

39

THIRTY- NINTH REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT
(2008-2009)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants for the year 2008-2009 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.12.2008

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2008



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
December, 2008/Agrahayana, 1930 (Saka)**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2008-2009)**

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
3. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
4. Shri Loganathan Ganesan
5. Shri Haribhau Jawale
6. Shri Bhai Lal
7. Shri Tek Lal Mahato
8. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
9. Shri Kailash Meghwal
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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

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri Silvius Condpan
23. Shri Mahmood A. Madani
24. Shri Ahmad Sayeed Malihabadi
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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

* Ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent to his retirement from the Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 25th November, 2008.

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri B. Srinivasa Prabhu - Deputy Secretary
3. Smt. Shashi Bisht - Executive Assistant

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 Thirty-ninth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants – 2008-09 relating to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Thirty-fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21 April, 2008. The Ministry of Minority Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 18 July, 2008. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17th December, 2008.

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

4. For facility of reference observations/recommendations 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:
17 December, 2008
26 Agrahayana 1930 (Saka)

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

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2008-09 relating to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1.2 The Thirty-fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21 April, 2008. It contained 15 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorised as under: -

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.10, 3.9, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 5.18 and 6.17.

(Total 7 - Chapter II)

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

Paragraph Nos. 4.16, 5.19 and 5.20.

(Total 3 - Chapter III)

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which need to be reiterated in Chapter I:

Paragraph Nos. 4.14 and 6.16

(Total 2 - Chapter IV)

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

Paragraph Nos. 1.4, 2.11 and 5.17

(Total 3 - Chapter V)

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

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

A. Grants-in-aid to NGOs by MAEF

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 7, PARA NO. 4.14)

1.5 The Committee had noted with dismay that there were eleven cases in different States where the grant had not been utilized by the NGOs for the specified purposes. Out of that 5 civil cases were stated to had been filed/being filed in court for recovery of funds, 2 cases were under investigation by police, 2 cases under investigation by CBI and 2 cases referred to CBI for investigation. The Committee had taken a serious view of those irregularities on the part of concerned NGOs. The Committee had recommended that wherever misuse or misappropriation of grants-in-aid by NGOs was detected, such NGOs should be blacklisted from any further Government funding. Besides, efforts should be made to expedite the recovery of the funds and for penal action against those NGOs.

1.6 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their reply have stated that the Maulana Azad Education Foundation has already initiated the process of recovery from the defaulting NGOs. Black-listing of such NGOs is also under process by the Foundation.

1.7 The Committee had noted with dismay that there were eleven cases in different States where the NGOs had taken grant from MAEF and had not utilized the same for the specified purposes and that the Government had referred such cases to courts/CBI for recovery. The Committee had taken a serious view of it and had recommended that wherever misuse or misappropriation of grants-in-aid by NGOs was detected, such NGOs should be blacklisted from any further Government funding. The Committee had also desired to expedite the recovery of the funds and for penal action against those NGOs. The Ministry in their reply have stated that the MAEF has already initiated the process of recovery from the defaulting NGOs and blacklisting of such NGOs. The Committee express their serious concern over such misutilization of scarce public money and desire that proper scrutiny of the credibility of the NGOs should be done before sanctioning of funds to avoid such a situation. For this, it is imperative that the procedure adopted by the MAEF for selecting the NGOs be made foolproof. The Committee, therefore, recommend that wherever misuse or misappropriation of grants-in-aid by NGOs is detected, defaulting NGOs as well as the authority who recommend the cases of such NGOs should be penalized so that such a situation do not recur.

B. Free Coaching and Allied Assistance Scheme for Minority Communities

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 14, PARA NO. 6.16)

1.8 The Committee had noted that a 'Free Coaching and Allied Assistance scheme for minority communities' was revised in 2007, with the objective of giving coaching to students in various disciplines through selected coaching institutes. During 2006-07, coaching was given to 690 students only in Rajasthan and in other States no student was covered under the scheme. However, during 2007-08 coaching was given to 2582 students in nine States like Rajasthan, Delhi, J&K, Mizoram, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh etc. During 2007-08 the Government could utilize only Rs. 2.21 crore out of the total allocation of Rs. 10 crore. The Committee regretted to point out the poor implementation of the scheme by the States. The Committee desired the Ministry to make sincere efforts to implement the scheme effectively in all the States/UTs and utilize fully the allocated amount so that more number of students could get the benefits of the scheme. The Committee had also desired that wide publicity of the scheme through print and electronic media should be given so that more and more students may avail the benefits under the scheme.

1.9 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their reply have informed the Committee that the exclusive coaching scheme for minorities namely "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities" came into effect from 17.7.2007. As per the provisions of the scheme, the coaching institutes are required to submit their proposals through concerned State Governments/UT administrations. Although the scheme was widely publicized in all States/UTs of the country inviting applications from coaching institutes for imparting coaching to minority students, the proposals of coaching institutes were not forwarded by many States. An amount of Rs.5.74 crore was released to coaching institutes in 14 States/UTs viz, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu &

Kashmir, Mizoram, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for imparting coaching to 4097 candidates belonging to minority communities.

The scheme has been advertised again for the year 2008-09, throughout the country. The States have also been advised to give wide publicity.

1.10 The Committee had observed that under 'Free Coaching and Allied Assistance Scheme for minority communities', during 2006-07 students were given coaching only in one State i.e. Rajasthan. During 2007-08 only nine States were covered and expenditure of only Rs. 2.21 crore was incurred out of the total allocation of Rs. 10 crore under the revised scheme and 2582 students were covered. The Committee had, therefore, desired the Ministry to implement the scheme effectively by giving wide publicity to it in all the States/UTs and also to utilize fully the allocated amount so that more students could get the benefits of the scheme. The Ministry in their reply have stated that the exclusive coaching scheme for minorities namely "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities" came into effect from 17.7.2007. As per the provision of the scheme the coaching institutes are required to submit their proposals through concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. However, despite wide publicity given to the scheme, proposals of coaching institutes were not forwarded by many States. The Ministry have informed in this connection that they had released Rs. 5.74 crore to cover 4097 students in 14 States/UTs for imparting coaching to above mentioned students belonging to minority communities. Considering the population of minority communities and their relative educational backwardness the Committee feel that there is need not only to ensure proper utilization of the amount but also to step up allocation therefor. At the same time the Committee would also like the Government to

conduct a study to ascertain the causes as to why the States/coaching institutes do not find the scheme attractive for initiating the proposals and take necessary suitable steps. The Ministry may also examine the need to revise the eligibility criteria keeping in view the high rise in cost of living besides making the scheme more attractive.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 2, PARA NO. 2.10)

2.1 The Ministry of Minority Affairs was created on 29th January, 2006 to ensure a focused approach to the issues related to the minorities and play a pivotal role in the overall policy, planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory and developmental programmes for the benefit of minority communities. The Ministry is stated to have taken several policy initiatives to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the minority communities percolate down to the underprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the society. The Committee hope this initiative would result in flow of benefits equitably to all the notified minority communities, in proportion to their population, especially in education, employment generation opportunities and improving their living conditions in a targeted and time bound manner.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.2 The observations have been noted and would be kept in view while implementing the schemes/programmes undertaken by the Ministry.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO.4, PARA NO. 3.9)

2.3 The Committee find that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had requested the Planning Commission to allocate Rs. 1340.00 crores during the year 2008-09 for its various schemes but the Planning Commission have allocated only Rs. 1000.00 crores.

In this connection Committee note with concern that during 2007-08 the Ministry could incur only Rs. 120.23 crores (as on 25.2.2008) out of the total budgetary allocation of Rs. 500 crores. The Ministry have explained that less expenditure during the year 2007-08 was due to the fact that fresh expenditure approval was required for three scholarship schemes and for multi sectoral development programme approval of cabinet was necessary. As such, the schemes could not be operationalised on account of time taken in obtaining the approvals. The Committee cannot but overemphasize the need to simplify the procedures for obtaining expeditious approvals of the schemes and to utilize fully and gainfully the funds allocated therefor. As the Budget for the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been doubled during this year the Committee hope that Ministry would take all necessary steps to ensure that this increased amount is fully and prudently utilized.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.4 The observations of the Committee have been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance in so far as it relates to approval of the schemes.

All efforts are being made to ensure that the funds allocated in the Budget Estimates are fully and prudently utilized during the year 2008-09.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 5, PARA NO. 4.12)

2.5 The Committee note that since its inception (in 1989) Maulana Azad Education Foundation has sanctioned Rs. 96.58 crores (till 29th February, 2008) to 742 NGOs for construction/expansion of schools/colleges/girl hostels/polytechnics/ITIs and purchase of equipment/machinery/furniture etc. However, no grants-in-aid has been given during the

last three years i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 to NGOs in Uttarakhand and West Bengal and also in 2006-07 for Jharkhand and Manipur and in 2007-08, for Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Committee are not convinced with the argument advanced by the Ministry that Grants-in-aid sanctioned to NGOs depends upon the number of eligible applications received from various States/UTs. The Committee, feel that the States/NGOs should be persuaded to send sufficient number of concrete proposals for construction of hostels, polytechnics etc. and it should be ensured that Grants-in-aid is given to all the States/NGOs on the basis of percentage of minority population and after considering the relative economic backwardness and literacy level of persons of minority communities there. The Committee hope that direction in this regard will be given by the Ministry to the MAEF soon.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.6 Directions have been issued by the Ministry to the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) to make State/Union Territory-wise allocation of funds taking into account the resources likely to be available during the year.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 6, PARA NO. 4.13)

2.7 The Committee observe that during 2006-07 for construction of Boys & Girls hostels, MAEF granted Rs. 330 lakhs to 12 NGOs in 8 States, but during 2007-08 (upto February, 2008) only Rs. 95 lakhs could be granted to 4 NGOs in three States thus covering comparatively fewer States. The Committee desire that the funds available for construction of Girls & Boys hostels should be fully utilized and MAEF should strive hard to achieve the same. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry of Minority

Affairs should also fix a time limit, from the date of release of Central Assistance to MAEF for completion of the Boys and Girls hostels and other projects.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.8 It has been decided by the Foundation that the time-limit for completion of hostel buildings would be 18 months from the date of release of funds of grant-in-aid to NGOs. Efforts would be made to ensure its completion through close monitoring.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 8, PARA NO. 4.15)

2.9 The Committee note with concern that in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Pondicherry and Sikkim, no scholarship has been given to minority students during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Minority Affairs should not only give direction to MAEF for adequate publicity of MAEF scholarship schemes for meritorious girls but also ensure that scholarships are given to all deserving students and the funds allocated are utilized fully.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.10 Scholarships are given to meritorious girl students belonging to the minority communities, as per State-wise distribution by the Foundation. It has been decided to increase the number of scholarships from 6,000 to 12,000 for the year 2008-09. MAEF has informed that they would make efforts to advertise in all the States so that a sufficient number of applications are received.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 11, PARA NO. 5.18)

2.11 The Committee find that out of Rs. 70 crore released for the NMDFC during 2007-08 the expenditure incurred by them was very low (Rs. 47.14 crore as on 15.2.2008). The Committee are not satisfied with the plea given by the Ministry that for release of Government of India's equity beyond Rs. 47.14 crore, it was necessary to increase the authorized share Capital of NMDFC. The Committee express their concern over the undue delay in obtaining Government approval and completing necessary formalities due to which the approval for enhancement of the authorized capital was given only on 26 February, 2008. The Committee desire the Ministry and the NMDFC to streamline its procedures and complete the necessary formalities in time to avoid such delays in future. The Committee also hope that proposed disbursement to Rs. 150 crore for the year 2008-09 will be made within stipulated time.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.12 The observations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. An amount of Rs.14.50 crores has already been released towards equity contribution of the Central government to the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation during 2008-09. In turn, NMDFC would release funds to the State Chanelising Agencies in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and ensure to achieve the targets. The Ministry is conducting quarterly review meetings with NMDFC to monitor the progress and take necessary remedial action.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 15, PARA NO. 6.17)

2.13 The Committee note that a Centrally sponsored scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships has been proposed to award 25 lakh scholarships during Eleventh Five Year Plan with sharing of funds in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

For the year 2008-09, Rs. 80 crore have been allocated out of the tentative provision of Rs. 1400 crore for 11th Plan. Similarly under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, with Rs. 119 crore allocated for 2008-09, 15 lakh scholarships are proposed to be awarded during 11th Plan. The Committee hope that both the schemes will be implemented with full dedication and commitment and the target will be fully achieved.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

2.14 There is a budget allocation of Rs.80 crores for 2008-09 targetting award of 4 lakh fresh scholarships under the scheme of pre-matric scholarships for students belonging to the minority communities. There is a budget allocation of Rs.100 crores for 2008-09 targetting award of 2.50 lakh scholarships including 0.75 lakhs renewal cases and 1.75 lakh fresh scholarships under the scheme of post-matric scholarships for students belonging to the minority communities.

All the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to advertise the schemes for inviting the applications from eligible students under these schemes, and many States have done so and also received applications.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

CHAPTER III

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

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 9, PARA NO. 4.16)

3.1 The Committee have been given to understand that MAEF do not involve States or seek assistance from State Governments for implementation of its various educational schemes for minorities particularly girl students. The Committee, are of the view that the Ministry should give direction to MAEF in this regard to ensure active and substantial involvement of the States Governments in implementing MAEF's educational schemes in their respective States.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.2 The Foundation is implementing its schemes directly. The Governing Body of the Foundation has not found it feasible to involve the State Governments in processing/recommending applications as this would lead to unnecessary delays and make the process more cumbersome. However, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations would be requested to publicize the scheme at the local level.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 12, PARA NO. 5.19)

3.3 During the Mid Term Review Conference of State Channelling Agencies of NMDFC held on 2nd December, 2006, some SCAs had given important suggestions like waiving of Guarantee Commission by State Government, higher allocation for Vocational

Training, dispensing with the share of SCAs, writing off bad debts in case of death of beneficiary etc. The Committee desire that these suggestions should be examined and implemented at the earliest so as to improve the functioning of State Channelling Agencies.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.4 The issue of waiver of guarantee has already been taken up by the Ministry as well as by NMDFC, with the State Governments. State Governments of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have waived the guarantee commission. NMDFC has also launched the scheme of waiver of outstanding loans in case of death, disability and calamity suffered by the beneficiaries. It is, however, felt that in order to ensure the involvement and commitment of the State Channelising Agencies, their share in the loan scheme should continue.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 13, PARA NO. 5.20)

3.5 The Committee note with concern that during 2006-07 no funds were disbursed by NMDFC to State Channelising Agencies in Delhi, J&K, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Utter Pradesh and Uttraranchal. The Committee feel that non-disbursement of funds to the SCAs in all the States will increase regional disparity. The Committee desire that in order to ensure that benefits of NMDFC schemes reach a large number of beneficiaries in all the States, a balanced approach should be resorted to in disbursement of funds to NGOs and in all the States.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

3.6 The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) makes State-wise allocations at the beginning of the year in consultation with the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). However, some SCAs, due to their weak infrastructure or reasons beyond the control of NMDFC, are not able to utilize funds during the year. The position of allocation and utilization of the funds for the States of Delhi, J&K, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Utter Pradesh and Uttarakhand are as under :-

(Rupees in lakhs)

S l. N o	State	SCA	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008- 2009
			Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocati on
1	Delhi	DSCSTFDSC	300	0	135	10	400
2	Jammu & Kashmir	JKWDC	250	0	50	0	75
		JSCTDC	600	370	350	350	400
3	Jharkhand	JSCTDC	200	-	50	35	100
4	Madhya Pradesh	MPBCMFDC	400	0	150	0	200
		MPHDC	100	0	50	0	0
5	Orissa	ORSCTFDC	200	0	100	0	100
6	Uttar Pradesh	UPMFDC	2000	0	500	0	1900
7	Uttarakha nd	UMFDC	600	265	215	0	300

As would be noticed, the problem lies with the States not the NMDFC which is allocating funds to all the States. The performance of the utilization by States varies both from State to State and within the same State from year to year.

In addition to the above, NMDFC also considers proposals from NGOs in all these States with preference to States where SCAs are weak in order to ensure balanced approach. However, there is a lack of interest among good credible NGOs to implement NMDFC schemes due to the very low interest margin available in NMDFC schemes. Details of funds released by NMDFC to NGOs during 2007-08 and 2008-09 in these States is given below:-

Sl.No.	State	2006-07		2007-08	
		No.of NGOs assisted	Amount (Rupees.in lakhs)	No.of NGOs assisted	Amount (Rupees.in lakhs)
1.	Delhi	1	4.50	1	11.25
2	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	1	0.22
3	Jharkhand	2	6.75	1	19.44
4	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-
5	Orissa	-	-	-	-
6	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	2	45.00
7	Uttrakhand	-	-	-	-

To strengthen the infrastructure of SCAs so as to enable them to improve the delivery system and utilization of funds, the Government of India has started a scheme of grants-in-aid to SCAs during 2007-08. Rs.10 crores has been released to various SCAs during the year.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH NEED TO BE REITERATED IN CHAPTER I

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 7, PARA NO. 4.14)

4.1 The Committee note with dismay that there are eleven cases in different States where the grant has not been utilized by the NGOs for the specified purposes. Out of this 5 civil cases are stated to have been filed/being filed in court for recovery of funds, 2 cases are under investigation by police, 2 cases under investigation by CBI and 2 cases referred to CBI for investigation. The Committee take a serious view of these irregularities on the part of concerned NGOs. The Committee recommend that wherever misuse or misappropriation of grants-in-aid by NGOs is detected, such NGOs should be blacklisted from any further Government funding. Besides, efforts should be made to expedite the recovery of the funds and for penal action against those NGOs.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.2 The Maulana Azad Education Foundation has already initiated the process of recovery from the defaulting NGOs. Black-listing of such NGOs is also under process by the Foundation.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

Comments of the Committee

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

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 14, PARA NO. 6.16)

4.3 The Committee note that a 'Free Coaching and Allied Assistance scheme for minority communities was revised in 2007, with the objective of giving coaching to students in various disciplines through selected coaching institutes. During 2006-07, coaching was given to 690 students only in Rajasthan and in other States no student was covered under the scheme. However, during 2007-08 coaching was given to 2582 students in nine States like Rajasthan, Delhi, J&K, Mizoram, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh etc. During 2007-08 the Government could utilize only Rs. 2.21 crore out of the total allocation of Rs. 10 crore. The Committee regret to point out the poor implementation of the scheme by the States. The Committee would like the Ministry to make sincere efforts to implement the scheme effectively in all the States/UTs and utilize fully the allocated amount so that more number of students could get the benefits of the scheme. The Committee also desire that wide publicity of the scheme through print and electronic media should be given so that more and more students may avail the benefits under the scheme.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

4.4 The exclusive coaching scheme for minorities namely "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities" came into effect from 17.7.2007. As per the provisions of the scheme, the coaching institutes are required to submit their proposals through concerned State Governments/UT administrations. Although the scheme was widely publicized in all States/UTs of the country inviting applications from coaching institutes for imparting coaching to minority students, the proposals of coaching institutes were not forwarded by many states. An amount of Rs.5.74 crore was released to coaching institutes in 14 States/UTs viz, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh,

Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for imparting coaching to 4097 candidates belonging to minority communities.

The scheme has been advertised again for the year 2008-09, throughout the country. The States have also been advised to give wide publicity.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

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

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 1, PARA NO. 1.4)

5.1 Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-08) on the Ministry of Minority Affairs was presented to Lok Sabha on 28 April, 2007 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 03 May 2007. 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 by the Minister so far. While deprecating this inordinate delay, the Committee desire that requisite action in this connection may be taken expeditiously by the Ministry.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.2 The Minister of Minority Affairs made a statement on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) on the Ministry of Minority Affairs in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 2008. Notice for making a statement in the Lok Sabha was given but the House adjourned sine die. The statement will be made in the Lok Sabha in the next Session.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO. 3, PARA NO, 2.11)

5.3 The Committee note with concern that Ministry of Minority Affairs have no data of persons of minority communities living below the poverty line. The Committee are of the view that in absence of this vital data the Ministry would not be able to fix and achieve their targets under various schemes/policies/initiatives undertaken by them to ensure equitable distribution of developmental benefits to the minorities. The Committee observe that availability of accurate data of the target beneficiaries is the basic requirement to enable the Organization/Department to formulate their perspective programmes and schemes. The Committee, therefore, desire that Ministry should expeditiously arrange to collect the data of persons of minority communities living below the poverty line.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.4 The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakadwala Committee). Based on this method, the state-wise percentage of population, living below the poverty line for minorities, defined as non-Hindu population has been estimated in the rural and urban areas for the year 1999-2000 using the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 55th round of NSS. The corresponding estimates of the number of persons living below double the poverty line are not available.

The observations of the Standing Committee have been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission with the request to bring out data relating to minority population living below double the poverty line which would be useful in effective and

meaningful policy interventions and formulation and implementation of the schemes. The matter is being pursued.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

RECOMMENDATION (SL.NO.10, PARA NO. 5.17)

5.5 The Committee note that a Committee of bankers and financial experts was constituted to review the functioning of National Minority Development and Finance Corporation and also to look into the aspect of restructuring the NMDFC to enhance its coverage. The Committee had submitted its Report in April, 2007. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, a proposal for restructuring of NMDFC has been prepared which is under consideration of the Government. While appreciating the steps taken by the Government to restructure the Corporation, which will enable it to streamline its functioning and increase the coverage of beneficiaries, the Committee express concern at the inordinate delay in implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee as the proposal for restructuring is still under consideration. The Committee hope that the process of restructuring the corporation will be completed expeditiously and NMDFC will be restructured soon. The Committee also hope that an action plan on assessment made by the Agriculture Finance Corporation, whose Report has also been received by the Government, to ascertain the impact on beneficiaries of the schemes of NMDFC will be prepared and implemented at the earliest.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.6 A broad outline of the restructuring has been prepared and is likely to be finalized soon.

The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation is examining the assessment as well as the recommendations of the Agriculture Finance Commission and would be submitting an action plan to the Ministry of Minority Affairs shortly.

[Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M. No. G-20011/4/2008-Budget dated 18th July, 2008]

NEW DELHI:
17 December, 2008
26 Agrahayana, 1930 (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 17th DECEMBER, 2008.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

1. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
3. Shri Haribhau Jawale
4. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
5. Shri Kailash Meghwal
6. Smt. Pratibha Singh
7. Smt. Usha Verma

MEMBERS RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri Silvius Condpan
9. Shri Ahmad Sayeed Malihabadi
10. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri B. Srinivasa Prabhu - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Ram Kishan - Under Secretary

APPENDIX

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

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	15	
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: (Paragraph Nos. 2.10, 3.9, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 5.18 and 6.17)	7	46.67%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: (Paragraph Nos. 4.16, 5.19 and 5.20)	3	20%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter I (Paragraph Nos. 4.14 and 6.16)	2	13.33%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: (Paragraph Nos. 1.4, 2.11 and 5.17)	3	20%