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

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2007-2008)**

**TWENTY FOURTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**April, 2007/Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

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**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

**(2007-2008)**

**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)**

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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 Loganathan 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 (2006-2007) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-fourth Report, of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants, 2007-2008.

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the current year i.e. 2007-2008 which were laid on the Table of the House on March 20, 2007. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on April 9, 2007. The Committee considered and finalized the Report at their sitting held on April 27, 2007.

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

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;  
27 April, 2007  
7 Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment

# **REPORT**

## **CHAPTER – I**

### **REVIEW OF STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2006-07) OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT.**

1.1 The Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was presented to Parliament on 16 May, 2006. The Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report will be presented to Parliament in the current Budget session.

1.2 The status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-07) could not be assessed as the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is yet to lay a statement in Parliament as per Direction 73A of Directions by the Speaker.

1.3 The Sixteenth Report contained 23 recommendations, out of which the Government accepted ten recommendations. In view of the replies of the Government; the Committee did not desire to pursue three recommendations; six recommendations were commented upon by the Committee and four replies of the Government with respect to the recommendations of the Committee were interim in nature.

**1.4 Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants, 2006-07 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was presented to Parliament on 16 May, 2006. Although the Action Taken Notes have been received from the Ministry, the Committee regret to observe that as per Direction 73A of 'Directions by the Speaker' necessary statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the original Report has not been made. While deprecating this inordinate delay, the Committee desire that requisite action in this connection should be taken expeditiously, by the Ministry.**

## CHAPTER – II

### INTRODUCTORY

2.1 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed the Committee that this Ministry is responsible for looking after the welfare of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society such as Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, senior citizens, persons with disability and victims of drug addiction. The basic objective of policies, programmes, laws and institutions of the Indian Welfare System is to bring the target-groups into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant. In achieving this objective, the Ministry performs the task of implementation in accordance with the provisions under Chapter III and Chapter IV of the Constitution, which deal with the development and welfare of the disadvantaged and marginalized groups mentioned above and also give a concept of justice to include social and distributive aspects.

#### **Target Groups: Persons belonging to:-**

- a. Scheduled Castes
- b. Other Backward Classes
- c. Disabilities
- d. Older Persons
- e. Drug Addiction

#### **Goals**

- a. Educational Development
- b. Economic Development
- c. Social Empowerment



- d. Rehabilitation
- e. Manpower Development

### **Policy Framework**

2.2 As per the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, its Policy framework is welfare schemes for development of persons belonging to socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Disabled Persons, Older persons and drug addicts and the same is implemented through State Governments/UT administrations, and voluntary organizations. Public-Private partnership is encouraged in the process. Education being a State subject, State Governments/UT administrations are involved in meeting educational needs of these groups. This is achieved by way of providing scholarships, hostels, coaching, fellowship and assistance to children belonging to the target groups beginning from Class I onwards. The ultimate objective is to increase the literacy rate among them and also girl's students so as to bring them at par-with general population. Similarly, Finance and Development Corporations provide credit facilities for various income-generating activities towards economic self-reliance. Mahila Samridhi Yojana is also implemented by these Corporations. National Institutes dealing with Disabilities and Social Defence conduct short-term & long-term programmes for various levels of personnel. These Institutes also do research in their areas and provide services such as education and vocational training etc. Voluntary organizations are also given grants for implementing programmes in the distant areas.

2.3. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is divided into the following Divisions.

- Scheduled Castes Development
- Backward Classes Development
- Disability
- Social Defence

2.4 The following subjects have been allocated to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- Development of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes
- Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes including Scholarships to students belonging to such castes and classes
- Reports of the Commission to investigate into conditions of Backwards
- Education, training, rehabilitation and welfare of the physically and mentally handicapped;
- Convention with other countries in matters relating to social defence and references from United Nations Organization relating to prevention of crime and treatment of offenders;
- Social and Moral Hygiene Programme;
- Beggary;
- All matters relating to alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse and rehabilitation and rehabilitation of addicts/families;
- Promotion of efforts including voluntary efforts to ensure the well being of the older persons;
- All matters relating to prohibition;
- Educational and social welfare aspects of drug addiction;

- Charitable and religious endowments pertaining to subjects allocated to this Ministry;
- Social Welfare: Social Welfare Planning, Project formulation, research evaluation, statistics and training;
- Research, evaluation, training, exchange of information and technical guidance on all social defence matters;

2.5 Implementation of the following Acts is done by the Ministry:-

- Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 (34 of 1992)
- National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993
- The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (01 of 1996)
- The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (44 of 1999).

2.6 The Ministry gets specialized and technical inputs from 8 National Institutes and apex level organizations, namely;

- National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi
- National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
- National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad
- National Institute Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai
- National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata
- National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training & Research, Cuttack
- Deen Dayal Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi
- National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai

2.7 The activities of the following National Commissions come under the purview of the Ministry:

- National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
- National Commission for Backward Classes
- National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes
- Commission for Economically Backward Classes
- National Commission for Sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh

2.8 In order to provide for necessary statutory coverage to persons with disabilities, the Ministry has set up three statutory bodies:

- Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
- National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities; and
- Rehabilitation Council of India

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

- National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation.
- National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation.
- National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.
- National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.
- The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation.

## CHAPTER III

### GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

3.1 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the previous years along with the Budget Estimates for the current year showing separately Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure:

Plan		(Rs. in crore)	
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2004-2005	1333.07	1237.34	1234.50
2005-2006	1431.31	1539.32	1506.36
2006-2007	1686.11	1686.11	1674.34
2007-2008	2001.00	-	-

Non-Plan		(Rs. in crore)	
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2004-2005	57.93	57.90	55.49
2005-2006	58.10	56.29	54.28
2006-2007	58.61	56.71	53.94
2007-2008	58.15	-	-

3.2 On being asked to state the reasons for reduction of the BE at RE stage during 2004-2005 as well as under utilization of funds during the last three years, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that the Ministry of Finance conveys the Revised Estimates on the basis of the expenditure level upto 30<sup>th</sup> September every year and also imposes cut on the allocation of the Ministry. Cut had been imposed in the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Allocation for 2005-

06 and 2006-07 have been maintained at RE stage. Low utilization had been caused by late receipt of proposals, inspection reports & utilization certificates from the State Governments/UT Administrations. The proposals from these State Governments are generally received in the third or fourth quarter of the financial year. In particular the expenditure under the head "lump sum provision for North Eastern Region & Sikkim always remains lower than the allocation. However, in 2006-07 the expenditure under this head has gone upto Rs. 67.35 crore (Provisional) as against Rs. 37 crore approximately in 2005-06.

3.3 During evidence, the Secretary informed that during 2006-07, no cut was imposed at the Revised Estimates stage as the Ministry had been making the best possible efforts to utilize the funds as per the directions of the Ministry of Finance and Plan expenditure was approximately Rs. 1674.34 crore, which amounted to 99.30 per cent of the RE of Rs. 1686.11 crore.

3.4 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing BE, RE, Actual Expenditure and percentage of expenditure incurred by the Ministry during 2006-07 (as on 31 March, 2007).

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No	Bureau		2006-07				2007-08
			BE	RE	Provisional Exp. (Upto 31.3.2007)	% of Exp. to RE	BE
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	Plan	1225.08	1260.14	1286.11	102.06	1491.07
		Non Plan	10.83	10.87	10.05	92.47	9.36
		Total	1235.91	1271.01	1296.16	101.97	1500.43
2.	Other Backward Classes	Plan	105.30	102.29	106.34	103.94	159.75
		Non Plan	2.57	2.32	1.67	71.98	2.45
		Total	107.87	104.61	108.01	103.25	162.20
3.	Welfare of the Disabled	Plan	216.87	199.65	172.72	86.51	198.70

		Non Plan	30.66	29.94	29.67	99.09	32.25
		Total	247.36	229.59	202.39	88.15	230.95
4.	Social Defence	Plan	67.50	52.50	41.84	79.69	72.10
		Non Plan	1.62	1.12	0.75	66.96	0.67
		Total	69.12	53.62	42.59	79.42	72.77
5.	Secretariat	Plan	2.00	2.00	1.40	70.00	1.00
		Non Plan	12.93	12.46	13.19	91.21	14.42
		Total	14.93	14.46	13.19	91.21	14.42
6.	Lump sum allocation for NE & Sikkims	Plan	69.53	69.35	67.35	96.86	78.38
	Total	Plan	1688.11	1686.11	1674.34	99.30	2001.00
		Non Plan	58.61	56.71	53.94	95.11	2059.15
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1744.82</b>	<b>1742.82</b>	<b>1728.28</b>	<b>99.16</b>	<b>2059.15</b>

3.5 The Ministry have further stated that as per guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, the Ministry was required to formulate the Annual Plan proposal (2007-08) with the budgetary support equivalent to 105%, 110% or 115% of the BE 2006-07. The Ministry submitted the Annual Plan proposal (2007-08) to the tune of Rs. 2450 crore representing 145.30% of the BE 2006-07 as per details given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Bureau	Proposed Outlay	2007-08		
			BE	NE*	Total
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	1800.00	1491.07	30.43	1521.50
2.	Other Backward Classes	250.00	159.75	17.75	177.50
3.	Welfare of Persons with Disabilities	300.00	199.70	22.30	222.00
4.	Social Defence	100.00	72.10	7.90	80.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2450.00</b>	<b>1922.62</b>	<b>78.38</b>	<b>2001.00</b>

\* 2% in SCD and 10% in other divisions of total allocation.

However, the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 2001 crores for the year 2007-08.

3.6 When enquired about the reasons for the Annual Outlay of the Ministry being less than the proposed outlay and the likely adverse impact of it, the Ministry have stated that allocation is decided by the Planning Commission as per availability of Gross Budgetary Support and intersectoral priorities. The proposal of the Ministry for 2007-08 was for Rs. 2450 crore. However, scheme-wise allocation for Rs. 2001 crore was communicated by the Planning Commission. This is likely to affect targets/achievements in major schemes relating to Welfare of SCs, OBCs and the Persons with Disabilities e.g. PMS for SC, PMS for OBCs, Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs.

3.7 The Committee enquired whether the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission to provide 100% Central Grants for all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as most States/UTs find it difficult to contribute their matching share of 50%. The Ministry in their written reply stated that change in funding pattern from 50% to 100% is proposed under three schemes, namely Hostels for Scheduled Castes Girls, Pre-Matric Scholarships for Children of those engaged in Scavenging and Pre-matric Scholarships for OBCs for expanding its coverage.

3.8 In this context, the Secretary, stated during evidence as under:-

“where are we proposing to make our schemes 100 per cent, which are presently being run on 50:50 basis? Given to ourselves, we would like to implement all the schemes on 100 per cent basis because we know that the States have their own constraints. But then, it is not possible given the structure, the overall resources position and the overall system we have adopted. Therefore, we have identified a few schemes where we are trying to change it to 100 per cent funding. One such scheme is the scheme of hostels for SC girls. It is proposed by the Government that we will be shifting to 100 per cent funding for girls for hostels. A very conscious decision has been taken by all concerned that girls hostels



need a special focus, by the Planning Commission and both by the Department of Expenditure and of course, by the Administrative Ministry. It is at a very, advanced stage. The EFC has already been cleared and now we should soon be going to the CCA for approval of this proposal. The second scheme that we have identified is the Pre-metric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupation which I have also earlier touched in my introductory remarks. The third scheme which we are considering is the Pre-Metric Scholarship for the OBCs. Besides these three schemes, we will also consider the entire gamut of our existing schemes and wherever we find that there is a possibility, we would like to give a thrust to it for 100 per cent funding. But this requires a process of consultation with several parties, viz., with the Planning Commission, with the Department of Expenditure, and then of course, the approval of the Cabinet and other authorities. So, we will start that process”.

3.9 On being asked to state whether the Ministry have favoured promotion of entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes youth by setting up dedicated agencies and ensuring institutes to impart entrepreneur’s training and ensuring the marketing of such goods, the Ministry have stated that it does not set up any agencies for promotion of entrepreneurship and training of Scheduled Castes beneficiaries. However, the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation provide credit facilities to Scheduled Castes beneficiaries and also arrange training for their skill development wherever possible.

**3.10 The Committee note that BE of Rs. 1333.07 crores (Plan) for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was reduced to Rs. 1237.34 crores at RE stage during the year 2004-05. Even this reduced estimate was not utilized during 2004-05. Again in 2005-06 there was underutilization of the earmarked funds. Late receipt of proposals, inspection reports and utilization certificates from the States/UTs are stated by the Ministry to be the main reasons for under utilization of funds. The position has improved**

in 2006-07 where the Ministry have been able to utilize about 99.30% of RE. The Committee, desire that the Ministry should continue their efforts for full utilization of funds during the coming years.

3.11 The Committee also note as against an outlay of Rs. 2450.00 crores asked for by the Ministry for its schemes during the year 2007-08 the Planning Commission has allocated only Rs. 2001.00 crores. The Ministry have stated that allocation is decided by the Planning Commission as per availability of Gross Budgetary support and inter-sectoral priorities. The Ministry have admitted that this reduction is likely to affect adversely the targets/achievements in major schemes relating to Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Persons with Disabilities. The Committee hope that the Ministry would take up this issue with the Planning Commission and pursue for additional funds through supplementary grants to ensure that the adverse affects likely to be caused by shortage of funds is negated.

3.12 The Committee note with satisfaction that after constant persuasions by the Committee the Ministry propose to change the funding pattern of some schemes like Hostels for Scheduled Castes Girls, Pre-Matric Scholarships for children of those engaged in unclean occupation and Pre-Matric Scholarships for Other Backward Classes from the present 50-50% to a 100% centrally funded scheme. It is pertinent to note in this regard that majority of the States/UTs find it difficult to release funds as per their matching share of 50% funding for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes

which in turn hampers the progress of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, desire that more and more Centrally Sponsored Schemes should also be considered for converting to Central Sector Schemes.

3.13 The Committee note that the Ministry does not set up any agency for promotion of entrepreneurship and training of Scheduled Castes. However, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) provide credit facilities to SC beneficiaries and also arrange training for their skill development wherever possible. The Committee feel that adequate attention has not been given towards entrepreneurship development for Scheduled Castes and in particular the SC youth which is very imperative. In view of the present era of globalization, the Committee urge the Ministry to focus their attention towards entrepreneurship development programmes by revamping existing programmes or by formulating new schemes during the course of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. In this regard, the active participation of all States/UTs may also be sought.

3.14 The Committee understand that the nomenclature of Ministry of Welfare has been changed to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with the aim to come out with a vision of keeping the elements of social justice and empowerment into account. Although they have initiated schemes but they lack in proper perspective for the overall empowerment of the weaker sections of the society. The Committee are of the view that

**schemes launched / to be launched by the Ministry should be comprehensive in nature which should aim for social and financial upliftment of the status of the weaker sections and to bring them at par with other communities in a dignified manner to ensure social justice. The Committee, hope that the Ministry would keep this in view while formulating and implementing its various schemes.**

## CHAPTER IV

### SECHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

**Major Head : 2225**  
**Minor Head : 793**  
**Head No. : 00.00.31**

#### **A. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO SCHEDULED CASTES SUB-PLAN (SCSP).**

##### **I. Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP).**

4.1 The Ministry have stated that the nomenclature of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes has been renamed as Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) on the lines of Tribal Sub-Plan to make the beneficiaries aware of the programme meant for them. The strategy of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) is one of the most important interventions through the planning process for social, economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes and also for improvement in their working and living conditions. Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) is not a scheme by itself. It is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits from all the general sectors of development for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. Under this strategy, States/UTs and Central Ministries are required to formulate and implement schemes for development of Scheduled Castes as part of their Annual Plans by earmarking resources in proportion to percentage of their population vis-à-vis the total population of the respective States/UTs.

4.2 At present, 27 States/UTs having sizeable SC population are implementing Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan. The details of total State Plan outlay,

flow to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) as reported by the State Governments and UT Administrations are given below:-

Year	Total Policy State Outlay (Rs. In crore)	SCSP Outlay (Rs. in crore)	% of SCSP Outlay to State Plan Outlay
2002-2003	88591.83	10177.93	11.49
2003-2004	85757.97	10676.63	12.44
2004-2005	108788.89	12450.70	11.44
2005-2006	98688.14	12047.75	12.21
2006-2007	70317.40	10272.59	14.61

4.3 The Ministry have stated that as can be seen, the percentage of allocation under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan has not been commensurate with the 16.23% share of Scheduled Castes in the total population. The Ministry regularly impresses upon the States to ensure adequate allocations under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan during interactions with them. As an incentive, 25% Special Central Assistance is released to States/UTs on the basis of percentage allocation made by them under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan in proportion to Scheduled Castes population percentage of the States/UTs.

#### **Minority mechanism at Central Level.**

4.4 The Planning Commission has constituted a Standing Tripartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to review the implementation of the Special Strategy of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) for Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes to resolve various policy-related issues thereto in respect of Central Ministries as well as State Governments.

## II. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA)

4.5 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides 100% grant under the Central Sector Scheme of Special Central Assistance as an additive to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) of the States/UTs, on the basis of the following criteria:

- SC Population of the States/UTs 40%
- Relative backwardness of the States/UTs 10%
- Percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by Composite economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line. 25%
- Percentage of SCSP to the Annual Plan as compared to SC population percentage of the States/UTs. 25%

4.6 According to the Ministry, out of total allocation under SCA to SCSP, percentage of funds are to be earmarked for the following categories:

- 2% of the budget allocation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) has been earmarked for North Eastern States, which implement SCP for SCs.
- 15% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilized by States/UTs exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/programmes for SC women.
- 5% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilized for the economic development of disabled persons among SCs.
- 3% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs shall be utilized by the States/UTs for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of economic development schemes implemented with the support of SCA funds.

- 10% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs in a year shall be utilized for infrastructure development programmes in the villages having 50% or more of SC population.
- 5% of the total Special Central Assistance released in a year should be utilized for skill development training programmes.

4.7 Second installment of SCA is released to the States/UTs after ensuring expenditure of cumulative opening balances of the previous year and 75% utilization of the first installment for the current year.

4.8 During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), details of budget allocation, central assistance released and number of beneficiaries covered are given below:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Beneficiaries (in lakhs)</b>
2002-2003	379.00	434.05	5.92
2003-2004	384.60	383.86	5.90
2004-2005	410.00	394.27	6.32
2005-2006	407.36	407.36	5.48
2006-2007	450.15	296.28 (upto Dec, 06)	1.65 (upto Dec, 06)

4.9 The Scheduled Castes population, according to 2001 Census, was 16.66 crores constituting 16.23% of the total population of India. They are primarily concentrated in Uttar Pradesh – 3.51 crores, West Bengal – 1.84 crores, Andhra Pradesh - 1.23 crores and Bihar 1.13 crores. These States account for 47.41% of the Scheduled Caste population of the country. Punjab occupies first position in terms of percentage of Scheduled Castes to the State population with 28.85%, followed by Himachal Pradesh (24.72%) and West Bengal (23.02%). The State-



wise Scheduled Castes Population according to 1981, 1991 and 2001 Census is given in the following table.

Sl. No.	State/UT	1981 Census			1991 Census			2001 Census		
		Total Population	SC Population	% of Scheduled Castes in total Population	Total Population	SC Population	% of Scheduled Castes in total Population	Total Population	SC Population	% of Scheduled Castes in total Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	India	685184692	104754623	15.29	846302688	138223277	16.48	1026443540	166575663	16.23
1	A.P.	53549673	7961730	14.87	66508008	10592066	15.93	76210007	1239496	16.19
2	Arunachal Pradesh*	631839	2919	0.46	864558	4052	0.47	1097968	6188	0.56
3.	Assam##	19896843		0.00	22414322	1659412	7.40	26655528	1825949	6.85
4.	Bihar	69914734	10142368	14.51	86374465	12571700	14.55	82998509	13048608	15.72
5.	Goa#	1086730	23432	2.16	1169793	24364	2.08	1347668	23791	1.77
6.	Gujarat	34085799	2438297	7.05	41309582	3060358	7.41	50671017	3592715	7.09
7.	Haryana	12922618	2464012	19.07	16463648	3250933	19.75	21144564	4091110	19.35
8.	H. P.	4280818	1053958	24.62	5170877	1310296	25.34	6077900	1502170	24.72
9.	J & K	5987389	497363	8.31	7718700	0	0	10143700	770155	7.59
10.	Karnataka	37135714	5595353	15.07	44977201	7369279	16.38	52850562	8563930	16.2
11.	Kerala	25453680	2549382	10.02	29098518	2886522	9.92	31841374	31239441	9.81
12.	M. P.	52178844	7358533	14.10	66181170	9626679	14.55	60348023	9155177	15.17
13.	Maharashtra	62784171	4479763	7.14	78937187	8757842	11.09	96878627	9881656	10.2
14.	Manipur	1420953	17753	1.25	1837149	37105	2.02	2166788	60037	2.77
15.	Meghalaya	1335819	5492	1.25	1837149	37105	2.02	2166788	60037	2.77
16.	Mizoram	493757	135	0.03	689756	691	0.10	888573	272	0.03
17.	Nagaland	774930	0	0.00	1209546	0	0	1990036	Nil	-
18.	Orissa	26370271	3865543	14.66	31659736	5129314	16.20	36804664	6082063	16.53
19.	Punjab	16788915	4511703	26.87	20287969	5742528	28.31	24358999	7028723	28.85
20.	Rajasthan	34261862	5838879	17.04	44005990	7607820	17.29	56507188	9694462	17.16
21.	Sikkim	316385	18281	5.78	406457	24084	5.94	540851	27165	5.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	48408077	8881295	18.35	55858946	10712266	19.18	62405679	11857504	19
23.	Tripura	2053058	310384	15.12	2757205	451116	16.36	3199203	555724	17.37
24.	U. P.	110862013	23453339	21.16	139112287	29276455	21.05	166197921	35148377	21.15
25.	W. B.I	54580647	12000331	21.99	68077965	16080611	23.62	80176197	18452555	23.02
26.	Chattisgarh	0	-	-	-	-	-	20833803	2418722	11.61
27.	Jharkhand	0	-	-	-	-	-	26945829	3189320	11.84
28.	Uttaranchal	0	-	-	-	-	-	8489349	1517186	17.87
29.	A&N Islands	188741	-	-	280661	-	-	356152	Nil	-
30.	Chandigarh	451610	63621	14.09	642015	105977	16.51	900635	157597	17.5
31.	D & N Haveli	103676	2041	1.97	138477	2730	1.97	220490	4104	1.86
32.	Daman & Diu	#	#	#	101586	3891	3.83	158204	4838	3.06
33.	Delhil	6220406	1121643	18.03	94120644	1794836	19.05	13850507	2343255	16.92
34.	Lakshadweep \$	40249	0	0.00	51707	0	0	60650	Nil	-
35.	Pondicherry	604471	96636	15.99	807785	131278	16.25	974345	157771	16.19

\$ 'No community has been notified as Scheduled Caste'

The list of Scheduled Castes of Arunachal Pradesh has been denotified vide the Scheduled Castes (Orders) (Second Amendment) Act, 2002.

# The population includes the UT of Daman & Diu in 1981 Census.

## In Assam Census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions prevailing there at the time of 1981 Census.

4.10 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the details of Special Central Assistance released to States out of Special Assistance funds during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised*	Released	Utilised*
1	A. P.	7216.48	6367.17	6222.90	5595.74	4362.72	5449.43	4532.05	5495.22	4687.17	1868.00
2	Assam	512.76	514.50	625.21	305.76	800.00	731.14	623.82	828.81	1233.13	426.92
3	Bihar	0	0.00	933.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	618.00	2642.21	500.00
4	Chattisgarh	430.25	374.58	408.29	382.60	339.05	467.04	400.01	393.08	449.99	143.73
5	Gujarat	559.73	1350.66	644.46	996.88	705.82	573.45	797.50	1143.24	912.92	303.37
6	Goa	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.59	0	0.22	0	0.10	0.00	0
7	Haryana	1098.19	856.22	1434.00	835.45	560.14	2119.52	1483.7	1442.03	1070.43	560.58
8	H.P.	447.99	428.96	248.66	348.87	587.47	583.16	566.62	516.06	446.09	157.77
9	J & K.	122.88	208.55	148.46	90.00	495.08	453.82	142.15	101.50	145.53	0
10	Jharkhand	0.00	941.63	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	550.61	0
11	Karnataka	2386.12	2386.12	2124.76	2124.76	2951.80	2951.80	2322.63	1838.62	2360.9	1589.78
12	Kerala	0.00	1189.16	0.00	1195.76	0	231.30	0	198.69	109.32	0
13	M.P.	2598.12	2390.5	2955.43	3277.34	2506.90	3491.56	2627.28	1942.37	3563.41	901.03
14	Maharashtra	1077.10	2906.20	1991.36	2881.63	2924.36	6368.68	2511.20	2113.73	3392.12	1487.24
15	Manipur	0.00	32.52	4.42	1.90	3.82	7.99	22.47	0.00	44.19	0
16.	Orissa	1792.01	1820.84	779.30	779.30	345.70	728.64	1576.33	1375.79	1629.26	630.97
17.	Punjab	0.00	1289.85	680.03	380.28	0.00	112.56	0.00	659.16	864.83	794.19
18.	Rajasthan	3422.90	4013.92	2984.25	3698.47	2366.68	3366.02	3328.75	3644.71	4048.51	1459.01
19.	Sikkim	42.21	42.20	1.12	1.55	15.44	15.61	17.73	17.73	49.23	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	4500.71	4182.03	3800.74	5123.08	4327.89	6274.60	4306.62	6326.60	4482.57	3001.01
21.	Tripura	176.91	124.80	76.80	178.91	1198.20	242.94	243.98	1168.61	576.45	0
22.	U.P.	10173.64	13417.92	7817.94	12372.55	9737.98	11642.39	11007.30	7821.84	8680.37	8017.31
23.	Uttranchal	174.57	5211.10	407.74	538.34	476.08	512.74	806.48	608.48	640.42	360.41
24.	W.B.	6640.50	6037.34	3994.68	3753.66	4672.27	5516.45	3294.38	3294.38	3165.14	2222.70
25.	Chandigarh	25.00	12.50	12.50	16.04	0.00	18.48	25.00	18.02	25	0
26.	Delhil	0.00	312.16	99.37	99.37	41.87	41.87	79.51	42.08	53.27	0
27.	Pondicherry	5.81	5.81	3.13	3.13	7.35	6.26	20.49	2.75	71.73	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	43403.88	51727.38	38398.55	44987.96	39426.62	49177.67	40736.00	41621.60	45915.00	24424.02

\* Utilization includes expenditure out or unspent balances of previous year.

# As per utilization certificates received so far.

4.11 In response to a query the Ministry in their written reply have stated that during interaction with the State Governments, it impresses upon them to ensure allocations, under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan at least in proportion to the percentage of SC population in the State. As an incentive, release of 25% of Special Central Assistance to States/UTs is linked to percentage allocation by them under the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in proportion to the percentage of

SC population of the State. The matter of earmarking of funds in proportion to the SC population of the State under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan was also taken up by the Minister with Chief Ministers of States in June, 2006. At present overall allocation under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan has gone up from 11.49% on 2002-03 to 12.32% in 2005-06.

4.12 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing details of Annual Plan of States/UTs, flow of funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan during the last five years.

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan during X Plan period.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	SC Population% (2001 Census)	2002-2003			2003-2004			2004-2005			2005-2006			2006-2007		
			State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCSP	% of SCSP	State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCSP	% of SCSP	State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCSP	% of SCSP	State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCSP	% of SCSP	State Plan Outlay	Flow to SCSP	% of SCSP
1	A. P.	16.20	8553.19	903.91	10.57	10971.19	1113.19	10.15	13291.20	1181.04	8.89	15650.76	1878.26	12.00	20000.00	1730.40	8065
2	Assam	6.90	906.78	69.78	7.70	1112.99	65.73	5.91	2175.00	54.06	2.49	3000.00	75.69	2.52	Not reported		
3	Bihar	15.70	2724.13	572.48	21.02	2770.00	442.58	15.98	4569.70	718.36	15.72	4735.46	985.57	20.81	Not reported		
4	Chattisgarh	11.60	3369.9	331.47	9.84	2043.00	150.99	7.39	3369.90	331.47	9.84	4062.98	284.36	7.00	Not reported		
5	Gujarat	7.10	7600.00	252.17	3.32	7680.00	427.78	5.57	8609.79	385.27	4.47	11000.00	486.90	4.43	12503.50	894.55	7.15
6	Goa	1.80	Not reported			Not reported			Not reported			Not reported			Not reported		
7	Haryana	19.30	2334.00	404.82	19.90	2100.00	416.72	19.84	2175.00	458.35	21.07	3000.00	642.13	21.40	Not reported		
8	H.P.	24.70	2185.43	176.00	8.05	1335.00	119.03	8.92	1400.00	115.97	8.28	1607.86	173.12	10.77	Not reported		
9	J & K.	7.60	2265.15	47.58	2.10	Nil			Nil			Not reported			Not reported		
10	Jharkhand	11.80	Not reported			Not reported			Not reported			Not reported			Not reported		
11	Karnataka	16.20	8610.61	667.40	7.75	9127.52	645.50	7.07	12322.92	366.99	2.98	13555.00	628.80	4.64	Not reported		
12	Kerala	9.80	4326.00	402.55	9.31	Not reported			Not reported			Not reported			Not reported		
13	M.P.	15.20	4749.77	590.48	12.43	5340.00	664.10	12.44	6606.72	740.36	11.21	7643.44	956.67	12.52	Not reported		
14	Maharashtra	10.20	4150.00	530.27	12.78	5755.00	610.62	10.61	9665.25	962.87	9.96	15858.96	1122.00	7.07	Not reported		
15	Manipur	2.77	Nil			Nil			781.25	26.11	3.34	Not reported			Not reported		
16.	Orissa	16.50	3106.00	276.25	8.91	3400.00	299.68	8.81	3250.00	411.32	12.66	28000.00	334.87	11.96	3400.00	493.31	14.51
17.	Punjab	28.90	2793.00	392.33	14.05	2822.00	819.96	29.06	3479.80	886.00	25.46	3550.00	934.62	26.33	Not reported		
18.	Rajasthan	17.20	4370.78	698.34	15.98	5504.52	907.19	16.48	7113.15	1137.39	15.99	8155.23	1296.81	15.90	8501.42	1362.17	16.02
19.	Sikkim	5.02	133.35	9.49	7.12	116.71	9.86	8.45	1.00	0.15	15.00	23.10	2.74	Not reported			
20.	Tamil Nadu	19.00	5751.53	1103.74	19.19	7000.13	1853.71	19.34	8001.08	1543.44	19.29	9100.00	2104.55	23.13	12500.00	3117.85	24.94
21.	Tripura	17.40	600.11	65.35	10.89	650.00	45.60	7.02	795.37	81.16	10.20	922.43	84.36	9.1454094	Not reported		
22.	U.P.	21.01	7250.00	1540.00	21.24	7728.00	1640.00	21.22	9681.51	2026.00	20.97	13500.00	2830.00	20.96	16526.0	3740.00	22.63
23.	Uttanchal	17.90	1533.63	262.42	17.11	1575.00	307.80	19.54	1865.37	300.00	16.08	Not reported			Not reported		
24.	W.B.	23.00	6307.00	562.04	8.91	3065.28	261.59	8.53	4183.70	295.56	7.06	6877.30	551.57	8.02	7669.82	1764.54	23.01
25.	Chandigarh	11.06	165.42	10.07	6.09	158.00	11.24	6.69	165.96	17.61	10.61	201.43	19.62	216.66	44.77	20.66	
26.	Delhil	16.90	4700.00	265.52	5.65	5025.00	290.74	5.78	5000.01	311.74	6.23	Not reported			Not reported		
27.	Pondicherry	16.20	412.05	43.47	10.55	468.63	73.03	15.58	615.00	99.47	16.17	850.00	137.62	16.19	1500.00	242.85	16.19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16.23</b>	<b>88591.83</b>	<b>10177.93</b>	<b>11.49</b>	<b>85757.97</b>	<b>10678.63</b>	<b>12.45</b>	<b>109098.68</b>	<b>12450.69</b>	<b>11.41</b>	<b>15530.26</b>	<b>12.32</b>	<b>82817.40</b>	<b>82817.40</b>	<b>13390.44</b>	<b>16.17</b>

4.13 Regarding allocation to SCSP from States' Annual Plan in proportion to their SC population, the Secretary stated during evidence as under:

“About the SCSP, as per the policy, every State should make an allocation in percentage they have of the Scheduled Caste population of the total population in the State. We find that about nine States are among the major ones. They are deficient in that. But we constantly keep maintaining the efforts. One major tool that we have is that in the Special Central Assistance which the Government of India releases, we give 25 per cent weightage to this factor as to whether that State is in its SCSP making the proportionate allocation or not. We also take it up constantly in all kinds of interactions with the State Governments at all levels, including of the hon. Minister and at the level of the Ministers in the States. One small fact I would like to submit is that overall there has been an increase. Even if it is not adequate but there has been an increase like in 2002-03 this was 11.49 per cent for the entire country. In 2005-06, this has increased to 12.32 per cent. We are not satisfied. We realize we have a long way to go. We take the help of the Planning Commission also. At our own level also, we try our best to persuade with the States and to work with the States that this should increase. In fact, this is also increasing. Recently I was in Orissa. I was told how they were earlier not making these allocations and now they are making it”.

4.14 The Ministry have furnished the following statement highlighting below poverty line figures of the country, as well as of Scheduled Castes families as per 1993-94 and 1999-2000 survey of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Sl. No.	State/UT	1993-1994				1999-2000			
		Rural	urban	Rural	urban	Rural	urban	Rural	urban
		Scheduled Castes		All population		Scheduled Castes		All population	
1	A. P.	26.02	43.82	15.92	38.33	16.49	41.42	11.14	26.53
2	Assam	45.38	14.34	45.01	7.73	44.00	19.99	40.2	7.47
3	Bihar	70.66	55.16	58.21	34.50	59.81	51.91	44.22	32.95
4	Gujarat	32.26	44.99	22.18	27.89	17.77	29.13	13.17	15.59
5	Haryana	46.56	23.58	28.02	16.38	19.03	25.38	8.27	9.99
6	H.P.	36.89	18.52	30.34	9.18	13.15	6.74	7.94	4.36
7	Karnataka	46.36	61.59	29.88	40.14	26.22	47.01	17.36	25.25
8	Kerala	36.43	31.59	25.76	24.55	14.64	24.15	9.38	20.27
9	M.P.	45.83	65.00	40.64	48.38	41.29	54.24	37.09	38.54

10	Maharashtra	51.64	52.56	37.93	35.15	33.27	39.88	23.82	26.91
11	Orissa	48.95	47.45	49.72	41.64	51.83	70.59	48.13	43.13
12	Punjab	22.08	27.96	11.95	11.35	12.39	11.30	6.44	5.80
13	Rajasthan	38.38	48.63	26.46	30.49	19.62	41.82	13.65	19.85
14	Tamil Nadu	44.05	61.50	32.48	39.77	32.59	44.94	20.55	22.17
15	U.P.	58.99	58.02	42.28	35.39	43.65	43.51	31.22	30.90
16.	W.B.	45.29	37.73	40.80	22.41	35.10	28.15	31.82	14.86
17.	<b>All India</b>	<b>48.11</b>	<b>49.48</b>	<b>37.27</b>	<b>32.36</b>	<b>36.25</b>	<b>38.47</b>	<b>27.11</b>	<b>23.65</b>

4.15 About the number of SC families who have been able to cross the poverty line after having availed the benefits of this scheme, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that during 2005-06, 5.48 lakh beneficiaries were assisted under the scheme. Information on number of beneficiaries who were able to cross the poverty line is not available. However, it is expected that the assistance out of Special Central Assistance would have helped the beneficiaries in increasing their income levels.

4.16. During evidence, the Secretary informed the Committee on the contribution of SCA in helping reduce the incidence of poverty among SCs as under:

“About the Special Central Assistance, I would like to mention that this issue of evaluation has been raised by the Hon’ble Committee earlier also, but the view that the Ministry has been submitting is that while the actual figures of the details of the beneficiaries remain with the State, we get a broad indication of the outcomes in the various macro level exercises which are taken in the country, like improvement in the incidence of poverty. As per NSSO survey in 1993-94, in the rural sector, the incidence of poverty was 48.11 per cent. In 1999-2000, this has been reduced to 36.25 per cent. In the urban areas, from 49.11 percent, this has been reduced to 38.47 per cent. So, the Ministry’s submission is that, if not entirely, our Special Central Assistance role has also a little bit of contribution in the general raising of the standards that we are witnessing”.

4.17 The Ministry has also informed that the Planning Commission has issued guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan to Central Ministries in December, 2006. As per these guidelines, the Central Ministries/ Departments are required to earmark funds under Scheduled

Castes Sub Plan in proportion to SC population of the country. The nodal dedicated unit in the respective Ministry should ensure that funds are released to concerned implementing agency in a time bound manner and should ensure immediate release of funds to their field level implementing agencies. This dedicated unit of SC and ST in the Ministry will ensure the follow up of the schemes implemented and maintenance of proper records on assets created under SCSP with the Ministry.

**4.18 The Committee note that Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a Central Sector Scheme, wherein all the funding is provided by the Central Government. The allocation of SCA to SCSP amounts to nearly 40% of funds allocated to the Scheduled Castes Division. During the year 2006-07, the SCA funds released by the Ministry was Rs. 459.15 crores out of which only Rs. 244.24 crores was utilized which in percentage terms is only 53%, an abysmally low figure of utilization. The reasons for such a low utilization of funds under the scheme have not been intimated to the Committee. The Committee desire that the reasons for under-utilization of funds may be identified with a view to taking corrective remedial action in this connection at the earliest. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should impress upon the States/UTs availing SCA funds to utilize them fully to ensure effective implementation of this pivotal scheme and furnish utilization certificates on time.**

**4.19 The Committee express their serious concern that during 2006-07, out of the 27 States/UTs availing SCA to SCSP funds, 18 States have not reported the flow of funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP. Out of the 8 States/UTs that have allocated funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP only Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and West Bengal have adhered to the prescribed norms and allocated funds for SCSP from their Annual State Plan Outlay in proportion to the percentage of their SC population. The Committee are not at all satisfied with this state of affairs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all States/UTs availing SCA to SCSP funds be persuaded in the right earnest to allocate funds in proportion to their SC population, so as to get the entitled SCA share from the Centre for the benefit of SC Population.**

**4.20 The Committee take note of the fact that the Planning Commission has issued guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan to Central Ministries in December, 2006 which require them to earmark funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in proportion to SC population of the country. As per their guidelines a nodal dedicated unit of SC & ST in the Ministry is to ensure timely release of funds and follow up the implementation of the schemes. The Committee are of the view that if these guidelines are implemented properly, it will have a far reaching impact on the economic and social well being of the SC people. The Committee, therefore, desire that these guidelines should be implemented in letter and spirit.**



**Major Head : 2225**  
**Minor Head : 277**  
**Head No. : 09.00.31**  
**: 06.00.31**

**B. POST-MATRIC AND PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES.**

4.21 The Ministry have stated that the objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. The financial assistance includes maintenance allowance, reimbursement of non-refundable compulsory fee charged by educational institutions, Book Bank facility and other allowances. The scholarships are available for studying in India only and are awarded by the State Governments/ Union Territories to which the applicant actually belongs. The Scholarship is paid to the students whose parent's/guardian's income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum. The value of scholarship includes maintenance allowance, additional allowance for students with disabilities, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees, study tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges, book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses and book bank facility for specified courses, for complete duration of the course. Scholarship is also disbursed through respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and 100% central assistance is provided to them over and above their committed liability. The North Eastern States are not required to bear the committed liability, and in their case 100% expenditure on

the scheme is met by central assistance. The details, of maintenance allowance given to SC students, as furnished by the Ministry, are as follows:

**Maintenance allowance**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Rate of Maintenance allowance (in Rupees per month)</b>	
	<b>Hostellers</b>	<b>Day Scholars</b>
<b>Groups I</b>		
Degree and Post Graduate level courses (including M.Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral research) in Medicines (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary and Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance, Business Administration and Computer Applications/Science. Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and Multi Engine rating) Course.	740	330
<b>Group II</b>		
Other professional and technical graduate and Post Graduate (including M.Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral research) level courses not covered in Group I. C.A/ICWA/CS/ etc. courses. All Post Graduate, Graduate level Diploma courses, all Certificates Level Courses.	510	330

<b>Group III</b>		
All other courses leading to a graduate or above degree (not covered in group I & II).	365	185
<b>Group IV</b>		
All post matriculation level courses before taking up graduation like classes XI and XII in 10+2 system and intermediate examination etc, not covered in Group 'II' or 'III'. ITI courses, other vocational courses (if minimum required qualification to pursue the course is at least matriculation).	235	140

4.22 The Ministry has furnished the following statement showing the amount of funds disbursed to the States/UTs under the scheme alongwith actual expenditure incurred and the number of beneficiaries during the last three years:

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
		Released	Utilized	Beneficiaries	Released	Utilized	Beneficiaries	Released	Utilized	Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	5449.14	4454.25	276880	8483.74	10546.93	346495	9435.46	10448.73	377529
2	Assam	412.41	280.83	14007	228.28	324.97	23370	490.91	468.86	177691
3	Bihar	0	24	29031	1000	524	37187	1100	NR	37425
4	Chhattisgarh	352.72	152.1	33523	1567.79	1344.98	65697	526	685.08	38240
5	Goa	0	1.1119	92	1.93	1.18	94	3	8.66	170
6	Gujarat	1373.70	687.79	81766	463.84	362.59	81656	940.12	1254.89	70680
7	Haryana	228.53	166.71	15930	425.9	423.38	15510	456	NR	18812
8	Himachal Pradesh	11.82	30.95	5216	31.21	34.97	5295	143.87	59.87	4268
9	Jammu & Kashmir	95.99	0	4581	28.8	31.78	5974	136.31	NR	12834
10	Jharkhand	281.04	0	10950	84.31	NR	12045	Nil	280.9	13342
11	Karnataka	2481.94	1191.53	87103	2699.58	3046.66	154265	2652	3173.44	118380
12	Kerala	677.57	649.7005	73550	999.49	2352.83	81234	3771	4233.62	86600
13	Madhya Pradesh	1278.93	1131.611	82554	1366.60	1837.39	81602	3064.10	3136.96	108056
14	Maharashtra	2765.58	3408.9	288182	4220.47	7255.34	318515	8490.95	NR	334441
15	Manipur	82.77	75.99	2744	84.13	122.89	3380	126.43	126.42	2721
16.	Meghalaya	15.55	8.47	1331	4.67	9.32	1464	8.33	NR	1554
17.	Orissa	0	NR	45718	NR	NR	NA	NIL	0	34608
18.	Punjab	0	0	5920	NR	0	6930	Nil	372.23	40714
19.	Rajasthan	1207.70	1321.40	83948	1157.87	1275.96	7998.5	1508.34	1552.54	70411
20.	Sikkim	0	0	194	0	NR	NA	Nil	0	224
21.	Tamil Nadu	2184.45	2751.07	234324	2891.78	3932.91	241718	6982.18	6170.38	359374
22.	Tripura	174.24	181.89	8491	195.84	197.33	8640	222.39	222.39	10300
23.	Uttar Pradesh	5137.58	1695.833	391380	5937.7	8169.224	481804	11087	11083	562290
24.	Uttanchal	0	52.71	25805	302.25	301.48	27784	296.13	424.74	30066
25.	West Bengal	2165.81	780.44	166415	807.19	2150.95	180789	3279	2531.96	187990
26	Daman & Diu	0	0.34	62	0.89	NR	79	0.5	NR	NA
27.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	NR	10021	6.65	0	371	NIL	NR	443
28.	Delhil	22.16	NR	10021	6.65	0	371	NIL	NR	443
29.	Pondicherry	99.737	88.41	3578	85.38	94.26	2438	90	NR	2519
	TOTAL	26499.36	19136.04	1983296	33027.29	44341.33	2264321	54809.52	46234.67	2541282
	Note: NR = Not Received	NA = Not Available								

4.23 The physical targets set and the physical targets achieved under the scheme during the last two years is as follows:

2005-06		2006-07	
Physical target set in 2005-06	Target achieved up 31.3.2006	Physical target set for whole year	Target achieved upto 31.12.2006
22.25 lakh beneficiaries	24.99 lakh beneficiaries	24.00 lakh beneficiaries	29.58 lakh beneficiaries.

4.24 On being asked to state the reasons for the target achieved exceeding the target set, the Ministry stated that under the scheme no physical target is fixed. It is an open ended scheme and scholarship has to be provided to all eligible SC students. The main reason for increase in number of beneficiaries is revision of income ceiling from Rs. 45,000/- to Rs. 1.00 lakh w.e.f. 1.4.2003. In addition, large number of SC students are seeking admission in professional courses run by aided/un-aided recognized institutions.

4.25 When enquired as to how the Ministry was able to cope up with this excess, the Ministry stated that due to increased number of beneficiaries, the requirement of funds for PMS scheme has jumped from Rs. 265 crores in 2003-04 to Rs. 1058.33 crore for the year 2006-07. To meet this demand in addition to budget allocation of Rs. 440.00 crores, an amount of Rs. 88.02 crores has been made available by way of re-appropriation from savings in other schemes of the Ministry. Still there is an unmet demand of Rs. 532.30 crores approximately.

4.26 During evidence the Committee drew the attention of the Government towards those SC students pursuing higher education in private/unaided institutions and enquired whether the Ministry was paying their whole fees, as the fees in these institutions was considerably higher as compared to the fees charged by Government institutions. The Secretary clarified that the Ministry was reimbursing the non-refundable fees for SC students pursuing higher education in private/unaided institutions. She further stated that as “per existing scheme, we do not make any difference. But then, this is an issue which is being raised and which needs to be resolved”.

4.27 On being asked to furnish a statement highlighting the drop out rate of SC students availing the benefits of this scheme during the last five years, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that the data is not readily available. However the Ministry conceded that the drop out rate of SC students is higher than general category students and the reason for the same is both social as well as economic. With increase in stipend w.e.f. 1.4.2003, enhanced demand of Plan outlay of Rs. 5000.00 crores (proposed) for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan and increased budget allocation of Rs. 611 crores for 2007-08, it is expected that drop out rate may reduce during 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The Ministry has also informed that evaluation study got conducted in recent past has inter-alia recommended to enhance the rate of scholarships.

4.28 During evidence, the Secretary, informed that the Ministry intend to change the funding pattern under the scheme “Pre-matric scholarship to children

of those engaged in unclean occupation from 50:50 to 100% so as to expand the coverage and spirit of education among children from such families.

**4.29** The Committee note with concern that due to revision of income ceiling from Rs. 45000/- to Rs. 1.00 lakh w.e.f. 1.4.2003 and large number of SC students seeking admission in professional courses run by recognized institutions, the number of beneficiaries under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) has increased. Consequently, the requirement of funds for PMS scheme has jumped from Rs. 265 cores in 2003-04 to Rs. 1058.33 crores for 2006-07. Though, the Ministry by way of re-appropriation from savings in other schemes of the Ministry was able to allocate an additional amount of Rs. 88.02 crores to the sanctioned allocation of Rs. 440.00 crores, yet there was an unmet demand of Rs. 532.30 crores in the year 2006-07 under this scheme. The Committee feel that the Ministry need to enhance the budgetary allocation for this scheme. Further the matter may also be taken up with the Planning Commission in this regard, so that large number of SC students could avail the benefits of the scheme.

**4.30** The Committee find that the drop out rate of SC students is higher than general category students and the reason for the same is both social and economic. The Committee also observe that the existing Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students is meant only for the children of parents engaged in unclean occupations. Keeping in view the higher drop-out rate of SC students at Pre-matric level, the importance of scholarships at Pre-matric stage is more crucial. In order to check the drop out rate of SC students, particularly at Pre-metric stage, the Committee are of the firm

opinion that a scheme of Pre-metric scholarship for all SC students with 100 per cent funding by Central Government will help in checking their drop-out rate. The Committee, desire that the Government may introduce Pre-matric Scholarship scheme for SC students with 100% central funds as it will motivate and facilitate the SC students to successfully cross the Pre-Metric stage.

4.31 The Committee are constrained to note that the Ministry have no data of the drop out rate of SC students availing benefit under the scheme of scholarship. This reflects lack of concern for the welfare of SC students on the part of the Government. The Committee feel that this data can be easily got from the institutions concerned where the students take admission and also from the respective States/UTs, as the money from the Centre is disbursed to the States/UTs, for the scheme. The Committee also express their concern that reasons responsible for higher drop-out rate, as confessed by the Ministry, are economic and social. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should obtain the data of students availing this scheme as well as the drop out rate of students from the various States/UTs without any further delay so that qualitative aspect of the scheme could be assessed and necessary modifications, if needed be carried.

4.32 The Committee feel that SC students who mostly come from comparatively very poor family background are not able to pay the fees charged for private seat or payment seat in private/unaided institutions



**which is much higher than the fees charged in Government institutions. Keeping in view the overall development of SC students, the Committee urge the Government to consider reimbursement of full tuition fees being charged by private/unaided institutions, so that SC students could continue higher studies at par with general category students.**

**Major Head : 2225**  
**Minor Head : 277**  
**Head No. : 02.00.31**  
                  :**14.00.31**  
                  :**05.00.31**

### **C. HOSTELS FOR SC BOYS AND GIRLS**

4.33 The Ministry have stated that educational development is perceived as a stepping-stone to economic and social progress of the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. However, lack of hostel facilities is a major impediment in their educational development. In order to provide hostel facilities to SC students studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities for enabling them to pursue their studies in these educational centers, the Government has formulated the Scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Castes Girls and Boys. The Scheme provides for release of central assistance to State Governments on 50:50 matching share basis and 100% to UTs and also 90% grant to Central Universities for construction of Hostel buildings. Other universities can also receive central assistance upto 45% and the remaining amount has to be provided by the respective States (45%) and by the institutions themselves (10%) However, where the concerned State Government is not able to contribute its expected share of 45%, the University may bear the share of former also thereby bringing up its net contribution to 55%. The Non-Governmental Organisations also get assistance on the basis of 45:45:10 through their States/UTs for extension of their existing hostels. The cost of construction of hostels is worked out on the basis of State/CPWD schedule of rates. The expenditure on maintenance of these hostels is to be borne by the respective States/UTs/Universities from their own funds.

4.34 The Ministry have furnished the following statement highlighting the number of hostels sanctioned and the number of hostels completed during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Hostels (Boys and Girls) sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan (Year wise)		Number of Hostels completed		Number of Hostels (Boys and Girls) which have not been completed along with the reasons therefore.	
1	Andhra Pradesh	261	115	98	50	163	65
2	Arunachal Pradesh		0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	19	18	18	18	1	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chattisgarh	27	75	0	25	27	50
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	3	2	0	0	3	2
8.	Haryana	3	4	0	0	3	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16	17	0	0	16	17
10.	Jharkhand	16	22	0	0	16	22
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	0	0	2	0
12.	Karnataka	75	86	35	14	40	72
13.	Kerala	5	2	0	0	5	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	189	0	6	12	183
15.	Maharashtra	0	15	0	0	0	15
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	0	0	1	1
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	1	1	0	0	1	1
20.	Orissa	81	3	0	0	81	3
21.	Punjab	3	1	0	0	3	1
22.	Rajasthan	7	16	0	0	7	16
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	1	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	28	157	0	0	28	157
25.	Tripura	1	2	0	0	1	2
26.	Uttranchal	0	3	0	0	0	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8	11	0	0	8	11
28.	West Bengal	3	1	0	0	3	1
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0

33.	Delhil	1	0	0	0	1	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>574</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>628</b>

4.35 When enquired by the Committee whether officials of the Ministry / State Governments have carried out inspections of hostels during the last three years, the Ministry have stated that only State Government officials conduct periodic inspections and their reports are not received in the Ministry. However, occasionally when Ministry officials conduct inspections, their observations are forwarded to the concerned State authorities. Recently, nodal officials have been nominated for different States and one of their duties is to meet the beneficiaries.

4.36 According to the Ministry, with regards to the issue of maintenance of hostels for SC Boys and Girls, the Ministry in their written replies furnished to the Committee categorically stated that as per the provisions under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of hostels, the responsibility of maintenance of these hostels lies with the Implementing Agencies i.e., the States /UTs/Universities.

4.37 The Ministry have informed that they have proposed to change the funding pattern to 100% in respect of Hostel scheme for Girls only. In response to a query, the Ministry have stated that the scheme of hostels for SC Girls was in operation from 3<sup>rd</sup> Five Year Plan and the scheme of SC Boys was in operation w.e.f. 1987-90. The existing scheme is under evaluation / modification. The salient features of the proposed revision are as under:-

- Status quo will continue in the case of Hostels for SC boys as far as central assistance is concerned.
- Duration of construction of hostels, both girls and boys, will be reduced to 2 years from the existing 5 years;
- The implementing agencies will be asked to involve Panchayati Raj institutions in the matter of selection of site and construction activities;
- Focus will be given primarily for construction of hostels for middle and higher secondary level students.
- Hostels will be sanctioned in close vicinity of educational institutions keeping in view concentration of SC population, literacy rate, etc.

**4.38 The Committee note with concern that during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) out of the sanctioned 574 hostels for SC Boys, only 157 hostels have been completed. Similarly out of the sanctioned 741 hostels for SC Girls, only 113 have been completed. Further, the Ministry have not given any satisfactory reason for the non-completion of these hostels. They have simply stated that land for construction of hostels is provided by the States and as per the current guidelines a State Government is allowed five years for construction of a hostel. The Ministry are stated to have proposed for changing the funding pattern of hostels for SC Girls to 100% from the Centre. The Committee views this a very positive step which would enable speedy construction of hostels for SC Girls. The Committee feel that the Ministry should also take up the issue of changing the funding pattern of hostels for SC Boys to 100% central funding with the Planning Commission.**

**4.39 The Committee note that the existing scheme of hostels for SC Boys and Girls is under revision / modification. The Committee is in full agreement with the proposed modification in the existing scheme, specifically with the proposal that duration of construction of hostels for boys and girls be reduced to 2 years from the existing 5 years as in the view of the Committee the period of 5 years for construction of a hostel is too long. At the same time they would like the Ministry to ensure completion of hostels within the prescribed period of two years. The Committee hope that the existing scheme would be revised soon and desire that hostels be sanctioned in the close vicinity of educational institutions keeping in view important factors like concentration of SC population, literacy rate, etc. In view of the Committee, if properly implemented, the proposed modifications would go a long way in making the scheme of hostels for SC Boys and Girls a very meaningful step in striving for the overall educational development and social and economic emancipation of the present generation of SC population. Progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.**

## CHAPTER V

Major Head : 2225

### OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

#### GENERAL

5.1 The Ministry have furnished the following statement highlighting Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure during the last three years under the OBC Division.

Plan		(Rs. in crores)		
Sl. No.	Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
1.	2004-05	72.55	80.55	80.44
2.	2005-06	76.61	97.07	79.04
3.	2006-07	117.00	113.99	132.09 (upto Feb., 2007)
4.	2007-08	177.50		

Non-Plan		(Rs. in lakhs)		
Sl. No.	Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
1.	2004-05	311.00	234.00	172.82
2.	2005-06	205.00	153.00	130.79
3.	2006-07	257.00	232.00	117.00 (upto Feb., 2007)
4.	2007-08	245.00		

5.2 When enquired about the reasons for the RE overshooting the BE under Plan Expenditure, the Ministry have stated that funds allocated for the Other Backward Classes Division are not sufficient to meet the demands of States under the schemes of Pre-matric, Post-matric Scholarships and Hostels for

OBCs. Therefore, funds have been made available by re-appropriation from other schemes of the Ministry to the extent possible.

5.3 Asked to explain the reasons for under utilization of funds under non-Plan expenditure during the last three years, the Ministry have stated that during the last two years viz. 2004-05 and 2005-06, the National Commission for Backward Classes had to surrender a small portion of funds under non-plan due to vacant posts. Similarly, funds were reduced at RE stage for Economically Backward Classes Commission as posts remained vacant and the Commission was not able to get suitable accommodation.

**5.4 The Committee note that the allocation of funds under Plan Expenditure for the Other Backward Classes are not sufficient to meet the demands of the States under the schemes of Pre-matric, Post-matric Scholarships and Hostels for OBCs and thus, funds for these schemes have been made available by re-appropriation from other schemes of the Ministry. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the situation and feel that by reappropriating funds from other schemes, it would put those schemes at disadvantage. Keeping in view the large population of the Other Backward Classes, and their relative economic and educational backwardness, the Committee urge the Government to be more careful while projecting estimates at BE stage itself. The Committee also desire the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commission for a quantum enhancement in the budgetary allocation for the Plan schemes of the OBC Division during the course of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.**



## **CHAPTER VI**

**Major Head : 2235**  
**Minor Head : 101**  
**Head No. :**

### **DISABILITY DIVISION**

#### **EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

6.1 The Ministry have informed the Committee that the Government has taken up a number of programmes for the welfare of persons with disabilities. Towards the end of the last financial year the Government had announced a National Policy for the Persons with Disabilities, which enlisted the principal areas of Government interventions and focused on prevention of disabilities as also physical and economic rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities, addressed the concerns of women and children with disabilities, creation of barrier-free environment, promotion of Non-Governmental Organisations, social security and education for persons with disabilities etc. The policy is now being implemented by a number of stakeholders including Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, State Governments/UTs, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Non-governmental Organizations, Disabled People Organizations, Advocacy Groups, Family Associations, experts and professionals. The implementation of the policy is to be monitored by an Inter-Ministerial Body at Central / State and District level.

6.2 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have furnished the following statement highlighting BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on Disability Division during the last three years:

**(Rs. in crore)**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual Exp.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>250.60</b>	<b>200.06</b>	<b>177.14</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>250.60</b>	<b>230.07</b>	<b>195.41</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>243.00</b>	<b>225.15</b>	<b>151.14</b> <b>(provisional)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>222.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

As the Committee expressed their concern at low utilization of funds, the Secretary informed that low utilization was only in the disability sector and that presently out of 600 districts 167 districts remained largely uncovered. The Ministry have further informed that they had proposed a budgetary outlay of Rs. 300 crores for the year 2007-08 for the Disability Division, however they have been allocated BE of Rs.220 crores for the year.

6.3 Explaining the reasons for reduction of BE at RE stage and also underutilization of funds during the last three years, the Secretary, stated during evidence as under:

“We find that in the disability sector, against a budget estimate of Rs. 247.36 crore during 2006-07, our expenditure is only Rs. 202.39 crore which is about 88 per cent. Especially in a sensitive sector like disability, we would like to utilize the entire funds and in fact ask for more also considering the need. But then what are the factors which are responsible for this? These are some of the structural factors which are affecting this inadequate utilization. We are implementing three major schemes under this division. One is the scheme of DDRS under which there are a large

number of voluntary organizations and we release grant to them for carrying on various activities for the disabled persons. They run the special schools; they run the vocational training centres and such other activities. The Ministry provides them grants. Their number is very huge. I think there are about 1500 NGOs in different parts of the country, which receive grants from the Ministry. In this, we are facing two kinds of problems. One is that before we release the grants, we release the first instalment without routing it through the State Governments. We can do that. We can release the second instalment only after getting the inspection report and UC from the State governments. Till we obtain it, we do not process the proposals. The whole process gets delayed. This year, we have been able to spend under this scheme only Rs. 54.68 crore. This was particularly caused by very stringent financial practices which have been enforced by the Ministry of Finance, like they have enforced this year very strictly that all the payments have to be made definitely by 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of March”.

“The second factor is this. As is experienced in other Schemes of the Ministry, only a few States within the country have the concentration of these NGOs. Under DDRS, only five States - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi – are taking about 55 per cent of our annual releases. So, the challenge that we are facing is how to make it more evenly spread, how to encourage NGOs to go to the areas where they are presently not there. So, we are trying to do two or three things in this year. Firstly, we have introduced a system of notional allocations to the States, which will take into account the population of the disabled in that State and also the level of the existing expenditure which is happening. This is one thing, and we hope that by the system of notional allocations, the NGOs will be encouraged to go to the unserved areas also.”

“The second thing is that merely by notional allocations, it is not going to happen. We will also have to take some proactive steps. Thirdly, we have also introduced a system in which we are requesting the State Governments to formulate Committees at their level chaired by their Secretaries. We will encourage them to send their recommendations within the notional allocations which we are giving them in lump sum so that these things can come quickly to us. If they delay these inspections beyond a certain limit, then we will also try to get these inspections done by the Ministry’s own officials and other agencies. Now, these are broadly the steps that we propose to take to rectify this problem.”

6.4 The Ministry further informed the Committee that they have signed the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30<sup>th</sup> March,

2007. The Convention had created certain economic and social obligation on the Government of India.

**6.5 The Committee note with serious concern that BE for the Disability Division have constantly been reduced at RE stage and actual expenditure during the last three years is also far from satisfactory. The reasons put forth by the Ministry that until the inspection report and utilization certificate are received, second instalment is not released to the NGOs running various schemes under Disability Division is not convincing. The Committee, desire that the process of obtaining the inspection reports as well as utilization certificates from the concerned States/UTs be streamlined so as to make it less time consuming and thereby ensuring that the second instalment is released well in time to ensure optimum utilization of funds and to save the beneficiaries from suffering on account of procedural wrangles.**

**6.6 The Committee note that only five States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are taking about 55 per cent of the annual release for various Disability Welfare schemes. The Committee agree with the Ministry that the main challenge confronting them is to make the grants more evenly spread and also to encourage NGOs to go to areas where they have not reached so far. The Committee, however, note with surprise that inspite of being fully aware of the shortcomings in the system, the Ministry have not taken any rectifying measures so far. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure that the voluntary**

organizations are encouraged to work for the schemes for disabled persons in other States/UTs also and thus ensure a more equitable distribution of funds.

6.7 The Committee also note that the Government have signed the United Nations Convention on Rights of persons with Disability which has created certain economic and social obligations on the Government of India. The Committee hope that the guidelines contained in the U.N. Convention would be implemented sincerely and effectively.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**27 April, 2007**  
**7 Vaisakha, 1929 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL, 2007.**

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room 'D' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
3. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
4. Dr Babu Rao Mediyam
5. Shri Kailash Meghwal
6. Shri Rupchand Murmu
7. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
8. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana
9. Shri P.A. Sangma
10. Smt. Usha Verma

**MEMBERS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

11. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
12. Shri Silvius Condpan
13. Shri Mahmod A. Madani
14. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
15. Dr. Radhakant Nayak
16. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
17. Ms. Anusuiya Uikey

## LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

### **Representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

- |    |                           |   |                             |
|----|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. (Smt.) Veena Chhotray | - | Secretary                   |
| 2. | Dr. Sandeep Khanna        | - | Additional Secretary        |
| 3. | Shri Mrutunjay Sahoo      | - | Joint Secretary & FA        |
| 4. | Shri P Narayan Murthy     | - | Joint Secretary             |
| 5. | Dr. Arbind Prasad         | - | Joint Secretary             |
| 6. | Shri D.V.S. Ranga         | - | Joint Secretary             |
| 7. | Shri A.C. Padhi           | - | Chairman-cum-MD<br>NSFDC    |
| 8. | Shri A.A. Naqvi           | - | Managing Director<br>NBCFDC |
| 9. | Shri Lalit Kohli          | - | Managing Director<br>NSKFDC |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to the sitting of the Committee. The Chairperson then stated that the meeting had been convened to discuss the Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. At the instance of the Chairperson, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment briefly narrated the details of various schemes/programmes undertaken by the Ministry and intimated the physical and financial targets achieved in that connection. The representatives of the Ministry then explained to the various queries put forth by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson directed them to furnish expeditiously the replies to those points which could not be replied in the meeting.

The verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

**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



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

### STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATION

Sl. No	Para No.	Observations/Recommendation
1	2	3
1	1.4	Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants, 2006-07 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was presented to Parliament on 16 May, 2006. Although the Action Taken Notes have been received from the Ministry, the Committee regret to observe that as per Direction 73A of 'Directions by the Speaker' necessary statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the original Report has not been made. While deprecating this inordinate delay, the Committee desire that requisite action in this connection should be taken expeditiously, by the Ministry.
2	3.10	The Committee note that BE of Rs. 1333.07 crores (Plan) for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was reduced to Rs. 1237.34 crores at RE stage during the year 2004-05. Even this reduced estimate was not utilized during 2004-05. Again in 2005-06 there was underutilization of the earmarked funds. Late receipt of proposals, inspection reports and utilization certificates from the States/UTs are stated by the Ministry to be the main reasons for under utilization of funds. The position has improved in 2006-07 where the Ministry have been able to utilize about 99.30% of RE. The Committee, desire that the Ministry should continue their efforts for full utilization of funds during the coming years.
3	3.11	The Committee also note as against an outlay of Rs. 2450.00 crores asked for by the Ministry for its schemes during the year 2007-08 the Planning Commission has allocated only Rs. 2001.00 crores. The Ministry have stated that allocation is decided by the Planning Commission as per availability of Gross Budgetary support and inter-sectoral priorities. The Ministry have admitted that this reduction is likely to affect adversely the targets/achievements in major schemes relating to Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Persons with Disabilities. The Committee hope that the Ministry would take up this issue with the Planning Commission and pursue for additional funds through supplementary grants to ensure that the adverse affects likely to be caused by shortage of funds is negated.
4	3.12	The Committee note with satisfaction that after constant persuasions by the Committee the Ministry propose to change the funding pattern of some schemes like Hostels

for Scheduled Castes Girls, Pre-Matric Scholarships for children of those engaged in unclean occupation and Pre-Matric Scholarships for Other Backward Classes from the present 50-50% to a 100% centrally funded scheme. It is pertinent to note in this regard that majority of the States/UTs find it difficult to release funds as per their matching share of 50% funding for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes which in turn hampers the progress of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, desire that more and more Centrally Sponsored Schemes should also be considered for converting to Central Sector Schemes.

- 5            3.13            The Committee note that the Ministry does not set up any agency for promotion of entrepreneurship and training of Scheduled Castes. However, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) provide credit facilities to SC beneficiaries and also arrange training for their skill development wherever possible. The Committee feel that adequate attention has not been given towards entrepreneurship development for Scheduled Castes and in particular the SC youth which is very imperative. In view of the present era of globalization, the Committee urge the Ministry to focus their attention towards entrepreneurship development programmes by revamping existing programmes or by formulating new schemes during the course of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. In this regard, the active participation of all States/UTs may also be sought.
- 6            3.14            The Committee understand that the nomenclature of Ministry of Welfare has been changed to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with the aim to come out with a vision of keeping the elements of social justice and empowerment into account. Although they have initiated schemes but they lack in proper perspective for the overall empowerment of the weaker sections of the society. The Committee are of the view that schemes launched / to be launched by the Ministry should be comprehensive in nature which should aim for social and financial upliftment of the status of the weaker sections and to bring them at par with other communities in a dignified manner to ensure social justice. The Committee, hope that the Ministry would keep this in view while formulating and implementing its various schemes.
- 7            4.18            The Committee note that Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a Central Sector Scheme, wherein all the funding is provided by the Central Government. The allocation of SCA to SCSP amounts to nearly 40% of funds allocated to the Scheduled Castes Division. During the year 2006-07, the SCA funds released by the Ministry was Rs. 459.15 crores

out of which only Rs. 244.24 crores was utilized which in percentage terms is only 53%, an abysmally low figure of utilization. The reasons for such a low utilization of funds under the scheme have not been intimated to the Committee. The Committee desire that the reasons for under-utilization of funds may be identified with a view to taking corrective remedial action in this connection at the earliest. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should impress upon the States/UTs availing SCA funds to utilize them fully to ensure effective implementation of this pivotal scheme and furnish utilization certificates on time.

- 8            4.19            The Committee express their serious concern that during 2006-07, out of the 27 States/UTs availing SCA to SCSP funds, 18 States have not reported the flow of funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP. Out of the 8 States/UTs that have allocated funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP only Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and West Bengal have adhered to the prescribed norms and allocated funds for SCSP from their Annual State Plan Outlay in proportion to the percentage of their SC population. The Committee are not at all satisfied with this state of affairs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all States/UTs availing SCA to SCSP funds be persuaded in the right earnest to allocate funds in proportion to their SC population, so as to get the entitled SCA share from the Centre for the benefit of SC Population.
- 9            4.20            The Committee take note of the fact that the Planning Commission has issued guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan to Central Ministries in December, 2006 which require them to earmark funds under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in proportion to SC population of the country. As per their guidelines a nodal dedicated unit of SC & ST in the Ministry is to ensure timely release of funds and follow up the implementation of the schemes. The Committee are of the view that if these guidelines are implemented properly, it will have a far reaching impact on the economic and social well being of the SC people. The Committee, therefore, desire that these guidelines should be implemented in letter and spirit.
- 10           4.29            The Committee note with concern that due to revision of income ceiling from Rs. 45000/- to Rs. 1.00 lakh w.e.f. 1.4.2003 and large number of SC students seeking admission in professional courses run by recognized institutions, the number of beneficiaries under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) has increased. Consequently, the requirement of funds for PMS scheme has jumped from Rs. 265 cores in 2003-04 to Rs. 1058.33 crores for 2006-07. Though, the Ministry by way of re-appropriation from savings in other schemes of the

Ministry was able to allocate an additional amount of Rs. 88.02 crores to the sanctioned allocation of Rs. 440.00 crores, yet there was an unmet demand of Rs. 532.30 crores in the year 2006-07 under this scheme. The Committee feel that the Ministry need to enhance the budgetary allocation for this scheme. Further the matter may also be taken up with the Planning Commission in this regard, so that large number of SC students could avail the benefits of the scheme.

- 11            4.30            The Committee find that the drop out rate of SC students is higher than general category students and the reason for the same is both social and economic. The Committee also observe that the existing Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students is meant only for the children of parents engaged in unclean occupations. Keeping in view the higher drop-out rate of SC students at Pre-matric level, the importance of scholarships at Pre-matric stage is more crucial. In order to check the drop out rate of SC students, particularly at Pre-metric stage, the Committee are of the firm opinion that a scheme of Pre-metric scholarship for all SC students with 100 per cent funding by Central Government will help in checking their drop-out rate. The Committee, desire that the Government may introduce Pre-matric Scholarship scheme for SC students with 100% central funds as it will motivate and facilitate the SC students to successfully cross the Pre-Metric stage.
- 12            4.31            The Committee are constrained to note that the Ministry have no data of the drop out rate of SC students availing benefit under the scheme of scholarship. This reflects lack of concern for the welfare of SC students on the part of the Government. The Committee feel that this data can be easily got from the institutions concerned where the students take admission and also from the respective States/UTs, as the money from the Centre is disbursed to the States/UTs, for the scheme. The Committee also express their concern that reasons responsible for higher drop-out rate, as confessed by the Ministry, are economic and social. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should obtain the data of students availing this scheme as well as the drop out rate of students from the various States/UTs without any further delay so that qualitative aspect of the scheme could be assessed and necessary modifications, if needed be carried.
- 13            4.32            The Committee feel that SC students who mostly come from comparatively very poor family background are not able to pay the fees charged for private seat or payment seat in private/unaided institutions which is much higher than the fees charged in Government institutions. Keeping in view the overall development of SC students, the Committee urge the Government to consider reimbursement of full tuition fees being charged by

private/unaided institutions, so that SC students could continue higher studies at par with general category students.

- 14            4.39            The Committee note that the existing scheme of hostels for SC Boys and Girls is under revision / modification. The Committee is in full agreement with the proposed modification in the existing scheme, specifically with the proposal that duration of construction of hostels for boys and girls be reduced to 2 years from the existing 5 years as in the view of the Committee the period of 5 years for construction of a hostel is too long. At the same time they would like the Ministry to ensure completion of hostels within the prescribed period of two years. The Committee hope that the existing scheme would be revised soon and desire that hostels be sanctioned in the close vicinity of educational institutions keeping in view important factors like concentration of SC population, literacy rate, etc. In view of the Committee, if properly implemented, the proposed modifications would go a long way in making the scheme of hostels for SC Boys and Girls a very meaningful step in striving for the overall educational development and social and economic emancipation of the present generation of SC population. Progress achieved in this regard may be communicated to the Committee.
- 15            5.4                The Committee note that the allocation of funds under Plan Expenditure for the Other Backward Classes are not sufficient to meet the demands of the States under the schemes of Pre-matric, Post-matric Scholarships and Hostels for OBCs and thus, funds for these schemes have been made available by re-appropriation from other schemes of the Ministry. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the situation and feel that by reappropriating funds from other schemes, it would put those schemes at disadvantage. Keeping in view the large population of the Other Backward Classes, and their relative economic and educational backwardness, the Committee urge the Government to be more careful while projecting estimates at BE stage itself. The Committee also desire the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commission for a quantum enhancement in the budgetary allocation for the Plan schemes of the OBC Division during the course of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- 15            6.5                The Committee note with serious concern that BE for the Disability Division have constantly been reduced at RE stage and actual expenditure during the last three years is also far from satisfactory. The reasons put forth by the Ministry that until the inspection report and utilization certificate are received, second instalment is not released to the NGOs running various schemes under Disability Division is not convincing. The Committee, desire that the process of obtaining the inspection reports as well as

utilization certificates from the concerned States/UTs be streamlined so as to make it less time consuming and thereby ensuring that the second instalment is released well in time to ensure optimum utilization of funds and to save the beneficiaries from suffering on account of procedural wrangles.

16            6.6            The Committee note that only five States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are taking about 55 per cent of the annual release for various Disability Welfare schemes. The Committee agree with the Ministry that the main challenge confronting them is to make the grants more evenly spread and also to encourage NGOs to go to areas where they have not reached so far. The Committee, however, note with surprise that inspite of being fully aware of the shortcomings in the system, the Ministry have not taken any rectifying measures so far. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure that the voluntary organizations are encouraged to work for the schemes for disabled persons in other States/UTs also and thus ensure a more equitable distribution of funds.

17            6.7            The Committee also note that the Government have signed the United Nations Convention on Rights of persons with Disability which has created certain economic and social obligations on the Government of India. The Committee hope that the guidelines contained in the U.N. Convention would be implemented sincerely and effectively.