item eligible for assistance under the scheme.
11. Please remember that the hostel and the Day-Care-Centre have to be run on no profit basis.
12. Encourage group activities for the residents and provide for guidance to them when needed.
13. Have arrangements for a doctor to be available for constitution for the residents.
14. Ex-servicemen may be considered for gainful re-employment on watch and ward duties.

15. Competitive rates may be obtained before construction work is entrusted to any individual or body. A building committee including representative of the State PWD and social/women welfare Department/Directorate should be made for implementing the project.
16. Care should be formal rules and regulations for the admission of residents to the hostel and children to the day-care-centre and for the hostel administration laying down the form of application, procedure, rent/licence fee and charges etc.
17. There will be a Hostel Management Committee for looking after the management of the Hostel in which a representative of the State Government/Union Territory Administration and a representative of the inmates of the hostel shall be included. The meeting of the Hostel Management Committee will be convened as frequently as possible at least once in three months.
18. Reasonable amounts should be kept from the hostel receipts to ensure regular maintenance of the building, Maintenance, repairs, etc. in the building should be regularly taken up to ensure that the building remains in good condition.

Terms and Conditions for Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for Working Women Day-Care-Centre

1. 90% of the approved amount of grant-in-aid shall be paid in three equal instalments depending upon the progress in the construction of the said project and upon the sum spent by the voluntary organization. The second and the third instalment of the approved grant shall be released subject to availability of funds only when the organization has spent the previous instalment(s) along with its own share of cost and the request for release of those instalments is accompanied by the following documents:
 - (i) A utilisation certificate from a Chartered Accountant/ Government Auditor in respect of the previous instalment(s).
 - (ii) An up to date consolidated statement of the actual expenditure incurred on execution of the approved plans and estimates duly certified by a Chartered Accountant/ Government Auditor. The level of expenditure reflected therein should not be below 30% of the approved estimates (in case of request for release of the second instalment)/ 60% of the approved estimates (in case of release of third instalment).

- (iii) A statement indicating up to date physical progress of the construction work in fact, the organisation should furnish to this Department regularly at the end of each quarter the prescribed quarterly progress report on the construction work till the building is completed (in the enclosed specimen).
 - (iv) 4 postcard-size colour photographs of the construction work in progress, from four corners.
 - (v) An order setting up a Hostel Building Committee giving representation to State PWD, District Magistrate/Collector and State Department/Directorate of Social/Women's Welfare (if not furnished already).
 - (vi) Copies of the proceedings of the Hostel Building Committee meetings held so far.
2. That the additional amount involved, if any, in the completion of the project shall be found by the voluntary organization from its own resources; and the Government of India will not be liable to pay any additional amount under any circumstances.
 3. That the project shall be constructed strictly in accordance with the plans and estimates as admitted by Department of Women and Child Development for financial assistance for their execution and that no change shall be made in the plan without the prior approval of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
 4. That the project shall be completed as soon as possible and in any case not later than 24 months from the date of receipt of the first instalment of grant-in-aid unless special extension is granted by the Government of India.
 5. That the organisation shall set up a Hostel Building Committee having the representation of State PWD, District Magistrate/Collector and State Department/Direction of Social or Women's Welfare.
 6. That after completion of the project the Voluntary Organization shall furnish to the Central Government copies of the following documents:—
 - (i) Utilisation Certificate from a Chartered Accountant/ Government Auditor for previous instalments.

- (ii) Final consolidated duly audited statements of accounts. The expenditure reflected should show items which were not part of the approved/accepted estimates separately. Interest earned on previous instalments should also be shown separately.
- (iii) Completion Certificate from State PWD/CPWD/Housing Board that the hostel building is constructed in all respects as per approved plans and estimates.
- (iv) Four postcard-size colour photographs of the completed hostel building from different corners one of which should show a board on prominent display at main entrance that construction of the hostel building has been financed by Government of India, Department of Women and Child Development.
- (v) Order setting up a Hostel Management Committee having representatives of State Department/Directorate of Women and Child Development/Social Welfare, State Social Welfare Advisory Board, District Magistrate/Collector and Hostel residents.
- (vi) Hostel Bye-laws duly approved by the Hostel Management Committee.

Remaining 10% of the approved grant will be released on receipt of the above documents.

7. That the organization shall ensure that the hostel/Day Care-Centre is thrown open to inspection by an officer of the State PWD or the Central Public Works Department or any other officer designated for the purpose by the Central Government or State Government or both during the period of construction as well as after the construction is completed. It will be the duty of the organization to carry out any instructions that may be given by the designated officers of the Central Government, State Government or Union Territory Administration with regard to the construction of Working Women's Hostel or relating to the running and maintenance of the Hostel.
8. That any utilized portion of the grant shall be refunded to the Central Government forthwith.
9. That the organization shall maintain separate accounts in respect of this project and shall submit the same duly audited by Chartered Accountant/Govt. auditors along with utilization certificate.

10. That the accounts shall always be open to check by an officer of the Central or a State Government deputed for purpose and shall also be open to test check by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion.
11. That the organization shall maintain an audited record of all assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government grant. Such assets shall not be disposed of encumbered or utilized for purpose other than those for which the grant has been given, without prior sanction of the Government of India.
12. In the event of any violation or breach of any provision of the Scheme or should the institution/organisation cease to exist at any time, all assets created out of Government grant shall be reverted to the Department of Women and Child Development, Union Government of India or the amount would be recovered as arrears of land revenue.
13. That the organization shall execute a bond in the approved form for an amount equal to Government grant securing to the Government of India a prior lien on the building for the recovery of the amount paid as grant if the building ceases to be used as a hostel for working women.
14. That the hostel accommodation constructed under the scheme shall be open to admission to all working women with an income not exceeding Rs. 16,000/- (consolidated) per month. In 'A' class cities and Rs. 15,000/- (consolidated) per month in other cities/town/places, without any distinction of religion, caste, race, place of birth, language or any of them. Working women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Handicapped women shall be given preference in the matter of allotment of accommodation in the hostel. 15% and 7¹/₂% seats in the hostel shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.
15. That an inmate would be allowed to stay in a Hostel normally for a period of three years. The voluntary organization may, however, give extension up to a total period of two years after review of the case every year after three years. No extension beyond five years shall be granted to an inmate. The girl students can stay in a hostel for a maximum period of five years.
16. The organization/institution will charge from the inmates of the working women's hostel reasonable rent/licence fee not exceeding 15% of their total emoluments in the case of single bedrooms,

10% in case of the double bedrooms and $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the case of the dormitories. Fees charged from the children in the Day-Care-Centre should not be more than 5% of the emoluments of their parent, or the actual expenditure, whichever is less. The rent from the girl students should not exceed 5% of the total emoluments of the parent(s).

17. A Hostel Management Committee having representatives of the State Department/Directorate of Women's Welfare of Social Welfare, District Magistrate/Collector, Central Social Welfare Board/State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the residents of the hostel shall be set up by the organisation to look after the management of the Hostel.
18. The hostel committee so constituted will lay down the rules and regulations for the admission of resident into the hostel and for the hostel administration laying down the form of application, procedure, rent/licence fee & charges etc. Meeting of the Hostel Management Committee will be convened as frequently as possible and at least once in three months.
19. That the organization, on completion of the Working Women's Hostel would submit a half yearly Progress Report (copy of format enclosed) about the functioning of the Working Women's Hostel to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations and a copy to the Department of Women and Child Development.
20. The organization shall ensure that the rates of construction to be adopted are not in excess of the schedule of rates of the PWD of the State concerned. In the event of any excess the organization shall be required to refund the difference proportionately to the Government.
21. The organization shall mention on the name board of the hostel and the Day-Care-Centre that it has been constructed with financial assistance from the "Government of India, Department of Women and Child Development" (Bilingually).
22. The organization shall also display on the Notice Board the following conditions:
 - (i) The hostel provides accommodation to working women whose income does not exceed Rs. 16,000/- (consolidated) per month (for 'A' class cities)/Rs. 15,000/- (consolidated) per month (for other cities/town/places).

- (ii) Rent/Licence Fee not exceeding 15% of the total emoluments in the case of single bedrooms, 10% in the case of double-bedrooms and $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the case of other rooms shall be charged from the inmates. Rent not exceeding 5% of the total emoluments of the parent(s) may be charged from the girl student.
- (iii) Fees from children in the Day-Care-Centre not to exceed 5% of the emoluments of the parent or actual expenditure whichever is less.
- (iv) The hostel/Day-Care-Centre shall be open to working women of all categories without any discrimination.

DEFINITIONS OR THE CATEGORIES OF THE HANDICAPPED
FOR PURPOSE OF PREFERENCE IN ADMISSION TO
WORKING WOMEN HOSTELS

The Blind

The blind are those who suffer from either of the following conditions:—

- (a) Total absence of sight.
- (b) Visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses.
- (c) Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degrees or worse.

The Deaf

The deaf are those in whom the sense of hearing is non-functional for ordinary purposes of life. They do not hear/understand sounds at all even with amplified speech. The cases included in this category will be those having hearing loss more than 90 decibels in the better ear (profound impairment) or total loss of hearing in both ears.

Orthopaedically Handicapped

The orthopaedically handicapped are those who have a physical defect or deformity which causes an interference with the normal functioning of the bones and joints.

ANNEXURE II

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTELS
AS ON 31.3.2006

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Total Sanctioned Hostels	
		No. of Hostels	No. of Working Women
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48	3182
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	441
3.	Assam	14	799
4.	Bihar	6	266
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	426
6.	Goa	2	120
7.	Gujarat	26	1218
8.	Haryana	20	1561
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	477
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	360
11.	Jharkhand	2	214
12.	Karnataka	48	4457
13.	Kerala	146	13295
14.	Madhya Pradesh	62	3438
15.	Maharashtra	132	9652
16.	Manipur	14	687
17.	Meghalaya	3	214
18.	Mizoram	4	149
19.	Nagaland	14	771
20.	Orissa	29	1825

1	2	3	4
21.	Punjab	14	1417
22.	Rajasthan	39	1868
23.	Sikkim	2	144
24.	Tamil Nadu	95	6400
25.	Tripura	1	50
26.	Uttar Pradesh	40	3130
27.	Uttaranchal	7	538
28.	West Bengal	38	2639
	Total States	843	59738
UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	A & N Islands	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	7	736
3.	Delhi	19	2586
4.	Pondicherry	4	221
	Total UTs	30	3543
	All India Total	873	63281

ANNEXURE III

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTELS
AS ON 31.3.2006

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Total Sanctioned Hostels		Incomplete Hostels	
		No. of Hostels	No. of Working Women	No. of Hostels	No. of Working Women
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48	3182	15	1124
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	441	8	383
3.	Assam	14	799	7	356
4.	Bihar	6	266	3	157
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	426	4	236
6.	Goa	2	120	—	—
7.	Gujarat	26	1218	2	95
8.	Haryana	20	1561	7	614
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	477	1	92
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	360	3	283
11.	Jharkhand	2	214	—	—
12.	Karnataka	48	4457	24	2245
13.	Kerala	146	13295	20	2324
14.	Madhya Pradesh	62	3438	14	1066
15.	Maharashtra	132	9652	42	3496
16.	Manipur	14	687	3	159
17.	Meghalaya	3	214	1	80
18.	Mizoram	4	149	2	89
19.	Nagaland	14	771	10	448
20.	Orissa	29	1825	15	890

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Punjab	14	1417	3	289
22.	Rajasthan	39	1868	9	392
23.	Sikkim	2	144	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	95	6400	28	2738
25.	Tripura	1	50	1	50
26.	Uttar Pradesh	40	3130	18	1617
27.	Uttaranchal	7	538	4	230
28.	West Bengal	38	2639	15	1079
	Total States	843	59738	259	20532
	Union Territories				
1.	A & N Islands	—	—	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	7	736	—	256
3.	Delhi	19	2586	3	421
4.	Pondicherry	4	221	2	127
	Total UTs	30	3543	7	804
	All India Total	873	63281	266	21336

ANNEXURE IV

A BRIEF NOTE ON WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL RUN BY CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

Central Social Welfare Board is providing financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running Working Women Hostels for the working women in rental buildings. Central Government, State Government and some foreign organisations are providing training-cum-rehabilitation programme for the poor women. After getting such trainings, the women are coming out of their family to other places in search of jobs. Due to increase in educational opportunities the women are coming out from their family in search of job/employment and after getting the opportunity they are staying alone away from their family. The Board is implementing Working Women Hostel/Programme for providing safe and secure stay arrangement for the working women.

Before submitting the application the concerned voluntary organisations who are willing to take up this programme, conduct survey of the area to know the number of working women for the Hostel.

The institution submits the application to the concerned State Board along with copy of Registration Certificate, memorandum of Articles of Association and bye-laws of the institution, 3 years accounts of the institution, list of the present Management Committee, Annual Report, list of beneficiaries and rent deed. The State Board arranges pre-funding appraisal report of the institution for running this programme and then they recommend the cases of C.S.W.B. for sanction of grant.

The grant is sanctioned for the salary of Matron, salary of Chowkidar, recreational facilities for the beneficiaries and difference of rent of the hostel of the building. An amount of Rs. 50,000/- is provided for A Class City, Rs. 45,000/- for B Class City and Rs. 40,000/- for C Class City for above heads.

Problems:

In the existing meagre amount of grant, it is very difficult to get sufficient and good accommodation for the working women. However, the institutions are implementing this programme and they arrange the accommodation.

Secondly, as per direction of Department of Women and Child Development, this assistance is to be provided to any voluntary organisations only up to 5 years. Thereafter, the grant is discontinued. Hence, it is difficult to get new institutions for implementing this programme in this meager amount of grant.

As per scheme, the salary of Matron is Rs. 2,000/- p.m., salary of Chowkidar Rs. 500/- p.m. and the difference of rent is Rs. 9,000/- in a A Class City. This amount is very less for getting good accommodation and good staff. During the last year (2004-05), the Board sanctioned 19 new and 37 continuation Working Women Hostel. State-wise break-up of the sanctioned. Working Women Hostel during the year 2004-05 is given as under:—

Name of the State	Continuation Hostels	New Hostels
Assam	1	—
Karnataka	4	—
Kerala	9	2
Mizoram	1	—
Orissa	1	—
Tamil Nadu	7	3
West Bengal	10	12
Manipur	4	2
Total	37	19

In the current financial year (2005-06), till date the Board has sanctioned 9 new and 26 continuation Working Women Hostel. State-wise break-up of the sanctioned Working Women Hostel during the year 2005-06 is given as under:—

Name of the State	Continuation Hostels	New Hostels
Karnataka	4	2
Mizoram	1	—
West Bengal	16	1
Bihar	—	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	1
Tamil Nadu	4	2
Kerala	1	2
Total	26	9

(Dr. S.N. Malviya)
Joint Director

ANNEXURE V

SCHMES OF ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION/EXPANSION
OF HOSTEL BUILDING FOR WORKING WOMEN WITH
A DAY CARE CENTRE

CHECK LIST FOR THE STATE GOVERNMENT

F.No.	State
1	2
1.	Name of the Organization with complete address & Telephone No.
2.	Inspection Report
3.	Registration of Organization (indicate the date of Registration)
4.	Constitution of Organization
5.	Objectives of Organization
6.	List of Members of the Executive Committee with their occupation and background
7.	Audited Statements of Accounts in three forms for the last three years
8.	Audited Balance Sheet for the last three years
9.	Copy of Annual Report for the last three years
10.	Major Programmes of the Organisation
11.	Location of the proposed Hostel with complete address. Whether the location is a rural area/ block level/district level. Total distance from the city

1	2
12.	Capacity of the hostel proposed
13.	No. of hostels already sanctioned with capacity at the proposed location of the working women hostel. Distance from the nearest hostel
14.	Justification for construction of the hostel at the place specified
15.	Hostels already being run by the agency with its capacity
16.	Documentary proof of ownership of land
17.	Detailed structural estimates as drawn by architects
18.	PWD certificate certifying that rates of construction to be adopted are not in excess of the schedule of rates of the State PWD duly countersigned by the Head of the State PWD concerned or his nominee
19.	Local authority's certificate granting permission for construction/approving the plan
20.	Copy of site plan & blue prints of the hostel projects
21.	Source of income from which the agency will meet its share of expenditure
22.	Details of accommodation on each floor with area

1	2																																										
23.	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Plinth/Covered Area</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Floor</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No. of living rooms</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Size of the room</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Area</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Capacity of the room</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">Ground</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">First</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Second</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Third</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Floor	No. of living rooms	Size of the room	Area	Capacity of the room	Total capacity	Ground						First						Second						Third																	
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(ii)	Furniture & Fixtures																																										
(iii)	Architect's Fee																																										
(iv)	Future Escalation Price																																										

1	2
(v)	Any other (specify)
27.	Estimates approved for
28.	Per Sq. ft. cost
29.	Per capita cost
	For Women only
30.	Other Points

ANNEXURE VI

STATEMENT SHOWING CASES OF REFUND/
RECOVERY OF UNUTILIZED GRANT

1. **JKK Rangammal Charitable Trust, Salem District, Tamil Nadu:** An amount of Rs. 7,24,700/- sanctioned on 2.8.1994 as the first instalment for construction of a hostel building for 90 working women has been recovered through Tahsildar, Tiruchengode Taluk, Namakkal District, as arrears of land revenue as per the terms and conditions of the sanction. The amount has been remitted to the Ministry by means of 22 demand drafts, from June, 2002 to September, 2004.
2. **Joseph Chellamuthu Educational Trust, Salem District, Tamil Nadu:** An amount of Rs. 7,79,454/- was sanctioned to the organisation on 26.3.1996 as the first instalment for construction of a hostel building for 94 working women. An amount of Rs. 4.50 lakh has been recovered so far from the organisation through Tahsildar, Namakkal Taluk, Namakkal District by means of 10 demand drafts starting September, 2004 and up to October, 2005.
3. **Gujarat Women Economic Development Corporation, Gandhinagar:** An amount of Rs. 75.60 lakh sanctioned to the organisation on 13.2.2001 as the first instalment for construction of 10 hostels for 600 working women was refunded by the organisation.
4. **Mahila Uthan Grameen Samity, Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal:** An amount of Rs. 4.05 lakh sanctioned on 26.3.2001 as the first instalment for construction of a hostel for 30 working women was refunded by the organisation.
5. **Anand Ashram Trust, Mumbai:** A grant of Rs. 30.60 lakh was approved in January, 2006 and the first instalment thereof amounting to Rs. 9.18 lakh released to the organization for the construction of a hostel building for 68 working women in Mumbai. The organization was unable to take up the construction work within the approved amount and therefore returned to the Ministry the bank draft for the first instalment in September/October, 2006.

GUIDELINES

1. Please ensure that you have land available and it is suitably located for a Working Women's Hostel.
2. Please remember that the hostel is meant for working women whose income does not exceed Rs. 16,000/- consolidated (gross) per month in a Class 'A' city or Rs. 15,000/- consolidated (gross) per month in any other city/town/place as their needs are for privacy, comfort, economy, safety and friendly company.
3. Please keep in view the potential residents of your hostel and try to provide essential needs and comforts for them.
4. Discuss the needs with your architect and then see the land sketch of the building before getting the plans made. Do not leave it to your architect only.
5. Please exercise maximum economy in the layout and building specifications.
6. You may try to provide (a) Common bathrooms and toilets on each floor instead of attaching them to each room. It saves cost. (b) Lockable Cupboards for each inmate in a room with storage space over/below it, and (c) Small kitchenette on each floor which can give facility to women to cook and save money and avoid use of rooms for cooking leading to maintenance problems. You may also attach a Day-Care-Centre for children to your hostel for 25-30 pre-school children. It should have a minimum floor space of 20 sq. ft. per child. There can be 2-3 rooms of 150 sq. ft. each and a kitchen, a washroom and a lavatory each of 50 sq. ft. in a city and one room of about 150 sq. ft. with a small wash room in a rural areas.
7. A common lounge/recreation room, dining room, kitchen and store are essential.
8. The size of a single room can be about 10'X10'. The room and toilets should be so laid out that they are well ventilated and well lighted.
9. Accommodation for the warden should be provided in the hostel building itself to facilitate Supervision and guidance.

10. Please keep adequate funds for furniture and furnishing in the hostel as this is not an item eligible for assistance under the scheme.
11. Please remember that the hostel and the Day-Care-Centre have to be run on no profit basis.
12. Encourage group activities for the residents and provide for guidance to them when needed.
13. Have arrangements for a doctor to be available for consultation for the residents.
14. Ex-servicemen may be considered for gainful re-employment on watch and ward duties.
15. Competitive rates may be obtained before construction work is entrusted to any individual or body. A building committee including representative of the State PWD and social/women welfare Department/Directorate should be made for implementing the project.
16. Care should be formal rules and regulations for the admission of residents to the hostel and children to the day-care-centre and for the hostel administration laying down the form of application, procedure, rent/licence fee and charges etc.
17. There will be a Hostel Management Committee for looking after the management of the Hostel in which a representative of the State Government/Union Territory Administration and a representative of the inmates of the hostel shall be included. The meeting of the Hostel Management Committee will be convened as frequently as possible at least once in three months.
18. Reasonable amounts should be kept from the hostel receipts to ensure regular maintenance of the building, Maintenance, repairs, etc. in the building should be regularly taken up to ensure that the building remains in good condition.

Terms and Conditions for Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for Working Women Day-Care-Centre

1. 90% of the approved amount of grant-in-aid shall be paid in three equal instalments depending upon the progress in the construction of the said project and upon the sum spent by the voluntary organization. The second and the third

instalment of the approved grant shall be released subject to availability of funds only when the organization has spent the previous instalment(s) along with its own share of cost and the request for release of those instalments is accompanied by the following documents:

- (i) A utilisation certificate from a Chartered Accountant/ Government Auditor in respect of the previous instalment(s).
 - (ii) An up to date consolidated statement of the actual expenditure incurred on execution of the approved plans and estimates duly certified by a Chartered Accountant/ Government Auditor. The level of expenditure reflected therein should not be below 30% of the approved estimates (in case of request for release of the second instalment)/ 60% of the approved estimates (in case of release of third instalment).
 - (iii) A statement indicating up to date physical progress of the construction work in fact, the organisation should furnish to this Department regularly at the end of each quarter the prescribed quarterly progress report on the construction work till the building is completed (in the enclosed specimen).
 - (iv) 4 postcard-size colour photographs of the construction work in progress, from four corners.
 - (v) An order setting up a Hostel Building Committee giving representation to State PWD, District Magistrate/Collector and State Department/Directorate of Social/Women's Welfare (if not furnished already).
 - (vi) Copies of the proceedings of the Hostel Building Committee meetings held so far.
2. That the additional amount involved, if any, in the completion of the project shall be found by the voluntary organization from its own resources; and the Government of India will not be liable to pay any additional amount under any circumstances.
 3. That the project shall be constructed strictly in accordance with the plans and estimates as admitted by Department of Women and Child Development for financial assistant for their execution and that no change shall be made in the plan without the prior approval of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

4. That the project shall be completed as soon as possible and in any case not later than 24 months from the date of receipt of the first instalment of grant-in-aid unless special extension is granted by the Government of India.
5. That the organisation shall set up a Hostel Building Committee having the representation of State PWD, District Magistrate/Collector and State Department/Directorate of Social or Women's Welfare.
6. That after completion of the project the Voluntary organization shall furnish to the Central Government copies of the following documents:—
 - (i) Utilisation Certificate from a Chartered Accountant/ Government Auditor for previous instalments.
 - (ii) Final consolidated duly audited statements of accounts. The expenditure reflected should show items which were not part of the approved/accepted estimates separately. Interest earned on previous instalments should also be shown separately.
 - (iii) Completion Certificate from State PWD/CPWD/Housing Board that the hostel building is constructed in all respects as per approved plans and estimates.
 - (iv) Four postcard-size colour photographs of the completed hostel building from different corners one of which should show a board on prominent display at main entrance that construction of the hostel building has been financed by Government of India, Department of Women and Child Development.
 - (v) Order setting up a Hostel Management Committee having representatives of State Department/Directorate of Women and Child Development/Social Welfare, State Social Welfare Advisory Board, District Magistrate/Collector and Hostel residents.
 - (vi) Hostel Bye-laws duly approved by the Hostel Management Committee.

Remaining 10% of the approved grant will be released on receipt of the above documents.
7. That the organization shall ensure that the hostel/Day Care-Centre is thrown open to inspection by an officer of the State PWD or the Central Public Works Department or any

other officer designated for the purpose by the Central Government or State Government or both during the period of construction as well as after the construction is completed. It will be the duty of the organization to carry out any instructions that may be given by the designated officers of the Central Government, State Government or Union Territory Administration with regard to the construction of Working Women's Hostel or relating to the running and maintenance of the Hostel.

8. That any utilized portion of the grant shall be refunded to the Central Government forthwith.
9. That the organization shall maintain separate accounts in respect of this project and shall submit the same duly audited by Chartered Accountant/Govt. Auditors along with utilization certificate.
10. That the accounts shall always be open to check by an officer of the Central or a State Government deputed for this purpose and shall also be open to test check by Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at his discretion.
11. That the organization shall maintain an audited record of all assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government grant. Such assets shall not be disposed of encumbered or utilized for purpose other than those for which the grant has been given, without prior sanction of the Government of India.
12. In the event of any violation or breach of any provision of the Scheme or should the institution/organization cease to exist at any time, all assets created out of Government grant shall be reverted to the Department of Women and Child Development, Union Government of India or the amount would be recovered as arrears of land revenue.
13. That the organization shall execute a bond in the approved form for an amount equal to Government grant securing to the Government of India a prior lien on the building for the recovery of the amount paid as grant if the building ceases to be used as a hostel for working women.
14. That the Hostel accommodation constructed under the scheme shall be open to admission to all working women with an income not exceeding Rs. 16,000/- (consolidated) per month in 'A' class cities and Rs. 15,000/- (consolidated) per month in other cities/towns/places, without any

distinction of religion, caste, race, place of birth, language or any of them. Working women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Handicapped women shall be given preference in the matter of allotment of accommodation in the Hostel. 15% and 7¹/₂% seats in the Hostel shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

15. That an inmate would be allowed to stay in a Hostel normally for a period of three years. The voluntary organization may, however, give extension up to a total period of two years after review of the case every year after three years. No extension beyond five years shall be granted to an inmate. The girl students can stay in a Hostel for a maximum period of five years.
16. The organization/institution will charge from the inmates of the working women's hostel reasonable rent/licence fee not exceeding 15% of their total emoluments in the case of single bedrooms, 10% in case of the double bedrooms and 7¹/₂% in the case of the dormitories. Fees charged from the children in the Day-Care-Centre should not be more than 5% of the emoluments of their parent, or the actual expenditure, whichever is less. The rent from the girl students should not exceed 5% of the total emoluments of the parent(s).
17. A Hostel Management Committee having representatives of the State Department/Directorate of Women's Welfare of Social Welfare, District Magistrate/Collector, Central Social Welfare Board/State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the residents of the Hostel shall be set up by the organisation to look after the management of the Hostel.
18. The Hostel Committee so constituted with lay down the rules and regulations for the admission of resident into the Hostel and for the Hostel administration laying down the form of application, procedure, rent/licence fee & charges etc. Meeting of the Hostel Management Committee will be convened as frequently as possible and at least once in three months.
19. That the organization, on completion of the Working Women's Hostel would submit a half yearly Progress Report (copy of format enclosed) about the functioning of the Working Women's Hostel to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations and a copy to the Department of Women and Child Development.

20. The organization shall ensure that the rates of construction to be adopted are not in excess of the schedule of rates of the PWD of the State concerned. In the event of any excess the organization shall be required to refund the difference proportionately to the Government.
21. The organization shall mention on the name board of the hostel and the Day-Care-Centre that it has been constructed with financial assistance from the "Government of India, Department of Women and Child Development" (Bilingually).
22. The organization shall also display on the Notice Board the following conditions:
 - (i) The hostel provides accommodation to working women whose income does not exceed Rs. 16,000/- (consolidated) per month (for 'A' class cities)/Rs. 15,000/- (consolidated) per month (for other cities/towns/places).
 - (ii) Rent/Licence Fee not exceeding 15% of the total emoluments in the case of single bedrooms, 10% in the case of double-bedrooms and 7¹/₂% in the case of other rooms shall be charged from the inmates. Rent not exceeding 5% of the total emoluments of the parent(s) may be charged from the girl student.
 - (iii) Fees from children in the Day-Care-Centre not to exceed 5% of the emoluments of the parent or actual expenditure which ever is less.
 - (iv) The Hostel/Day-Care-Centre shall be open to working women of all categories without any discrimination.

DEFINITIONS OR THE CATEGORIES OF THE HANDICAPPED
FOR PURPOSE OF PREFERENCE IN ADMISSION TO
WORKING WOMEN HOSTELS

The Blind

The blind are those who suffer from either of the following conditions:—

- (a) Total absence of sight.
- (b) Visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses.
- (c) Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degrees or worse.

The Deaf

The deaf are those in whom the sense of hearing is non-functional for ordinary purposes of life. They do not hear understand sounds at all even with amplified speech. The cases included in this category will be those having hearing loss more than 90 decibels in the better ear (profound impairment) or total loss of hearing in both ears.

Orthopaedically Handicapped

The orthopaedically handicapped are those who have a physical defect or deformity which causes an interference with the normal functioning of the bones and joints.

ANNEXURE VIII

Point 2 (a)

The following are the suggestions/views expressed in the three meetings of the Revamping Committee held so far:—

1st meeting held on 25.5.2006

The main discussion in the meeting centred on the types of organizations which should be eligible for assistance under the scheme of construction of hostel building for working women. A view was expressed that the provision of the welfare infrastructure/public utility such as working women's hostels is a municipal function. Assistance should therefore be extended under the scheme only to local authorities like municipalities and PRIs. A contrary view was expressed that the scheme as it existed included NGOs and others and any drastic amendment to exclude NGOs from the eligible institutions would not be correct. The Chair advised that while state institutions in various spheres such as education, health and welfare might be preferred as the implementing agencies, there was a definite need to encourage good NGOs to take up projects under the scheme. Another suggestion was made in the meeting to provide assistance under the scheme for hostels to be run in rented buildings also. Further, the scheme's norms of assistance should be re-looked at with an open mind.

2nd meeting held on 21.7.2006

The principal view expressed in the meeting was that facilities for working women are essentially the responsibility of the local bodies. Land for working women's hostels should be made available in cities and towns, where there is a need for such hostels, by local bodies such as Municipalities, Development Authorities/Boards and Cantonment Boards. Funds for the construction of the hostel buildings should be provided to them under the scheme and the local bodies should assume the responsibility of running of the hostels or assign the same to some reputed NGOs on self-financing (no profit no loss) basis by way of recovery of rent and charges from the inmates. According to the above view, no grant should be given to NGOs either for purchase for land or for construction of hostel building.

The representative of Directorate General of Defence Estates indicated in-principle agreement to the suggestion for making available

land by cantonment boards with construction cost met under the scheme by Ministry of Women & Child Development. However, the representative of Ministry of Urban Development indicated that that Ministry had no role to play in the scheme as the land in cities and towns was under the control of local bodies and not of that Ministry.

The following other suggestions emerged in the meeting:—

- (i) The revamped scheme should be geared to meet the needs of the modern working women. The Hostel should have the provision of modern installations and amenities such as boring water harvesting and computer facilities.
- (ii) There should be a monitoring authority for the Hostels.
- (iii) The accommodation in the hostel could be a mix of different types to cater to the needs of women at different income levels, such as single rooms, 2/3/4-seater rooms or dormitories, rooms with attached baths and toilets etc.
- (iv) Up to 50% of the hostel accommodation may be offered to girl students, the remaining 50% being earmarked for working women.
- (v) There should be flexibility in hostel regulations.
- (vi) It will not be acceptable to have provision in the scheme for assistance towards repairs and maintenance of hostel building. The same should be ensured from hostel receipts and the hostel should be run on self-financing basis.

3rd meeting held on 7.9.2006

- (i) **Eligibility to reside in the Hostel:** Presently the Scheme envisages that the Hostel should provide accommodation to single working women, unmarried, widows, divorced/separated, married when husband is out of town and also women who are being trained for employment and girl students. Women being trained for employment and girl students together should not number more than 30% of the hostel's capacity. A suggestion was considered in the meeting that girl students may be allowed to stay in the Hostels when adequate number of working women are not available. This was endorsed with the condition that in case there is subsequently a demand from working women they will be given preference and the girl students asked to vacate the hostel seats. It was further suggested that appropriate license fee structure should be prescribed for the girls students.

As regards children who may be allowed to stay in the hostel it was decided that normally girls up to 18 years of age and boys up to 10 years of age may be allowed to stay in the hostels with their mothers.

- (ii) **Income limit:** The Scheme presently envisages that for a working woman to be eligible for accommodation in the hostel, her income should not exceed Rs. 16,000/- consolidated per month in class 'A' city or Rs. 15,000/- consolidated in other cities/towns/places. It was felt that in view of the rising income levels in the country, fixing an upper income limit may not be practicable. However, eligibility conditions other than income limit should continue to be followed and in so far as the income aspect is concerned it should be ensured that women in the lower income groups are not deprived of accommodation in the hostels on account of the demand for the accommodation from working women of upper income groups. One way of ensuring this would be to earmark different categories of rooms for different income groups.

The suggestion that the present limit of 5 years on the period of stay in the hostel should be done away with was not agreed to in view of the hostel generally being meant to serve as temporary accommodation and the risk that there may not be vacancy in the hostel for new girls who have come to the place to join employment or studies if there is no limit on the period of stay.

- (iii) **Organisations/agencies eligible for assistance under the Scheme:** It was decided that in addition to the presently eligible organizations, hospitals should also be made eligible for funding under the Scheme. Further, although the Scheme already provides that local bodies are eligible, it may be made clear in the Scheme that Panchayats and Cantonment Boards both of which are local bodies will be eligible for assistance. The Committee did not agree to the suggestion to drop the existing stipulation in the Scheme that local bodies or cooperative institutions to be eligible for assistance should, among other things, not be run for profit to any individual or a body of individuals. A suggestion to provide soft loan to Business Corporates to provide safe and secure hostel accommodation for its women employees was also not agreed to.

- (iv) **Pattern of assistance:** A suggestion was made that in place of the existing pattern of assistance according to which grant can be given towards 50% of the cost of land and 75% of the cost of construction of the hostel building, a revised pattern should be prescribed that while no grant will be admissible for the land cost, 100% funding will be available for the construction cost. It was pointed out in this connection that in about 900 hostels sanctioned so far all over the country since inception of the Scheme in 1972-73, grant towards the cost of land has been given only in an insignificant number of cases as the grantee organizations have themselves provided land for the hostels. Even in purchase/allotment of land by/to the applicant organizations specifically for the construction of hostel building, it has not been possible to give grant for the land cost on account of the limitation of 1 year (now increased to 2 years) placed in the General Financial Rules on sanctioning of grant to cover any cost/expenditure already incurred. It was therefore desired that information regarding the number of proposals in which 50% of the land cost has been sanctioned may be compiled to enable further consideration of the above suggestion for revision of the pattern of assistance.

The Committee agreed to the suggestion to make a provision in the Scheme for a one time non-recurring grant at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- per woman in the beginning and up to Rs. 5.00 lakh for repair work if the hostel has been running satisfactorily for more than 15 years.

The Committee did not however agree to the other suggestions made regarding revision of the pattern of assistance: provision of soft loan repayable in 20 years instead of grant, merger of Central Social Welfare Board's scheme of small-scale grant to NGOs to meet the deficit in the expenditure incurred on running of hostel and rented building for the hostel.

- (v) **Capacity of Hostels:** The Scheme provides that ordinarily Hostels with capacity of more than 100 inmates and day care centres for more than 30 children will not be sanctioned. However, many hostels, have been sanctioned with a capacity of more than 100 working women or more than 30 children, based on the justification given for the higher capacity sanctioned. This has recently attracted audit

objections. The Committee therefore recommended that there should be no limit laid down in the Scheme on the capacity of the hostel.

- (vi) **Area and cost norms:** The Committee approved the suggestion that the Scheme's guidelines should make it specific that the Hostel can be planned with a built up area of up to 180 square feet per woman, which is based on technical recommendations. No norm can however be envisaged for per woman cost of construction, which is dependent on many factors including the region in which the hostel is located and which will generally keep rising every year.
- (vii) **Facilities in hostels:** The Committee approved the suggestion that the facilities for hostellers should/can include a washing machine and an ironing board on each floor for the common use of the hostellers, geysers in bathrooms and coolers and heaters in the rooms. Presently, no grant is admissible under the Scheme for furniture or other fixtures. However, the above items of facilities for the hostellers should be made eligible for funding, under the Scheme.
- (viii) **Procedure for application and release of subsequent instalments and monitoring & evaluation:** It was decided that a sub-group of the Committee may go into the above aspects in detail and submit its recommendations. Meeting since then, the NGO representatives of the sub-group expressed the view that the numerous day-to-day problems in running working women's hostels apart, delays generally occur in various procedures under the Scheme both at the State Government and GoI levels. They therefore wanted time frames to be prescribed for the completion of various formalities by State and Central Governments. The NGO representatives felt that the elimination of delays would require minimization of procedures and documentation. Public Private Partnership (PPP) should also be initiated in the Scheme, whereby many of the prescribed procedures would be handled by eminent, private persons of unquestionable integrity instead of the State Government authorities or functionaries. These persons would basically be those who having distinguished themselves in various walks of life in their time are presently in a position to offer selfless service in dedicated social work. A panel of

these persons (say about 20-25 persons) may be nominated by the respective State Governments and it should also include persons having technical expertise relating to planning and construction of hostel buildings. Their services may be utilized to supplant most of the State Government functions under the Scheme, for which they may be paid reasonable conveyance charges/travelling allowance by the concerned State Governments, but no honorarium.

4th meeting held on 27.10.2006

The meeting concentrated on issues recently highlighted as being crucial to the success of the Scheme. Firstly, regarding the suggestion that land at subsidized rates should be made available to NGOs for setting up working women's hostels and the land cost provided under the Scheme to NGOs on 100% basis, the view which emerged in the meeting was that public bodies or local authorities (municipal corporations, development boards, cantonment boards and housing boards) should themselves take up construction of the hostel buildings and assign the running of the hostels to NGOs. As part of town planning, the State Governments should earmark spaces for the hostels in every institutional area being developed in the States. The land for hostels should be suitably located to match the demand with supply. Secondly, the existing provisions of the Scheme concerning monitoring of the construction and functioning of the hostels should be reactivated by the State Governments to meet the existing lacunae.

ANNEXURE IX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Recommendations/ Observations	Ministry/ Department
1	2	3	4
1.	62	The changing economic structure in India has compelled more and more women to live out of their homes for employment in big cities, urban and rural townships. Today, the working women in India constitute vital part of human workforce. One of the primary requirements of such women is safe and suitable accommodation. Considering the fact that economic empowerment is the precondition for upliftment of social status of women, it becomes all the more important to address the issue of safe and suitable accommodation for working women. In the wake of difficulties being faced by such women in accessing good accommodation, the Government of India launched the Scheme of assistance for construction/expansion of hostel building in order to provide hostel accommodation to working women. The Scheme was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 22nd May, 1972 and has been in operation since then.	Ministry of Women and Child Development
2.	63	The Committee, however, are concerned to note that the Scheme has not achieved its slated objectives. The Committee find that the Scheme is not being implemented in the right	—do—

perspective as the hostels were not functioning as per the stated norms. During its study visits to certain States, the Committee witnessed the poor state of maintenance, utilization of hostel premises for commercial and other purposes, hostels building lying vacant, hostels being occupied by girl students, non-involvement of local bodies, indifference of the State Government Departments and lack of monitoring both at the Centre and State level. The Committee express their deep anguish over the poor implementation of the Scheme and deplore the indifference of the Government towards such a vital issue concerning women. They are equally disturbed to know that the Ministry despite conceding that the Scheme was beset with many problems/shortcomings, have not taken any corrective measures to remove the shortcomings in the implementation of the Scheme. The apathy exhibited by the Ministry in this regard is nothing but regrettable. The Committee, therefore, desire that concrete steps in this regard should be taken to remove these shortcomings in the implementation of the Scheme. The State Governments should be directed to strengthen their monitoring mechanism to ensure that the hostels are run by NGOs as per the stated norms and they provide the basic amenities to the inmates of the hostels. Further, it should be ensured that the hostels are neither over-crowded nor remain unutilized.

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3.	64	<p>The Committee note that since the inception of this Scheme in 1972-73, so far 873 hostels have been sanctioned but only 607 of them have been completed as the completion reports have not been received in respect of 266 of these sanctioned hostels. The Committee are given to understand that as per statistics of Ministry of Labour, there are 50.69 lakh working women in the country working in the organized sector. In the opinion of the Committee the number of completed hostels to cater to the needs of 50.69 lakh working women population is highly insufficient and totally unrealistic. The Committee find that with the increase in the number of working women population the number of hostels has not correspondingly been increased. The Committee are, therefore, constrained to note that the efforts made by the Government in this regard are very dismal. It has been admitted by the Secretary of the Ministry and the representatives of the State Governments that there is a definite need to have more hostels to cater to high, medium and low end requirements of working women in the urban and rural areas. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry, in coordination with State Governments get a survey conducted to ascertain the actual demand of working women hostels throughout the country. The Committee also recommend that urgent steps be taken for construction of more hostels so that the increasing demand of working women hostels is met satisfactorily.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women and Child Development</p>

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4.	65	<p>The Committee note that it has been almost 20 years since the Scheme was last revised in 1987. The Committee feel that during the past two decades there has been major demographic shift which necessitated substantial modification in the Scheme. The Committee, however, are dismayed to note that the Ministry did not take any steps to revise the Scheme to make it more effective as per the changing needs of working women. What has surprised the Committee most is the fact that the Ministry do not possess the original copy of the Scheme. The Committee deplore this callous attitude of the Ministry in this regard. The Committee was assured that the Scheme would be revamped within a period of six months, but as of now, the Revamping Committee constituted by the Government has met only 3 to 4 times and no concrete decisions have so far been taken in this regard. The Committee deplore the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry and desire that expeditious steps should be taken to revamp the Scheme in consultation with the State Governments and NGOs, with a view to making it more realistic and fruitful.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women and Child Development</p>
5.	66	<p>The Committee note that the financial assistance under the Scheme comprises 50% of cost of the land and 75% of the cost of construction of the building. The Committee feel that the Scheme was conceived 30 years back, and since then the real estate market has boomed and land price has increased tremendously. In this scenario, it has become far more</p>	<p>—do—</p>

impractical for the NGOs to contribute 50% of the cost of the land. Moreover, if at all some NGOs manage to arrange funds for the land, it will be at the suburbs or outskirts of the city. In the opinion of the Committee, locating hostels at outskirts of the city may not be a good proposal as such hostels will neither be accessible due to lack of transport nor viable for occupancy. In this regard the Committee recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the State Governments to earmark space for the hostels in a safe place preferably in the institutional areas. The Committee further desire that in case appropriate land is not available, the hostels under the Scheme could also be run in rented building as is done by the Central Social Welfare Board which provide recurring financial assistance to voluntary organizations for running working women hostels in the rental buildings.

6. 67 The Committee are constrained to note that in spite of there being a mechanism to verify the credentials of the implementing agencies, there have been instances when NGOs/VOs were not running the hostel as per provisions of the Scheme and were misusing the building for commercial purpose etc. The Committee are surprised to note that no FIR has been lodged against the defaulting NGOs/Voluntary Organizations. The Committee, therefore, recommend that FIR should be lodged against the defaulting NGOs/VOs and strict legal action should be taken against them. The
- Ministry of Women and Child Development

Committee also suggest that in the case of default, the recommending authority should be held responsible and action against them should also be initiated. The Committee are of the view that the role of State Governments is required not only at the stage of screening credible NGOs, but also in the regular monitoring of the construction work under the Scheme. In this regard, the Committee are given to understand that State Governments are expected to regularly monitor the hostels and submit a Consolidated Report to the Ministry. The Secretary of the Ministry admitted that the State Government's monitoring mechanisms need to be activated as it exists on paper, but because the State Governments do not have a stake in the Scheme they do not feel the need to monitor as they should.

The Committee are surprised to note that though the State Governments recommend the applications of NGOs, the funds are released by the Ministry directly to the grantee organizations. The State Governments again come into the picture when the subsequent installments are released which is done after the utilization certificate is furnished by the organization through the State Governments. The Committee have been apprised by the representatives of the State Governments that though the proposals of the NGOs are routed through them, they are not informed when the sanction is given or payment is released for construction. The Committee,

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		<p>therefore, feel that there is indeed a missing link in the monitoring of construction, functioning and management of these hostels and this aspect needs to be properly looked into. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that while revamping the Scheme, this aspect should be properly looked into.</p>	
7.	68	<p>The Committee are of the view that there is lack of coordination among the Centre and the State Governments due to which the requisite information is not forthcoming from the State Governments. The Committee feel that the objective of the Scheme can be achieved only with the cooperation and greater involvement of the State Governments. In this scenario, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should convene meeting of Ministers of Women and Child Development of all the State Governments to find out the reasons for the reluctance of the State Governments in this regard and take suitable remedial action.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women and Child Development</p>
8.	69	<p>The Committee also recommend that the Ministry while revamping the Scheme, make provisions for greater involvement of State Governments in the funding process so as the State Governments exercise control over the NGOs and the Scheme is implemented effectively.</p>	—do—
9.	70	<p>The Committee during visit of some hostels noted that hostels built under this Scheme are poorly maintained and</p>	—do—

run short of basic infrastructure. In this regard, the representatives of Management of one of the hostels visited by the Committee also informed that there were financial constraints for maintenance of hostels. Therefore, in some of the hostels a school from Nursery to Class 10th was being run by the hostel authorities to meet the expenses, though, it is against the prescribed norms. The Committee feel that the poor conditions of hostels will discourage the working women to stay in such hostels and they will prefer to stay in the hostels built by private organizations where they get better facilities even at higher rent. The Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development also accepted this drawback, which was equally supported by the representatives of State Governments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that there should be provision for recurring annual maintenance grant in the Scheme, which would not only help the Government to keep a check on the NGOs/Management of the hostels effectively but also facilitate the improvement in the basic amenities at these hostels. The Committee further recommend that this aspect may be properly looked into while revamping the Scheme.

10. 71 The Committee are constrained to note that during each of the last three years *i.e.* 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, the Ministry, as against the allocation of Rs. 10 crore for implementation of the Scheme, had released Rs. 6 crore, Rs. 5.16 crore and Ministry of Women and Child Development

Rs. 4.82 crore respectively. The reason advanced by the Ministry for this variation between the allocated and released budget was that during these years there has been lack of good proposals meeting the schematic norms and requirements. The Committee are not convinced with the reasoning and desire that the Ministry should take initiatives to persuade the State Governments to send viable and genuine proposals for construction of hostels, keeping in view the demand of hostels in the respective States so that the funds allocated under the Scheme are fully utilized and the working women are benefited the most.

11. 72 In view of the shortcomings noted in the implementation of the Scheme, the Committee feel that to make this Scheme successful it needs holistic revision. The Committee, therefore, recommend that besides the aforementioned suggestions of the Committee made in the earlier paragraphs, the following points may also be considered while revising the Scheme:
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (i) As the rate of interest is low as compared to market rate, sometimes NGOs still find it worthwhile to use funds elsewhere and make profit even if they have refunded the money. The Committee, therefore, desire that the rate of interest should be increased to penal rate of interest so that the NGOs will not find it worthwhile to invest the grant elsewhere.

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- (ii) The accommodation in the hostel could be a mix of different types to cater to the needs of women at different income levels, such as single rooms, 2/3/4-seater rooms or dormitories, rooms with attached baths and toilets etc.
 - (iii) It should be ensured that the hostels are centrally located where ample and easy transport facilities are available.
 - (iv) the hostels should be well maintained with green and clean neighbouring environment.
 - (v) There should be adequate support facilities such as food, water, electricity etc.
 - (vi) Hostels should be managed by professionally qualified staff.
 - (vii) There should be an easy mechanism whereby the inmates can communicate their grievances.
 - (viii) As far as possible, all the facilities should be provided by a single agency which has to be indoor.
 - (ix) In view of the rising income levels in the country, fixing an upper income limit may not be appropriate, hence, the income ceiling should be removed.
 - (x) There should be no limit laid down in the Scheme on the capacity of the hostels.
 - (xi) The inmates at these hostels should be reasonably charged.
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		<p>(xii) Periodic evaluation of the Scheme may be done, considering the importance of evaluation in order to assess its shortcomings and impact.</p> <p>(xiii) To make the Scheme more transparent and free from procedural delays, public-private partnership should be initiated. The services of eminent private persons may be utilized to supplement some of State Government functions under the Scheme.</p> <p>The Ministry in coordination with State Governments should organize surprise inspections and visits to have first-hand information of the functioning of these hostels under the Scheme.</p>	
11.	73	<p>The Committee feel that if the aforementioned aspects are taken into consideration while revamping the Scheme, it would go a long way in making the Scheme more effective and useful for the working women and to achieve its avowed objectives.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women and Child Development</p>

PART-II

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2005-06)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 1st March, 2006 from 1530 hours to 1700 hours in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shrimati Krishna Tirath — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Joachim Baxla
3. Shrimati Sushila Kerketta
4. Shrimati Manorama Madhawraj
5. Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari
6. Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi
7. Shrimati Kalpana Ramesh Narhire
8. Dr. P.P. Koya
9. Shrimati Preneet Kaur
10. Shrimati Karuna Shukla
11. Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh
12. Shrimati Jayaben Thakkar

Rajya Sabha

13. Shrimati Prema Cariappa
14. Shrimati N.P. Durga
15. Shrimati S.G. Indira

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.C. Kakkar — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shrimati Veena Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri V.P. Goel — *Assistant Director*

WITNESSES

Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development)

1. Shrimati Reva Nayyar — Secretary
2. Shrimati Parul Debi Das — Joint Secretary
3. Dr. S.N. Malviya — Joint Director (Central Social Welfare Board)

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) to the sitting of the Committee and invited their attention to the provisions contained in Direction 55 of the Directions by the Speaker.

3. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry on the subject '**Hostel Accommodation for Working Women**'.

4. Thereafter, the Chairperson requested the representatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) to furnish notes on the points raised by the Members to which replies were not readily available with them during the discussion.

5. The Committee also decided to visit some Working Women Hostels in various States of the country to have first hand information on the functioning of these Hostels before finalizing the Report on this subject. The Committee informed the representatives of the Ministry that they might be called to tender further evidence after these visits, if necessary.

A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2006-2007)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 11th October, 2006 from 1530 hours to 1700 hours in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shrimati Krishna Tirath — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shrimati Manorama Madhawraj
3. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
4. Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi
5. Shrimati Neeta Pateriya
6. Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh
7. Shrimati Minati Sen
8. Shrimati C.S. Sujatha
9. Shrimati Jayaben Thakkar
10. Shri P.C. Thomas
11. Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu

Rajya Sabha

12. Shrimati Prema Cariappa
13. Kumari Nirmala Deshpande
14. Shrimati N.P. Durga
15. Shrimati Brinda Karat
16. Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur

SECRETARIAT

1. Shrimati Veena Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri V.P. Goel — *Assistant Director*

WITNESSES

Ministry of Women and Child Development

1. Shrimati Deepa Jain Singh — Secretary
2. Shrimati Parul Debi Das — Joint Secretary
3. Shri S.K. Ray — Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor

Central Social Welfare Board

1. Ms. Sujata Saunik — Executive Director

2. After welcoming the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Central Social Welfare Board who had appeared before the Committee to give oral evidence in connection with examination of the subject '**Hostel Accommodation for Working Women**', Hon'ble Chairperson mentioned that the Committee during its previous term had selected this subject and took oral evidence of the Ministry on 1st March, 2006. During the evidence the Committee had observed that the scheme was not being implemented in the right perspective and had decided to continue the discussion on the subject. Hon'ble Chairperson thereafter requested the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to give a brief background of the subject as well as apprise them about the present status of the proposal to revamp the scheme as assured by the representatives of the Ministry during the last oral evidence.

3. The representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Central Social Welfare Board apprised the Committee about the present status of the proposal to revamp the scheme. Further clarifications sought by the Members were also replied too.

4. As the replies relating to the role/response of the State Governments were not satisfactory, the Committee decided to again hear the views of the Ministry of Women and Child Development alongwith the officials of the concerned departments of a few State Governments in connection with examination of the subject, before coming to a conclusion.

5. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

6. The Committee thereafter decided to undertake on-the-spot study visit in two phases to some States of the country during inter-session period and authorized the Chairperson to finalise the dates and places of the visits.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2006-2007)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 7th November, 2006 from 1130 hours to 1300 hours in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shrimati Krishna Tirath — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shrimati Sushila Kerketta
3. Shrimati Manorama Madhawraj
4. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
5. Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi
6. Prof. M. Ramadass
7. Shrimati Minati Sen
8. Shrimati C.S. Sujatha
9. Shri P.C. Thomas

Rajya Sabha

10. Shrimati Prema Cariappa
11. Kumari Nirmala Deshpande
12. Shrimati N.P. Durga
13. Shrimati S.G. Indira
14. Shrimati Brinda Karat

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.K. Sharma — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri J.P. Sharma — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shrimati Veena Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri V.P. Goel — *Assistant Director*

WITNESSES

I. Ministry of Women and Child Development

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shrimati Deepa Jain Singh | Secretary |
| 2. Shrimati Manjula Krishnan | Economic Advisor |
| 3. Shri S.K. Ray | Joint Secretary & Financial
Advisor |
| 4. Ms. R. Savithri | Director |

II. Central Social Welfare Board

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| 1. Ms. Sujata Saunik | Executive Director, Central
Social Welfare Board |
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III. Government of Maharashtra

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| 1. Shrimati Vandana Krishna | Secretary, Department of
Women & Child Development |
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IV. Government of Karnataka

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| 1. Ms. Rajni Srikumar | Principal Secretary, Women and
Child Development & Social
Welfare |
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V. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

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| 1. Shri G.S. Patnaik | Secretary, Social Welfare
Department |
| 2. Shri O.P. Mishra | Director, Institutional Land
Delhi Development Authority |

VI. Government of Andhra Pradesh

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| 1. Ms. Vasudha Mishra | Secretary, Women Development
& Child Welfare Department |
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VII. Government of Uttar Pradesh

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| 1. Shri Balwinder Kumar | Secretary, Department of
Women & Child Development |
| 2. Shri Arvind Mohan | Commissioner, Social Welfare
Department |

VIII. Government of Tamil Nadu

1. Shri N.S. Palaniappan Secretary, Social Welfare & Nutrition Meal Department
2. Shri V. Thangavelu Director, Social Welfare Department

IX. Government of West Bengal

1. Shri S.N. Haque Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the draft Action Taken Report on the subject "**Working Conditions of Women in Handloom Sector**". After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Action Taken Report and authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Report and present the same to Parliament.

3. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Central Social Welfare Board and officials of State Governments were invited to the sitting to tender oral evidence on the subject '**Hostel Accommodation for Working Women**'. After their welcome, Hon'ble Chairperson apprised them of the provisions of Direction 58 of the Directions by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. After giving the brief background of the subject, Hon'ble Chairperson desired to have information regarding role of State Governments in implementation of the scheme, feasibility of allotment of land directly by the State Governments to the concerned NGOs at concessional rates, the role of State Government in monitoring the scheme etc. The representatives of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the State Governments presented their views on these aspects before the Committee. They also replied to the points raised by the Members of the Committee subsequently.

Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson requested them to furnish notes on the points raised by the Members to which replies were not readily available with them during the discussion.

4. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2006-2007)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 14th December, 2006 from 1530 hours to 1630 hours in Room No. 139, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shrimati Krishna Tirath — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shrimati Preneet Kaur
3. Shrimati Sushila Kerketta
4. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
5. Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari
6. Shrimati Neeta Pateriya
7. Prof. M. Ramadass
8. Shrimati K. Rani
9. Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh
10. Shrimati Karuna Shukla
11. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar

Rajya Sabha

12. Shrimati Pramila Bohidar
13. Shrimati N.P. Durga
14. Shrimati Maya Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri J.P. Sharma — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shrimati Veena Sharma — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri V.P. Goel — *Assistant Director*

