

**TWENTY- NINTH REPORT**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND**  
**EMPOWERMENT**  
**(2007-2008)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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

**Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants 2007-2008) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 04.03.2008**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 04.03.2008**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**  
**December, 2007/Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT  
(2007-2008)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**Action taken by the Government on the Observations/  
Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the  
Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands  
for Grants for the year 2007-2008 of the Ministry of Social Justice and  
Empowerment.**

**TWENTY- NINTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
December, 2007/Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE  
AND EMPOWERMENT (2007-2008)**

**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 Hari Bhau Jawale
7. Shri Bhai Lal
8. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
9. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
10. Shri Kailash Meghwal
11. Shri Rupchand Murmu
12. Shri Jual Oram
13. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
14. Shri Rabindar Kumar Rana
15. Shri P.A. Sangma
16. Dr. R. Senthil
17. Smt. Pratibha Singh
18. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
19. Smt. Krishna Tirath
20. Smt. Usha Verma
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

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\* Ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent to his disqualification from the Membership of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha by Hon'ble Speaker on 27 January, 2008.

## **SECRETARIAT**

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

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-ninth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants – 2007-08 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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2. The Twenty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on April 28, 2007 and also laid in Rajya Sabha on May 3, 2007. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on August 13, 2007. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on December 14, 2007.

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

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

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

**NEW DELHI:**  
**14 December, 2007**  
**23 Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)**

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

## REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2007-08 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.2 The Twenty-Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007. It contained 19 recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and categories as under:

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

Paragraph Nos. 3.10, 4.29, 4.39, 5.4, 6.6 and 6.7

(Total 6 – Chapter II)

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

Paragraph Nos. 3.11, 4.18, 4.32 and 6.5.

(Total 4 – Chapter III)

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

Paragraph Nos. 3.13, 3.14, 4.19, 4.30 and 4.38.

(Total 5 – Chapter IV)

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

Paragraph Nos. 1.4, 3.12, 4.20 and 4.31.

(Total 4- Chapter V)

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

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

**A. Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Scheduled Castes**

**Recommendation (Sl. No.5, Para No.3.13)**

1.5 In the above mentioned paragraph the Committee had noted that the Ministry did 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 had felt 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 had urged 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.

1.6 In their reply, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have stated that National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) conduct skill upgradation training programmes for educated unemployed Scheduled Caste youth in potential trade through reputed Govt./Semi-Govt. /Autonomous institutions. Along with skill component of the programme, the trainees are imparted sufficient inputs in project formulation and marketing. Similarly National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is implementing skill upgradation training programme and entrepreneurship development programme on



the basis of cent percent grants for the courses period from one month to maximum six months.

**1.7 The Committee regret to observe that the Ministry have not responded to the specific recommendation of the Committee that the Ministry should focus their attention towards entrepreneurship development programmes by revamping existing programmes or by formulating new training schemes during the course of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Ministry in their reply have simply stated that the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation conducts skill upgradation training programmes for educated Scheduled Castes youth in potential trade through reputed Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous institutions and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is implementing skill upgradation training programme for courses period from one month to six months. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply as the training programmes being conducted by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) are not considered need based as per the changed requirement and do not seem to be sufficient for overall development of Scheduled Castes. Instead, thrust needs to be given for promotion of entrepreneurship and job oriented training programmes for SC youths for developing their technical and professional skills so that they could get gainful employment and attain economic self reliance. The Committee, therefore reiterate their earlier recommendation and**

**urge the Ministry to focus their attention towards entrepreneurship development programmes by formulating new schemes for SC youths for the development of their entrepreneurial skills and help them to actively participate in the growing economy.**

**B. General Performance of the Ministry**

**Recommendation (Sl. No.6, Para No.3.14)**

1.8 The Committee in para 3.14 of the original Report had observed 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 were 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, had expressed hope that the Ministry would keep this in view while formulating and implementing its various schemes.

1.9 In their action taken note the Ministry have stated that the observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

**1.10 The Committee had expressed their concern that the schemes initiated by the Ministry are lacking in proper perspective for overall empowerment of the weaker sections of the society. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the schemes of the Ministry should be comprehensive in nature to ensure social and financial upliftment of the targeted sections so that they could be brought at par with other communities in a dignified manner. The response of the Ministry to the concern expressed by the Committee is not upto the expectation as the Ministry have simply noted this particular observation of the Committee. The Committee feel that the Ministry should formulate some action plan either by revamping the existing schemes or by formulating new**

**comprehensive schemes for overall development of weaker sections of the society expeditiously. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to come up with a roadmap by making its schemes more comprehensive in nature so that social and financial upliftment of the weaker sections of society could be ensured at a faster pace. Action taken in this regard should have been initiated and communicated to the Committee.**

**C. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP).**

**Recommendation (SI.No.8, Para No. 4.19)**

1.11 The Committee, in paragraph No. 4.19, had expressed their serious concern that during 2006-07, out of the 27 States/UTs availing SCA to SCSP funds, 18 States had not reported the flow of funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP. Out of the 8 States/UTs that had 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 were not at all satisfied with this state of affairs. The Committee, therefore, had recommended 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.

1.12 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their reply, have stated that the Ministry addresses the States/UTs to earmark funds towards Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in proportion to SC population of the State so as to enable them to get their due share of Special Central Assistance funds. . Due to the efforts, the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan allocation has been enhanced from 11.49% in 2002-2003 to 12.29% in 2005-06. The Planning Commission has also issued guidelines followed by a letter from this Ministry in June 2006.

**1.13 As per the prescribed guidelines all States/UTs availing Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) are required to allocate funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to Scheduled Castes Component Plan in proportion to the percentage of their SC population. The**

Committee had, therefore, recommended to pursue all States availing SCA to SCSP funds in proportion to their SC population so as to get their rightful share of Special Central Assistance funds. Yet, only 4 States/UTs have allocated funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP as per the prescribed norms. The Ministry in their reply have stated that it was due to their efforts, the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan allocation has been enhanced from 11.49% in 2002-03 to 12.29% in 2005-06. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry as the percentage of allocation of funds is far below the percentage of Scheduled Castes in States which as per the 2001 census stands at 16.23%. The Committee are also constrained to find that out of the 27 States/UTs availing SCA to SCSP funds 18 States/UTs have not reported flow of funds from their Annual State Plan Outlay to SCSP. This is indicative of lack of commitment and poor monitoring of the scheme by the Ministry as they have failed to impress upon all States/UTs to adhere to the prescribed guidelines. Keeping in view the economic condition of the SCs the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation 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 that they could get their entitled SCA share from the Centre.

- D. Post-Matric and Pre-Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 4.30)

1.14 The Committee in para 4.30 of the original Report had found that the drop out rate of SC students was higher than general category students and the reason for the same was both social and economic. The Committee had also observed that the existing Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students was 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 was more crucial. In order to check the drop out rate of SC students, particularly at Pre-metric stage, the Committee were of the firm opinion that a scheme of Pre-metric scholarship for all SC students with 100 per cent funding by Central Government would help in checking their drop-out rate. The Committee, had desired 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.

1.15 In their reply, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have stated that under the scheme of grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for SCs, financial assistance is provided for setting up of crèches and primary schools. Besides, under certain other schemes of the Govt. such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas there is a focus on providing access to quality education to girls predominantly belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs & Minorities. However, the observation of the Committee has been noted.

**1.16 The Committee express their dismay over the vague reply of the Ministry wherein they have stated that under the scheme of grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for Scheduled Castes, financial assistance is provided for setting up of crèches and primary schools. Besides, under certain other schemes of the Government such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas there is a focus on providing access to quality education to girls predominantly belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities. However, the Committee are of the firm view that pre-matric scholarship scheme for SC students would have a far reaching impact on the future of the SC students who owing to their financial hardships and other social barriers find it very difficult to cross over the crucial stage of passing through the matriculation**

**stage. The Pre-matric scheme for SC students would also check the high dropout rate of the SC students at matriculation level. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire the Government to introduce 'Pre-matric scholarship scheme for SC students with 100 percent central funding as it will motivate and facilitate the SC students to successfully cross the crucial Pre-Matric stage.**

**E. Hostels for SC Boys and Girls.**

**Recommendation (Sl.No. 14, Para No. 4.38)**

1.17 The Committee, had noted with concern that during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) out of the sanctioned 574 hostels for SC boys, only 157 hostels had been completed. Similarly out of the sanctioned 741 hostels for SC Girls, only 113 had been completed. Further, the Ministry had not given any satisfactory reason for the non-completion of those hostels. They had simply stated that land for construction of hostels was provided by the States and as per the current guidelines a State Government was allowed five years for construction of a hostel. The Ministry were stated to have proposed for changing the funding pattern of hostels for SC Girls to 100% from the Centre. The Committee had viewed that a very positive step which would enable speedy construction of hostels for SC Girls. The Committee had felt 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.

1.18 In their action taken note the Ministry have stated that they have been writing to the State Governments for timely completion of construction of SC Girls and Boys Hostels. The issue had also been discussed in the earlier annual conferences of Welfare Secretaries and will be put up this year again. The existing scheme of Hostel for SC girls is being revised due to the fact that the females among the SC groups suffer from triple jeopardy of being handicapped by social barriers, gender bias and low literacy.

**1.19 The Committee had observed that Ministry had proposed for changing the funding pattern of hostels for SC girls to 100% from the Centre and had recommended 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. The Ministry in their reply have stated that the existing scheme of hostels for SC girls is being revised due to the fact that the female among SC groups suffer from the triple jeopardy of being handicapped by social barriers, gender bias and low literacy. While appreciating the gesture of the Ministry for changing the funding pattern for hostels for SC girls, the Committee feel that construction of hostels for SC boys is equally important as it would ameliorate the difficulties being faced by SC students in pursuing their education. Moreover, the States also find it difficult to provide their 50% matching share for the scheme. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to take up the issue of changing the funding pattern of hostels for SC boys to 100% central funding with the Planning Commission**

## **CHAPTER II**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 3.10)**

2.1 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 10 Para No. 4.29)**

2.3 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.



### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 Out of unmet demand of Rs. 532.30 crore for the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs.101.83crore has been released to States/UTs. For release of balance amount necessary action has already been initiated. The budget allocation for the scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students for the year 2007-08 is Rs. 625 crore.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 15 Para No. 4.39)**

2.5 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 Duration of construction of hostels has been reduced from the existing 5 years to 2 years in the revised scheme to remove undue delay involved in completion of hostels. This is a demand driven scheme and the State Governments are expected to keep in view factors like concentration of SC population, literacy position of the area etc.

( Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 16 Para No. 5.4)**

2.7 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 The proposal for providing higher allocation under the OBC Schemes during the XIth Five Year Plan has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 18 Para No. 6.6)**

2.9 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 in spite 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.10 The Ministry has noted the disparities in the distribution of the funds among the States. A need has been felt to gradually rectify the imbalances that occurred due to concentration of NGOs in some areas, while resulting in several other areas remained unserved. In order to address problem of regional imbalance in terms of funding NGOs, notional allocation of funds has been made in 2007-08 for each State/UT; taking into-account the disabled population and the existing trend of grants released to each of the State/UT While notional allocation has been made to allocate funds to States/UTs in proportion of their disabled population, it has also been kept in mind that States/NGOs getting grant more than notional allocation should not be drastically affected, and that the imbalance should be rectified gradually, allowing the existing NGOs adequate time to become more self-reliant. The State Governments / UT Admns. have been advised that, while formulating recommendations for funding to NGOs, priority should be accorded to service deficient areas.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 19 Para No. 6.7)**

2.11 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 Observations of the Committee would be adhered to.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

## **CHAPTER III**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3 Para No. 3.11)**

3.1 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

3.2 The Ministry have already initiated action as per Department of Expenditure O.M. No.1(3)/PF.II/2001 dated May29,2007 to obtain orders of the competent authority for continuation of the schemes in the XIth Plan with appropriate modifications revision of rates wherever deemed necessary. After this exercise is over and the final shape of schemes is known, additional funds would be sought, if necessary.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 4.18)**

3.3 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.4 Out of the Rupees 459.15 crores, Rs. 264.74 crore was released between December 2006 and March 2007. According to the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the utilization certificates are to be furnished within a period of 12 months. As per progress reports received from States/UTs upto 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2007. An amount of Rs. 354.26 crore had been utilized. The Ministry has taken up the matter with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to ensure expeditious utilization of funds.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No. 4.32)**

3.5 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.6 As per scheme the scholars are paid enrolment/registration, tuition, games, union, library, magazine, medical examination fee and such other fees compulsorily payable to the institution or University/Board. Compulsory non-refundable fee charged by recognized institutions for recognized courses can be fully reimbursed as per the fee structure approved by the competent State/Central Government authority.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 17 Para No. 6.5)**

3.7 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 installment 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 installment is released well in time to ensure optimum utilization of funds and to save the beneficiaries from suffering on account of procedural wrangles.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.8 Upto 2006-07 first installment of the grant was released on ad-hoc basis to an organization and the final grant was to be released only after the receipt of recommendation from the State Government. However, funds could not be released in time in some cases due to non-receipt of recommendations or receipt of recommendations at the fag end of the financial year or due to non-receipt of utilization certificates/audited accounts and other relevant papers in time from the NGOs. In order to streamline the procedure of releasing the grants to the organizations, new procedure has been devised for releasing grants to NGO in a single installment. The ministry has communicated notional State-wise allocation of funds to the States/UTs in respect of schemes for funding NGOs for submission of consolidated recommendations. To facilitate timely decisions at their level, the States/UTs have been advised to constitute multi disciplinary Grant in aid committees for examining the proposals for grant to support Voluntary Organizations. It is expected that the new procedure would help in ensuring optimum utilization of funds.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

## **CHAPTER IV**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 3.13)**

4.1 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

4.2 National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) conduct skill upgradation training programmes for educated unemployed Scheduled Caste youth in potential trade through reputed Govt./Semi-Govt. /Autonomous institutions. Along with skill component of the programme, the trainees are imparted sufficient inputs in project formulation and marketing. Similarly National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is implementing skill upgradation training programme and entrepreneurship development programme on the basis of cent percent grants for the courses period from one month to maximum six months.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

#### **Comments of the Committee**

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

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 3.14)**

4.3 The Committee understands 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.4 The observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter I of the Report)

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### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 8 Para No. 4.19)**

4.5 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.

### **Reply of the Government**



4.6 The Ministry addresses the States/UTs to earmark funds towards Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in proportion to SC population of the State so as to enable them to get their due share of Special Central Assistance funds. . Due to the efforts, the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan allocation has been enhanced from 11.49% in 2002-2003 to 12.29% in 2005-06. The Planning Commission has also issued guidelines followed by a letter from this Ministry in June 2006

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS) PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11 Para No. 4.30)**

4.7 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.8 Under the scheme of grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for SCs, financial assistance is provided for setting up of crèches and primary schools.. Besides, under certain other schemes of the Govt. such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas there is a focus on providing access to quality education to girls predominantly belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs & Minorities. However, the observation of the Committee has been noted.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter I of the Report)

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 14 Para No. 4.38)**

4.9 The Committee note with concern that during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.10 The Ministry have been writing to the State Govts. for timely completion of construction of SC Girls and Boys Hostels. The issue had also been discussed in the earlier annual conferences of Welfare Secretaries and will be put up this year again. The existing scheme of Hostel for SC girls is being revised due to the fact that the females among the SC groups suffer from triple jeopardy of being handicapped by social barriers, gender bias and low literacy.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para 1.19 of Chapter I of the Report)

## **CHAPTER V**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 1.4)**

5.1 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.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 A statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Committee would be made in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS) PREM dated 13 August 2007).

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 3.12)**

5.3 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 The observation/recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No 9 Para No. 4.20)**

5.5 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.6 The Ministry will take up the matter with the Planning Commission and Central Ministries.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 4.31)**

5.7 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.8 The scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students is being implemented through States/UTs. All the States/UTs were requested in April 2007 to furnish data on drop out rate of SC students availing the benefit of the scheme during the last five years, stream-wise and measures taken or proposed to be taken to reduce the drop out rate during the course of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. In response to Ministry's letter only few States have responded. As per information received from the States no data was available with them. Data is being collected by the States.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-1/2007(PS)PREM dated 13 August 2007).

**NEW DELHI:**  
**14 December, 2007**  
**23 Agrahayana, 1929(Saka)**

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

## **ANNEXURE**

### **MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2007.**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1550 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

#### **PRESENT**

1. **Smt. Sumitra Mahajan** - **Chairperson**

#### **MEMBERS**

##### **LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
3. Shri Haribhau Jawale
4. Shri Bhai Lal
5. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
6. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
7. Shri Kailash Meghwal
8. Shri Rupchand Murmu
9. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
10. Smt. Usha Verma

#### **MEMBERS**

##### **RAJYA SABHA**

11. Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma
12. Shri Silvius Condpan
13. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
14. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
15. Shri Veer Singh
16. 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 adopted the following Draft Reports of the Committee.

- (i) Draft Twenty- ninth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report on Demands For Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (ii) Draft Thirtieth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iii) Draft Thirty-first Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations / recommendations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- (iv) Draft Thirty-second Report on the subject "Voluntary Organisations Engaged in Implementing Integrated Programme for Welfare of Older Persons" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the Twenty Ninth, Report without any amendment.

4. XXX XXX XXX XXX.

5. XXX XXX XXX XXX

6. XXX XXX XXX XXX

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

The Committee then adjourned.

## APPENDIX

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

		Total	Percentage
I	Total number of Recommendations	19	
II	Observations / Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government; (Para Nos. 3.10, 4.29, 4.39, 5.4, 6.6 and 6.7)	6	31.58%
III	Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: (Para Nos. 3.11, 4.18, 4.32 and 6.5)	4	21.05%
IV	Observations / Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter I: (Para Nos. 3.13, 3.14, 4.19, 4.30 and 4.38)	5	26.32%
V	Observations / Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: (Para Nos. 1.4, 3.12, 4.20 and 4.31)	4	21.05%