

**TWENTY- THIRD REPORT**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND**  
**EMPOWERMENT**  
**(2006-2007)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**AND EMPOWERMENT**

**Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants 2006-2007) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 28.04.2007**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 3.05.2007**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**  
**April, 2007/Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(2006-2007)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants for the year 2006-2007 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

**TWENTY- THIRD REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
April, 2007/Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

## CONTENTS

		<b>PAGE</b>
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE .....		(iii)
INTRODUCTION .....		(v)
CHAPTER I	Report.....	1
CHAPTER II	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.....	13-22
CHAPTER III	Observations /Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government.....	23-26
CHAPTER IV	Observations/ Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter-I .....	27-35
CHAPTER V	Observations/ Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature.....	36-40

### ANNEXURES

I.	Minutes of the Sitting of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment held on 27 April, 2007.	41--
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### APPENDIX

Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha).....	4--
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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE  
AND EMPOWERMENT (2006-2007)**

**Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Mohd. Shahid Akhlaque
3. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
4. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
5. Shri Longanathan Ganesan
6. Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain
7. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
8. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
9. Shri Kailash Meghwal
10. Shri Rupchand Murmu
11. Shri Jual Oram
12. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
13. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana
14. Shri P. A. Sangma
15. Dr. R. Senthil
16. Smt. Pratibha Singh
17. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
18. Smt. Krishna Tirath
19. Smt. Usha Verma
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

**RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
23. Shri Silvius Condpan
24. Shri Mahmood A. Madani
25. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
26. Dr. Radhakant Nayak
27. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
28. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
29. Shri Veer Singh
30. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey
31. Shri Nand Kishore Yadav

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                           |   |                      |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri Ashok Sarin       | - | Joint Secretary      |
| 3. Shri R.K. Saxena       | - | Director             |
| 4. Shri Bhupesh Kumar     | - | Deputy Secretary     |
| 5. Shri Vanlalruata       | - | Executive Officer    |

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-Third Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants – 2006-07 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

2. The Sixteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on May 16, 2006. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on December 14, 2006. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on April, 27 2007.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

4. For facility of reference recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

**New Delhi:  
27 April, 2007  
7 Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

**SUMITRA MAHAJAN,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and Empowerment**

## CHAPTER-I

### REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2006-2007 relating to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.2 The Sixteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 16 May, 2006. It contained 23 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received, and are categorised as under:

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Paragraph Nos. 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 4.14, 4.17, 4.30, 4.31, 5.7, and 6.16.

(Total 10 - Chapter II)

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:

Paragraph Nos. 4.18, 4.39 and 5.6.

(Total 3 - Chapter III)

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter I:

Paragraph Nos. 4.16, 4.29, 4.36, 6.18, 6.19 and 7.7.

(Total 6 - Chapter IV)

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:

Paragraph Nos. 4.15, 4.19, 6.17 and 7.8.

(Total 4 - Chapter V)

**1.3 The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter -V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of the Report.**

1.4 The Committee will now deal with some of the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

**A. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN (SCP) FOR SCHEDULED CASTES**

Recommendation (SL No.7, Para No.4.16)

1.5 In the aforesaid paragraph the Committee had expressed their concern that the number of women beneficiaries under Special Central Assistance (SPA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes during 2005-06 had gone down alarmingly to 55349 from 153500 in 2004-05. Further, there were States/UTs like Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and West Bengal wherein the number of women beneficiaries were nil, while the Ministry had stated that the percentage of women beneficiaries had been increasing every year and currently was pegged at 28.70%. Further, the Ministry had no record of women beneficiaries who after having availed the benefits of this scheme were able to cross the figures of below the poverty line. The Committee had emphasised that as per guidelines issued by the Ministry, 15%

of the total SCA released to States/UTs shall be utilized exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/programmes for SC women. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should impress upon all States/UTs to strictly adhere to the guidelines, so as to ensure the economic upliftment of the vulnerable section of SC women. The Committee had also desired the Ministry to obtain data from all States/UTs regarding women beneficiaries, who after having availed the benefits of this scheme, were able to cross the poverty line and had become economically independent during the last three years, as in absence of such vital data, the success/ failure of this important scheme could not be ascertained.

1.6 In their reply, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, have stated that information on total beneficiaries and women beneficiaries who had availed benefits under the scheme are maintained by the State Governments. As per the information received from various State Governments, the total number of beneficiaries declined from 611861 in 2004-05 to 548467 in 2005-06. Similarly the number of women beneficiaries also declined marginally from 153500 to 139200 during this period. However, the share of women in total beneficiaries increased from 25.08% in 2004-05 to 25.38% in 2005-06. The decline in number of beneficiaries during 2005-06 was primarily due to lesser coverage reported by Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry has further stated that, among the major States, information about number of women beneficiaries during 2005-06 has not yet been reported by State Governments of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Goa, J&K, Jharkhand, Kerala, M.P., Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. The matter has been taken up with concerned State Governments asking them to furnish necessary information. The decline in coverage of beneficiaries during 2005-06 is also being taken up with the State Governments.

The surveys for estimation of poverty are conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The last survey by NSSO was conducted in 1999-2000 to ascertain the number of beneficiaries including Scheduled Castes who had crossed the poverty line. Such specified surveys on all India basis is a specialized



job and can appropriately be done by NSSO. Therefore, it would not be advisable to conduct survey at the Corporation level.

**1.7 The Committee regret to observe that the performance of the Ministry in respect of upliftment of SC women under the scheme Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes has not shown any improvement as the number of women beneficiaries have declined from 153500 in 2004-05 to 139200 in the year 2005-06. What is worse is the fact that the Ministry have not made any effort to collect data regarding the number of women beneficiaries who became economically independent and crossed the poverty line after availing the benefits of this particular scheme. Their contention that majority of States have not reported the number of women beneficiaries is nothing but indicative of their poor monitoring of the scheme. The Ministry have also failed to impress upon all States/UTs to strictly adhere to the guidelines and ensure that 15% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs is utilized exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/programmes for SC women. Keeping in view the importance of economic upliftment of vulnerable section of SC women, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry should take up the matter with all the States/UTs at sufficiently high level so that they strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines and ensure that 15% of total SCA is released for economic development schemes/programmes for SC women. The Ministry should also take necessary steps to collect the data of all beneficiaries including women who have crossed the poverty line and have become economically independent**

**after availing the benefits under the scheme. For this, services of NSSO or any other agency could be engaged so that the effectiveness of the scheme could be properly assessed.**

**B. SCHEME OF COACHING AND ALLIED ASSISTANCE FOR WEAKER SECTIONS INCLUDING SCHEDULED CASTES, OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES.**

Recommendation (SL No.11, Para No.4.29)

1.8 The Committee in para 4.29 of the original Report had observed that the scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities had been witnessing under utilization of sanctioned funds during the last three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The reasons attributed for this by the Ministry were non-submission of Utilization Certificates by States as they had not been able to utilize the entire amount released to them by the Centre, as well as that during 2005-06, there was a proposal to transfer the scheme to the State Governments, though it was decided subsequently to retain this scheme with the Central Government. The Committee had, desired that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with the State Governments to furnish utilization certificates as well as fresh proposals on time, so that funds for the scheme could be released to the States uninterruptedly which would ultimately help the States/UTs to implement the scheme effectively and efficiently. The need was also expressed to ensure that the Ministry should utilize the allocations proportionately to be able to escape cuts at RE stage of BE funds, which was resorted to regularly by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance every year due to slow paced utilization of funds during the first two quarters of the Financial year.

1.9 The Ministry, in their reply, have stated that the Ministry pursues with the State Govts./UTs to furnish the utilization certificates on time. The other recommendations of the Committee have also been noted.

**1.10 The Committee had noted with concern that the scheme of coaching and Allied Assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities had been witnessing under-utilization of sanctioned funds during the last three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan. This was stated to be due to non-submission of Utilization Certificates by States as they had not been able to utilize the entire amount released to them by the Centre. The Ministry in their reply have stated that it pursues with the States/UTs to furnish the utilization certificates on time. The Committee feel that the Ministry should have spelt out concrete and specific steps taken at appropriate level with State Governments in this regard. While reiterating their earlier recommendation, the Committee expect that the Ministry would take necessary steps to ensure that there is no under utilisation of funds by the concerned State Government while implementing the scheme of Coaching & Allied Assistance for weaker sections.**

**C. SCHEME OF UPGRADATION OF MERIT OF SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS THROUGH EXTRA COACHING.**

Recommendation (SL No.14, Para No.4.36)

1.11 The Committee, in the aforesaid paragraph, had observed that the Ministry had not paid any heed to its recommendations contained in its First and Seventh Reports on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-05), (2005-06) wherein strong concern was voiced over the fact that the Ministry had not been able to finalize the proposed modifications in this scheme since 2004. The proposed new scheme “Top Class Education for Scheduled Castes” was stated to have been circulated to the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for consideration. Keeping in view the future of the SC students, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should make all out efforts to finalize the modalities relating to the new scheme of “Top Class Education for SCs”, with the concerned authorities at the earliest, so that the revised scheme can be implemented expeditiously.

1.12 In their action taken note furnished to the Committee the Ministry have stated that the Expenditure Finance Committee meeting for “Top Class Education for SC students” had been held on 13.10.2006 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure).

**1.13 The Committee had noted with concern that the Ministry could not finalize the proposed modifications in the ‘Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Caste Students’ since 2004-05. The Ministry was stated to have proposed a new scheme “Top Class Education for Scheduled Castes” which**

had been circulated to the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure, and the Ministry of Human Resources Development for consideration. The Committee had desired this new scheme should be implemented at the earliest. The Ministry have now stated in their reply that the EFC meeting for “Top Class Education for SC students” had been held on 13.10.2006 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure). The Committee find this reply of the Ministry vague in as much as what transpired in this meeting and what further is contemplated in this regard has not been intimated. The Committee take a serious view of the casual manner in which recommendation of the Committee has been replied to by the Government. The Committee cannot but overemphasize the need to expeditiously finalize the modalities relating to the new scheme of “Top Class Education for SCs” in consultation and co-ordination with the concerned authorities to ensure expeditious implementation of the revised scheme.

#### **D. SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN WAKF PROPERTIES.**

Recommendation (SL No.20, Para No.6.18)

and

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para No. 6.19)

1.14 In the aforesaid paragraph the Committee had observed that the survey of Wakf properties was an important pre-requisite to enable the Wakf Boards to exercise power, control and supervision over the individual Wakf properties. From the information furnished by the Ministry, the Committee had observed that the survey had been completed in respect of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep. Some of the States had not yet started the survey and in some

cases the survey work of Wakf properties was very slow. The Committee had felt that unless the Government had an authentic data of Wakf properties, they would not be able to chalk out a proper plan for their development. The Committee, had therefore, recommended that the State Governments be persuaded to complete survey work of urban Wakf properties expeditiously and the progress achieved in this regard be communicated to the Committee.

1.15 The Committee had also noted with serious concern that out of 10863 Wakf properties which were under illegal possession/encroachment, during the last three years, the Ministry had no information regarding the restoration of these Wakf properties from illegal occupants. The Committee viewed this situation seriously and had recommended that an effective mechanism should be evolved to check encroachment of Wakf properties. The Committee had also recommended that all the Wakf properties which had been illegally encroached, transferred, mortgaged, leased or sold should be retrieved by taking legal action against their occupants.

1.16 In their action taken note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have stated that survey of Wakfs under the provision of the Wakf Act, 1995 is the responsibility of the State Governments. The progress of survey in the States depends on the priorities of the State Governments and there is no provision in the Act for direct intervention of the Central Government. The Central Government, however, has been persistently impressing upon the State Governments the need to complete survey works expeditiously.

1.17 The Ministry have further stated that Section 32 of the Wakf Act 1995 provides that the general superintendence of all Wakfs in a State shall vest with the Board established or the State. Action for removal of encroachment on Wakf properties is to be taken by the State Wakf Board/ State Government in accordance with the provisions of Sections 54 & 55 of the Wakf Act 1995. The actual progress, however, depends on the priorities of the State Government. The Central Government, on its part, has been persistently impressing upon the State Governments to accord appropriate priority for the work.

**1.18 Keeping in view the fact that survey of Wakf properties is an important pre-requisite to enable the Wakf Boards to exercise power, control and supervision over the individual Wakf properties, the Committee had recommended that all the State Governments be persuaded to complete survey work of urban Wakf properties expeditiously. The Committee have now been informed by the Ministry that survey of Wakfs under the provision of the Wakf Act, 1995 is the responsibility of the State Governments and there is no provision in the Act for direct intervention of the Central Government. Even conceding this assertion of the Ministry, the Committee feel that Government, at least, could and should have persuaded the State Governments to do the needful. The Committee, hope that the Ministry would take up the matter at the highest level with concerned State Governments and impress upon those, who have so far not completed the survey of Wakf properties, to get these completed expeditiously, which would enable the Wakf Boards to exercise power, control and supervision over wakf properties and chalk out proper plan for their proper development.**

**The Committee also desire that the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments should evolve an effective mechanism to retrieve Wakf properties which have been illegally encroached, transferred, mortgaged, leased or sold by taking legal action against their occupants.**

Recommendation (SL No.21, Para No.6.19)

**F. NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Recommendation (SL No.22, Para No.7.7)

1.19 The Committee in para 7.7 of the original Report had observed that the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation as well as the Ministry did not have any data of persons with 40% and above disability and whose annual income did not exceed Rs. 1 lakh in urban areas and Rs. 80,000 in rural areas. These persons were eligible to apply for loans from NHFDC. The reasons attributed for this by the Ministry were that collecting data on disabled population fulfilling the eligibility criteria of NHFDC was a huge task and involved large scale survey of the population both in urban and rural areas and the Corporation did not have the resources to carry out such surveys. The Committee were not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry, as in the absence of data on the actual number of disabled people and out of them how many were selected as beneficiaries, the Corporation would not be able to fulfill their main objective. The Committee, had therefore, strongly recommended that the Ministry/Corporation should conduct survey to collect the data of eligible beneficiaries and herein they should seek the help of the 46 State Channelising Agencies as these were the field agencies who actually interact with the beneficiaries. By doing so NHFDC would be able to play a more effective role in the economic upliftment of the handicapped people in our country. Further, the Committee had desired that data of people who were able to become economically self reliant, after having availed loans from NHFDC be collected as it would epitomize the success of the Corporation in ameliorating the condition of the handicapped.



1.20 In their action taken note the Ministry have stated that The Ministry/ Corporation do not have manpower and infrastructure facilities to conduct survey of beneficiaries who have become economically self-reliant after availing loan from the Corporation.

**1.21. The Committee regret to observe that the reply of the Ministry is silent and they have not responded to the recommendation of the Committee to conduct survey to collect the data of eligible persons amongst the handicapped. It reflects lack of concern and commitment on the part of the Government towards the sacred goal of economic upliftment of the handicapped people in the country. In the absence of such vital data, the Ministry would not be able to estimate and take necessary steps for their upliftment. The Ministry have contended that neither they nor the Corporation have the manpower and infrastructure facilities to conduct survey of beneficiaries who became economically self-reliant after availing loan from the Corporation. In the opinion of the Committee it should also not be difficult for the Ministry / Corporation to contact the beneficiaries, once they have been given the regular loan, to gauge the extent of their upliftment on this account.**

The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Ministry / Corporation to make all out efforts to collect the data of eligible handicapped people as well as the persons who became economically self-reliant after having availed loan from NHFDC, so that the scheme could be evaluated and further improvement, if needed, be incorporated.

## CHAPTER – II

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (SL. No. 1, Para No. 3.11)

2.1 The Committee had noted with concern that the budgetary allocation under Plan Schemes of the Ministry during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 had always been revised downwards at RE stage by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. During the year 2003-04, a cut of Rs.120 crore was imposed, thereby bringing down the BE from Rs.1370.00 crore to Rs.1250.00 crore at RE stage. Similarly during 2004-05, a cut of Rs.142 crore was imposed. The Committee were aware that the Revised Estimates are conveyed by the Ministry of Finance on the basis of expenditure level upto 3 September. The reason attributed for this cut at RE stage is slow paced utilization of funds by the Ministry during the first two quarters of the financial year. The Ministry had further stated that the slow paced utilization is due to non-submission of utilization certificates as well as late submission of fresh proposals by States/UTs. The general trend witnessed is that UCs as well as fresh proposals are submitted during the third or fourth quarter of the financial year. The Committee were not at all pleased with this situation as funds crucial for the social and economic development of the Scheduled Castes, - Backward Classes, Handicapped and Elderly people are withheld in the process. The Committee, had therefore, urged the Ministry to plan and incur their expenditure in a phased manner, so that it is evenly spread throughout the year. Further, the Committee had opined that all States/UTs may be regularly persuaded to furnish utilization certificates of past utilization on time, send their fresh proposals at the beginning of the financial year and ensure that their Finance Department releases funds to its Welfare Department immediately on receipt of the same from the Central out resorting to procedural delays. The progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.2 Quarterly plan expenditure incurred in 2005-06 was in phased manner Rs.205.37 crore (13.40%) upto June 2005, Rs.794.94 crore (51.83%) upto September 2005, Rs.1014.34 crore (66.14%) upto December 2005, Rs.1595.33 crore (104.%) upto March 2006. This shows an improvement over the previous years. This was duly accepted by the Department of Expenditure because no cut was applied at the RE stage. Infact, an additional allocation of Rs.100.00 crore was provided.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 2, Para No.3.12)

2.3 The Committee were perturbed to note that the expenditure under the head "Lump sum provision for North Eastern Region and Sikkim" always remains much lower than the allocation. The Ministry had informed the Committee that proposals from these State Governments are generally received in the third or fourth quarter of the financial year. The Committee were alarmed to know that during the year 2003-04, against the RE of Rs.57.50 crore, nil expenditure was witnessed, similarly in 2004-05, against RE of Rs.57.48 crore nil expenditure was witnessed. In the present year, against RE of Rs.70.03 crore an amount of Rs.40.85 crore (provisional) has been utilized. The Committee took serious note of this sordid state of affairs and are of the opinion that holding meetings with Chief Secretaries/ Welfare Secretaries is not enough as it has not brought about the desired result. The Committee, had therefore, strongly recommended that the Ministry should take up this matter urgently at the Ministerial level to ensure that the North Eastern States and Sikkim utilize the funds allocated for the developmental schemes in the region. Further, the Committee strongly felt that there is a need to urge upon the Planning Commission to impress upon these States to a furnish UCs in time as

well as send fresh proposals at the beginning of the year, while it is finalizing the Annual Plans of these States.

## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.4 The advice of the Committee has been noted.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 3, Para No.3.13)

2.5 The Committee had expressed their concern over the fact that during the year 2004-05 an amount of Rs.148.12 crore, under various schemes, was surrendered by the Ministry. The Ministry had stated that the surrender was necessitated due to non-receipt of adequate proposals from States/ UTs, as well as due to non-formulation of schemes. Further, the Ministry had informed that in case of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), inspection reports from States/ UTs are not received in time, thereby leading to delay in release of the second installment. Therefore the amount had been surrendered. The Committee were not satisfied with this reply. In the opinion of the Committee, the Ministry can under no circumstance wash its hands off this aspect so easily by passing the buck to the States/ UTs. The Committee would like to remind the Ministry of its mandate, which is to work towards ameliorating the economic condition of the downtrodden/vulnerable classes of our society, which would then lead to their social emancipation. The Committee, therefore, had strongly recommended that the Ministry vigorously pursue with all State Governments/ UTs Administration to ensure timely submission of fresh proposals and UCs. With regards to NGOs, the Committee desire that inspection reports from respective States / UTs be obtained on time. The Committee were of the opinion that the steps recommended by it would go a long way in ensuring fiscal discipline by States/ UTs and the Ministry and thereby considerably reduce the surrender of funds.

## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.6 The Ministry have written to the State Govts./ UTs for timely submission of fresh proposals and inspection reports for timely release of grants-in-aid to the grantee organizations.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 4, Para No.3.14)

2.7 The Committee were not at all satisfied with the reply put forth by the Ministry that compliance with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management (FRBM) Act, which stipulates that UCs are to be provided within 12 months and funds may not be released to States/ UTs defaulting in submission of UCs and physical outcomes in quantifiable terms, is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance who should motivate all States/ UTs and the role of the States/UTs is to comply with the provision of the Act. The Committee had felt that the Ministry was shirking its responsibility here and seems to be passing the buck to the Ministry of Finance on one hand and the States / UTs on the other hand. The Committee were of the firm view that non-compliance with the provision of the FRBM Act by the States/ UTS would ultimately affect the budgetary allocations to the Ministry, as non-furnishing of utilization certificates of past allocation by States/UTs would result in the Ministry not releasing more funds to them and also in low utilization of funds sanctioned by the Planning Commission to the Ministry. Thus, the funds crucial for the overall development of the vulnerable section of our society would be drastically reduced by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance at RE stage. The Committee, therefore, had desired that the Ministry play a more pro-active role and vigorously pursue this matter with all States/ UTs to comply with the provision of the FRBM Act, and minimize administrative and

procedural delays in releasing funds. The progress achieved in this regard may be conveyed to the Committee.

## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.7 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing the provision of the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management (FRBM) Act, which stipulates that UCs are to be provided within 12 months. While calling for proposals from the States/ UTs, they are being requested to send their complete proposals, which include unspent balance available with them for the funds released during the previous year so as to enable the Ministry to release the funds to them in time. They are also being requested to furnish quarterly progress report in respect of grants. A conference of the State Welfare Secretaries was held on 14 & 15-9-2006 for the purpose.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 5, Para No.4.14)

2.8 The Committee had noted with regret that though the scheme of SCA to SCP is a Central Sector Scheme, wherein all the funding is borne by the Central Government, yet the actual utilization of funds by the States/UTs is very low. In the year 2005-06, the Centre released Rs.38632.19 lakh, out of which only Rs.24004.50 lakh were utilized which reflects only 62% utilization. Further, the Committee had noted that some States like Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand and Kerala have not been released any fund under the scheme during the last two years. The Ministry had attributed this to the unsatisfactory utilization of SCA funds by these States due to non-furnishing of utilization certificates on time. The Committee were greatly disappointed at this state of affairs as it reflects a rather casual attitude on the part of these Governments in their commitment and obligation towards the upliftment of the SC population in their respective States. Keeping in view the

pivotal nature of this scheme towards the economic upliftment of the poor SC people, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry take up this matter in right earnest with the concerned State Governments at the highest level to ensure that utilization certificates are submitted timely and smooth flow of SCA to SCP funds as well as full utilization of the sanctioned funds could be ensured.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.9 The matter regarding utilization of unspent balance of SCA funds available with four States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa and Punjab was taken up at the level of Hon'ble Minister vide letter No.11014/6/2005-SCD-II dated 30.4.2006. Consequently, utilization Certificates from Bihar, Jharkhand and Punjab were received and first installment of SCA for the year 2006-2007 has also been released to Bihar and Jharkhand.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 8, Para No.4.17)

2.10 The Committee had noted that there are 36955 villages across the country having 50% or more SC population. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry 10% of total SCA released to the States/UTs in a year shall be utilized for infrastructure development programmes in villages having 50% or more SC population. However, the Ministry have no data available with them about the infrastructure development works carried out under this scheme. The Committee had expressed their dismay at this callousness of the Ministry as it reflects a very casual approach towards the development of SC people. Considering that infrastructure development of villages having 50% or more SC population is of vital importance for the overall development of poor Scheduled Caste people in the country, the Committee had recommended that the requisite data detailing infrastructure development carried out of SCA funds in the 36955 villages having

50% or more SC population may be obtained at the earliest from the concerned States/UTs so that the success of the scheme could be assessed and future action plan for the development of these villages could be prepared.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.11 The earlier information about number of villages having 50% or more SC population excluded Tamilnadu, as the requisite information was not available. As per the updated information received from the Planning Commission, there are 44002 villages in the country having 50% or more SC population. Village-wise information on infrastructure created is maintained at block level/district level by State Governments. However, the above recommendations have been brought to the notice of State Governments with the request to furnish necessary details.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 12, Para No.4.30)

2.12 The Committee were dismayed to note that the success rate witnessed under this scheme is not encouraging at all and this seriously worries the Committee about the overall qualitative aspect of this scheme. During 2005-06, 11905 students availed the benefits of this scheme, out of which only 735 students were able to succeed in various examinations. The pass percentage is about 12.45%. The Committee did not endorse the view of the Ministry that the present success rate of 12.45% is a healthy one keeping in mind the large number of eligible applicants. The Committee were of the opinion that the Ministry should gear up its act together and tighten the loose ends, which are pegging down the success rate of the scheme. The Committee therefore, had strongly recommended that the Ministry should formulate a comprehensive guideline for institutions selected for imparting coaching under this scheme and undertake periodic review of these



institutes to ensure that they are really committed towards the course contents which is necessary to get success in the competitive examinations they sit for.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.13 The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 13, Para No.4.31)

2.14 The Committee had taken note of the recommendations of the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, which during 2005 had conducted a study on Concurrent Evaluation of this scheme. The Committee had desired that all the recommendations contained therein should be implemented without any further delay by the Ministry, as in view of the Committee, this would go a long way in increasing the over all success rate of this scheme. The Committee stressed particular emphasis on those recommendations, which stress for perennial coaching classes, separate scheme for each category of beneficiary and enhancing of the monthly stipend to Rs.2000/- per month. Further, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry ensure that only those Government Institutes, which have the requisite infrastructures be selected for imparting coaching.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.15 The process of revising the Coaching and Allied scheme has been initiated.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 17, Para No.5.7)

2.16 The Committee were pleased to note that the Ministry envisaged to replace the present schemes of 'pre and post matric scholarships for OBC students' with an umbrella scheme of scholarship which is to be merit-based. This will entitle all OBC students whose annual family income is below the poverty line to avail benefits of this scheme till they become graduates. The Committee had also noted that in its first years, the new scheme will benefit 3159 students, which would then go up to 7554 students in the fifth year. Keeping in view the importance of the scheme in increasing the literacy rate of the backward populace, the Committee had desired that the Ministry finalize and implement the proposed new scheme at the earliest.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.17 The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 18, Para No.6.16)

2.18 The Committee had noted that the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been created out by carving out the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 and the subjects relating to Minority Affairs have been transferred to the Ministry of Minority Affairs vide notification dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2006. However, the budgetary allocations are included in the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and only a Non-Plan grant of Rs. 2 crore for Secretarial Expenditure has been made as a new Demand No. 105 of Ministry of Minority Affairs. The Committee, had therefore desired that the Ministry of Minority Affairs should pursue the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to make available the Demands for Grants pertaining to minority Division, at the earliest so as to enable them to seek supplementary grants for funding their entire

schemes. The Committee, had further noted that the budgetary allocation under Minority Division has always been less. Considering that minorities constitute 18% of the total population of India, the BE for 2006-07 under Plan scheme is a meager Rs. 16.47 crore consequent to the increase in mandate after creation of the new Ministry, the present allocation seems very inadequate. Therefore, the Committee had desired that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with the Planning Commission to provide more funds so that justice could be done to its mandate.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.19 The budgetary allocation of the Ministry which was earlier merged in the Demand No. 88 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has since been transferred in the Demand No. 105 of the Ministry by the first supplementary Demand for Grants. An amount of Rs. 27.38 crores, which was already available in the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for programmes relating to Minorities has been transferred to the Ministry of Minority Affairs through a technical supplementary grant. In addition, Grant of Rs. 114.14 crores has also been provided in the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Minority Affairs through the first batch of supplementaries. Appropriate action is being taken for enhanced provision during 2007-08 and the XI th Plan.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

## CHAPTER – III

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

Recommendation (SL. No. 9, Para No.4.18)

3.1 The Committee noted that the Special Component Plan is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits of Scheduled Castes. At present 27 States/UTs, having sizeable SC population are availing funds under the 'Special Central Assistance Scheme' from the center. The target groups here are SC people whose income is below the poverty line. The scheme of SCA to SCP aims to provide economic assistance to enable them to raise their level of income and get over below the poverty line figure. The Committee further noted that the scheme of SCA to SCP is one wherein maximum allocation of funds is made by the Planning Commission. During the current year, the allocation was Rs. 407.36 crore. The Committee, were however, dismayed to note that the Ministry have no data about the number of beneficiaries who are successful in becoming economically independent after availing the benefits of this scheme. It has simply been commented that it is expected that assistance out of SCA would have helped the beneficiaries in increasing their productivity and income level. In view of the Committee, this reflects very poorly and points to a very casual attitude on part of the government vis-a-vis its mandated of working for the upliftment of the poor SC people. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Ministry should obtain the data of people who were able to cross the poverty line after having availed the benefits of this scheme from all States/UT as it would reflect the real picture of success/failure of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

3.2 Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan is released to State Governments/UT Administrations as per laid down criteria to cover beneficiaries

including women beneficiaries. States agencies maintain data for all the beneficiaries who had availed the benefits under this programme in the last three years. National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted last survey in 1999-2000 to ascertain number of beneficiaries including Scheduled castes who had crossed the poverty line. Conducting of such surveys on an all India basis is a specialized task & can appropriately be done by NSSO. Therefore, it would not be advisable and cost effective to conduct survey separately at the Corporation level.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PERM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

3.2 The Ministry pursues with the State Govts./UTs to furnish the utilization certificates on time. The other recommendations of the Committee have also been noted.

**[Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-1/2006 (PS)  
PERM Vol. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006]**

Recommendation (SL. No. 15, Para No.4.39)

3.3 The Committee had noted with concern that the Ministry have not been successful in introducing the scheme of 'Assistance to SC students for pursuing study in Residential Public Schools' due to non-finalization of the scheme for the last three years, and thus no expenditure could be incurred during the last three years, resulting in surrender of funds. The Committee were not at all satisfied with the replies put forth by the Ministry, and feel that the Ministry are not serious enough to the welfare of SC students. Keeping in view the pivotal role played by residential schools in the overall development of SC students, the Committee had strongly urged the Ministry to finalise and implement the scheme at the earliest as it would go a long way in brining about all round development of SC students and prepare them for Post-School challenges.

## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.4 EFC Memo for a new Scheme 'Establishment of Residential Schools for Scheduled Caste Boys and Girls' has been circulated on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006 for comments.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No.16, Para No.5.6)

3.5 The Committee note with concern that under the scheme of Pre-matric Scholarships to OBC Children, no physical targets are fixed. The reason attributed for this by the Ministry is that since the census data of OBC students studying in schools is not available with them, no physical targets could be fixed. The Committee express their displeasure on this kind of reply of the Ministry as it concerns the education of OBCs students at primary and middle school level in their delicate and formative years. Keeping in view the relative educational backwardness exhibited amongst the OBCs, the Committee are of the firm opinion that this scheme if properly implemented, would increase the literacy rate of this section of our society. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should pursue the States/UTs, implementing this scheme to expedite the

collection of the data of students availing this scheme so that the physical targets could be fixed. The Committee also desire the Ministry to ensure that the drop out rate of students is kept under check till they reach the matric stage

Reply of the Government

3.6 Allocation under the scheme is meager so it is not possible to provide scholarships to all school going OBC population. Further, education is a State subject and Ministry of Human Resource Development have issued guidelines to take steps to reduce dropout rate among school going population. Further, the size of school-going population changes every year. Therefore, it would not be appropriate or cost effective to conduct survey of OBC school going children on regular basis.

**[Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-1/2006 (PS)  
PERM Voll.IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006]**

## CHAPTER – IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHAPTER – I

Recommendation (SL. No.7, Para No.4.16)

4.1 The Committee were alarmed to note that the number of women beneficiaries during 2005-06 has gone down alarmingly to 55349 from 153500 in 2004-05. Further, there are States/UTs like Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and West Bengal wherein the number of women beneficiaries are nil, while the Ministry had stated that the percentage of women beneficiaries has been increasing every year and currently is pegged at 28.70%. Further, the Ministry have no record of women beneficiaries who after having availed the benefits of this scheme were able to cross the figures of below the poverty line. Keeping in view that as per guidelines issued by the Ministry, 15% of the total SCA released to States/UTs shall be utilized exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/programmes for SC women, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should impress upon all States/UTs to strictly adhere to the guidelines, so as to ensure the economic upliftment of the vulnerable section of SC women. The Committee had further recommended that the Ministry obtain data from all States/UTs regarding women beneficiaries, who after having availed the benefits of this scheme, were able to cross below the poverty line figure and have become economically independent during the last three years, as in absence of such vital data, the success/ failure of this important scheme could not be ascertained.



## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.2 The information on total beneficiaries and women beneficiaries who had availed benefits under the scheme are maintained by the State Governments. As per the information received from various State Governments, the total number of beneficiaries declined from 611861 in 2004-05 to 548467 in 2005-06. Similarly the number of women beneficiaries also declined marginally from 153500 to 139200 during this period. However, the share of women in total beneficiaries increased from 25.08% in 2004-05 to 25.38% in 2005-06. The decline in number of beneficiaries during 2005-06 was primarily due to lesser coverage reported by Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. It may also be mentioned here that, among the major States, information about number of women beneficiaries during 2005-06 has not yet been reported by State Governments of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Goa, J&K, Jharkhand, Kerala, M.P., Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. The matter has been taken up with concerned State Governments asking them to furnish necessary information. The decline in coverage of beneficiaries during 2005-06 is also being taken up with the State Governments.

The surveys for estimation of poverty are conducted by National sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The last survey by NSSO was conducted in 1999-2000 to ascertain the number of beneficiaries including Scheduled Castes who had crossed the poverty line. Such specified surveys on all India basis is a specialized job and can appropriately be done by NSSO. Therefore, it would not be advisable to conduct survey at the Corporation level.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.7 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (SL No. 11, Para No.4.29)

4.3 The Committee had noted with concern that the scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities has been witnessing under utilization of sanctioned funds during the last three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The reasons attributed for this by the Ministry are non-submission of Utilization Certificates by States as they have not been able to utilize the entire amount released to them by the Centre, as well as that during 2005-06, there was a proposal to transfer the scheme to the State Governments, though it was decided to retain this scheme with the Central Government later on. The Committee, therefore, had desired that the Ministry should vigorously pursue with the State Governments to furnish utilization certificates as well as fresh proposals on time, so that funds for the scheme could be released to the States uninterruptedly which would ultimately help the States/UTs to implement the scheme effectively and efficiently. The Committee had also emphasized the need to ensure that the Ministry should utilize the allocations proportionately to be able to escape cuts at RE stage of BE funds, which is resorted to regularly by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance every year due to slow paced utilization of funds during the first two quarters of the Financial year.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.4 The Ministry pursues with the State Govts./UTs to furnish the utilization certificates on time. The other recommendations of the Committee have also been noted.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (SL. No. 14, Para No.4.36)

4.5 The Committee had noted with serious concern that the Ministry have not paid any heed to its recommendations contained in its First and Seventh Reports on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (2004-05), (2005-06) and express their disappointment and voice their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry has not been able to finalize the proposed modifications in this scheme since 2004. The Committee had further noted that the actual utilization of funds under this scheme has been very poor during the last three years. The reason attributed for poor response of the States/UTs for the present scheme is that some States/UTs are not implementing the scheme due to non-availability of residential schools in those States/UTs. The Committee also note that the proposed new scheme “Top Class Education for Scheduled Castes” has been circulated to the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and the Ministry of Human Resources Development for consideration. The Ministry have stated that the proposed new scheme would look into all such aspects. Keeping in view the future of the SC students, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should make all its efforts to finalize the modalities relating to the new scheme of “Top Class Education for SCs”, with the concerned authorities at the earliest, so that the scheme can be implemented expeditiously. The progress achieved in this regard should be conveyed to the Committee.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.6 The EFC meeting for “Top Class Education for SC students” had been held on 13.10.2006 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure).

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

## Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter I of the Report)

4.7 The Committee had noted with concern that under the scheme of Pre-matric Scholarships to OBC Children, no physical targets are fixed. The reason attributed for this by the Ministry is that since the census data of OBC students studying in schools is not available with them, no physical targets could be fixed. The Committee had expressed their displeasure on this kind of reply of the Ministry as it concerns the education of OBCs students at primary and middle school level in their delicate and formative years. Keeping in view the relative educational backwardness exhibited amongst the OBCs, the Committee were of the firm opinion that this scheme if properly implemented, would increase the literacy rate of this section of our society. Therefore, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should pursue the States/UTs, implementing this scheme to expedite the collection of the data of students availing this scheme so that the physical targets could be fixed. The Committee had also desired the Ministry to ensure that the drop out rate of students is kept under check till they reach the matric stage.

## REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.8 Allocation under the scheme is meager so it is not possible to provide scholarships to all school going OBC population. Further, education is a State subject and Ministry of Human Resource Development have issued guidelines to take steps to reduce dropout rate among school going population. Further, the size of school-going population changes every year. Therefore, it would not be appropriate or cost effective to conduct survey of OBC school going children on regular basis.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.18 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (SL. No. 20, Para No.6.18)

4.9 The Committee had noted that the survey of Wakf properties is an important pre-requisite to enable the Wakf Boards to exercise power, control and supervision over the individual Wakf properties. From the information furnished by the Ministry, the Committee had observed that the survey has been completed in respect of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep. Some of the States have not yet started the survey and in some cases the survey work of Wakf properties is very slow. The Committee felt that unless the Government have an authentic data of Wakf properties, they would not be able to chalk out a proper plan for their development. The Committee, therefore, had recommended that the State Governments be persuaded to complete survey work of urban Wakf properties expeditiously and the progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

4.10 Survey of Wakfs under the provision of the Wakf Act, 1995 is the responsibility of the State Governments. The progress of survey in the States depends on the priorities of the State Governments and there is no provision in the Act for direct intervention of the Central Government. The Central Government, however, has been persistently impressing upon the State Governments the need to complete survey works expeditiously.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.18 of Chapter I of the Report)  
Recommendation (SL. No. 21, Para No.6.19)

4.11 “The Committee had noted with serious concern that out of 10863 Wakf properties which are under illegal possession/encroachment, during the last three years, the Ministry have no information regarding the restoration of these Wakf properties from illegal occupants. The Committee viewed the situation very seriously and recommended that an effective mechanism should be evolved to check encroachment of Wakf properties. The Committee had also recommended that all the Wakf properties which have been illegally encroached, transferred, mortgaged, leased or sold should be retrieved by taking legal action against their occupants”.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

4.12 Section 32 of the Wakf Act 1995 provides that the general superintendence of all Wakfs in a State shall vest with the Board established or the State. Action for removal of encroachment on wakf properties is to be taken by the State Wakf Board/ State Government in accordance with the provisions of Sections 54 & 55 of the Wakf Act 1995. The actual progress, however, depends on the priorities of the State Government. The Central Government, on its part, has been persistently impressing upon the State Governments to accord appropriate priority for the work.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

## Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.25 of Chapter I of the Report)

### Recommendation (SL. No. 22, Para No.7.7)

4.13 The Committee had expressed their dismay that the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation as well as the Ministry do not have any data of persons with 40% and above disability and whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1 lakh in urban areas and Rs. 80,000 in rural areas. These are the persons who are eligible to apply for loans from NHFDC. The reasons attributed for this by the Ministry are that collecting data on disabled population fulfilling the eligibility criteria of NHFDC is a huge task and involves large scale survey of the population both in urban and rural areas and the Corporation does not have the resources to carry out such surveys. The Committee were not at all satisfied with the reply of the Ministry, as in the absence of data on the actual number of disabled people and out to them how many were selected as beneficiaries, the Corporation would not be able to fulfill its main objective. The Committee, therefore, had strongly recommended that the Ministry/Corporation should conduct survey to collect the data of eligible beneficiaries and herein they should seek the help of the 46 State Channelising Agencies as these are the field agencies who actually interact with the beneficiaries. By doing so NHFDC would be able to play a more effective role in the economic upliftment of the handicapped people in our country. Further, the Committee had desired that data of people who were able to become economically self reliant, after having availed loans from NHFDC be collected as it would epitomize the success of the Corporation in ameliorating the condition of the handicapped.

### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.14 The Ministry/ Corporation do not have manpower and infrastructure facilities to conduct survey of beneficiaries who have become economically self-reliant after availing loan from the Corporation.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS) PREM  
Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.21 of Chapter I of the Report)



## **CHAPTER –V**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE**

Recommendation (SL.No.6, Para No.4.15)

5.1 The Committee were concerned to note that during 2004-05 some States with sizable SC population have not allocated funds for their SCP as per percentage of their SC population namely; (Andhra Pradesh – SC population 16.20%, SCP outlay 8.89%), Himachal Pradesh – SC population 24.70%, SCP outlay 8.28%, West Bengal – SC population 23.00%, SCP outlay 7.06%, and Orissa – SC population 16.50%, SCP outlay 12.66%. Keeping in view that the percentage of SC population is the criteria for allocation of funds by the Centre and State Governments, the Committee had expressed their dismay at this non-adherence to the norms by these States, as this deprives them of their rightful Central share of SCA funds. The Committee, therefore, had desired that all the States/UTs be persuaded to allocate funds for SCP in proportion to their SC population so that they could get the entitled share of SCA funds from the Centre.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

5.2 Attention of the State Government was drawn to the guideline issued by the Planning Commission. As per the guidelines, the State Governments are required to formulate and implement Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) as part of their Annual Plans by earmarking resources at least in proportion to the share of Scheduled Castes in total population of the State. Accordingly a letter was sent vide d.o. No.16014/2005-SCD-II dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 by the Minister (SJ&E) to 17 Chief Ministers of the State Government, which are not formulating and

implementing SCSP as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission. This is being followed up.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL No. 10, Para No.4.19)

5.3 The Committee had noted with serious concern that 14 Ministries/Department of the Government of India have not yet formulated Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, based on the recommendations of the Central Standing Tripartite Committee set up by the Planning Commission in 1999, till date. The Committee in its 7<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) had recommended that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should persuade these Ministries/department to start formulating SCP for SCs and had desired that the Planning Commission be apprised of the same. Despite such recommendation, the Committee had expressed its displeasure that no progress has been achieved in this regard so far. The Committee took a very serious view of this and had strongly reiterated their earlier recommendation made in this regard and further recommend that the Ministry should not vacillate in impressing upon the Planning Commission to play a more pro-active role by directing the defaulting 14 Ministries/Departments to formulate the Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes in their Annual Plans.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.4 A meeting of Central Tripartite Committee has been held on 8 & 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006 by the Planning Commission to discuss the issue.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL. No. 18, Para No.6.17)

5.5 The Committee had noted with serious concern that an amount of Rs. 6.23 crores is outstanding to the Central Wakf Council from 11 State Wakf Boards as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005. The Committee understood the significance of the Scheme of development of Urban Wakf properties, whose aim is to oversee the development of these Wakf properties, there by enabling them to be a viable entity, which would be financially sound. The Committee were of the view that unless the State Wakf Boards exercise better financial control and clear their dues to the Central Wakf Board, no fresh loans would be sanctioned to them. Therefore, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Central Wakf Council make concerted efforts to ensure that all State Wakf Boards repay their entire outstanding loans, without further delay and if need be, they can take the help of the respective State Government. The Committee felt that fiscal discipline would go a long way in making these Wakf Boards a viable entity and thus oversee the development of Wakf Properties more effectively”.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.6 The Central Wakf Council has informed the Ministry that an amount of Rs.5.76 crores had become due against the loanee Mutawalis as on 31.03.2004, against which an amount of Rs.1.97 crores was recovered during the year 2004-05. Therefore, an amount of Rs. 3.79 crores remained the balance to be recovered. Again an amount of Rs. 2.44 crores became due against the loanee mutawalis during the year 2004-05, making the total outstanding dues of Rs.6.23 crores as on 31.03.05, against which an amount of Rs. One crore one lakh has been recovered during 2005-06.

5.7 To ensure recovery, the following steps have been taken by CWC:- Loans are sanctioned by CWC under a tripartite agreement between CWC, loanee institutions and the State Wakf Board, which in turn has to seek permission of the State Government under Section 75 of the Wakf Act. The State Wakf Board is, therefore, a Co-borrower. In case of persistent default, loanee institutions are

black-listed and debarred from further assistance in future. CWC pursues defaulting organizations both directly as well as through the State Wakf Board/State Government. Legal notices have also been served in a few cases on the State Wakf Boards, who are co-borrowers. Consequent upon efforts of the CWC, there has been improved recovery. The Andhra Pradesh Wakf Board has cleared all its dues during 2005-06. Other defaulting States like Karnataka etc. are being pursued.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006 (PS)  
PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

Recommendation (SL. No. 23, Para No.7.8)

5.8 The Committee were perturbed to note that State Channelising Agencies of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have not been sanctioned funds from NHFDC during the last two years due to inadequate recovery of loans from them. The Committee had further noted that no funds from National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation have been released to any State Channelising Agency without Block Government Guarantee; however, the Union Territories have been exempted from this. Further, the Committee had been informed that NHFDC issues quarterly demand notices indicating the principal and interest due from the respective SCAs, regular reminders are also sent to SCAs and to the concerned State Governments from repayment. The Committee had further noted that the main impediment in recovery of loans is inadequate infrastructure of the SCAs to regularly visit the beneficiaries spread over a large area. Keeping in mind this important factor and to ensure timely and fully recovery of loans, which would then enable these SCAs to get an uninterrupted flow of Central Funds, the Committee had desired that the Ministry vigorously pursue this matter at the highest level with the State Governments and impress up on them to help their SCAs in developing their infrastructure.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.8 National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation is regularly pursuing with the State Channelising Agencies to ensure the full recovery of loan and utilization of fund released by NHFDC. This issue has also been discussed in the meeting of State Welfare Secretaries held on 14 & 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

**[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2006  
(PS) PREM Voll. IV dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 ]**

**New Delhi;  
27 April, 2007  
7 Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

**SUMITRA MAHAJAN,  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment.**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007.**

The Committee met from 15.00 hrs. to 1550 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

1. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora  
3. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad  
4. Shri Kailash Meghwal  
5. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana  
6. Dr. R. Senthil  
7. Smt. Pratibha Singh

**RAJYA SABHA**

8. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma  
9. Shri Silvius Condpan  
10. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao  
11. Dr. Radhakant Nayak  
12. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri R.K. Saxena - Director  
2. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Deputy Secretary

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2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the following Draft Reports of the Committee:

- (i) Twenty- third Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report on Demands For Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (ii) Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (iii) Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iv) Twenty sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the aforesaid Reports of the Committee with minor modifications/amendments.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise these draft Reports and present the same to Parliament on their behalf.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

## APPENDIX

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	23	
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: (Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 17 and 18)	10	43.48%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: (Sl. No. 9, 15, and 18)	3	13.04%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter I: (Sl. Nos. 7, 11, 14, 20, 21 and 22)	6	26.08%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Governments are interim in nature: (Sl. Nos. 6, 10, 19 and 23)	4	17.40%