

FORTY-FIRST REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT
(2008-2009)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT

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

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)

41

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FORTY-FIRST REPORT



**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
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11. Shri Rupchand Murmu
12. Shri Jual Oram
13. Shri Ram Chandra Paswan
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15. Dr. R. Senthil
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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
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

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

2. The Thirty-third Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21 April, 2008. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 26.09.2008. 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-third 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-third Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2008-09 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.2 The Thirty-third Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 21st April, 2008. It contained 13 recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:

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

Paragraph Nos. 1.4, 3.19, 3.22, 3.23, 4.17, 5.10 and 6.7.

(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. 3.21.

(Total 1 – 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. 3.20 and 4.19.

(Total 2 – Chapter IV)
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:

Paragraph Nos. 4.18, 4.20 and 5.11.

(Total 3- 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. Revision of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 3.20)

1.5 The Committee had been informed that the rates under the schemes of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Post-Matric and Pre-Matric scholarships for OBC students and hostels for OBC boys and girls were fixed in nineties. In order to neutralize the effect of price rise, the revision of scholarships was necessary. Further, the cost of construction had also gone up necessitating the revision of cost norms for hostel scheme. Therefore, the Ministry was in the process of revising these Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In the opinion of the Committee these revisions would help in minimizing the gaps and disparities (education development) that exist between general population and socially disadvantaged groups and will also neutralize the effect of price rise, thereby making these schemes more viable and ensure maximum coverage of beneficiaries. The Committee had desired the Government to revise these schemes at the earliest.

1.6 In their reply, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have stated that the process of revision of the schemes of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships for OBCs, and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls is on, and efforts are being made to expedite it.

1.7 In response to the recommendation of the Committee for early revision of Centrally Sponsored schemes of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for Other Backward Classes students and hostels for Other Backward Classes Boys and Girls, so as to minimize the gaps and disparities (educational development) that exist between general population and socially disadvantaged groups, the Ministry have simply stated that they have started the process of revision of these schemes and efforts are being made to expedite it. The reply indicates that the Government is not serious towards the concern expressed by the Committee. The Committee are of the view that the Ministry should have indicated the measures being contemplated by them to revise these schemes, thereby ensuring maximum coverage of beneficiaries. Considering the importance of the role played by these schemes for the educational development of the vulnerable sections of our society and to bring them at par with the mainstream, the Committee again urge upon the Government to revise the schemes of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships for OBCs, and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls in a time bound manner.

B. Separate Budget Head For Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP).

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 4.19)

1.8 The Committee had noted that despite their repeated recommendations impressing upon all States/UTs, subscribing to the scheme of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP), to open a separate Budget Head for SCA funds, two States are yet to follow this instruction. The idea behind this exercise was to put an end to the practice of diversion of SCA funds by States/UTs. The Committee had desired that these two States viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab should be persuaded by the Ministry at the highest level for opening of a separate Budget Head for SCA funds at the earliest.

1.9 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply, have stated that the Chief Secretaries of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have been demi-officially requested by the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment in September, 2008 to open a separate Budget Head for Special Central Assistance fund.

1.10 Taking note of the fact that the States of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab had not yet opened a separate Budget Head for Special Central Assistance funds, the Committee had desired the Government to persuade these two States at the highest level for opening a separate Budget for SCA funds at the earliest. The Committee are, however not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry that the Chief Secretaries of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have been demi-officially requested by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in September, 2008 to open a separate Budget Head for SCA funds. In the opinion of the Committee, opening up of a separate Budget Head for SCA funds would put an end to the practice of diversion of crucial funds meant for the development of the Scheduled Castes. The Committee, therefore reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge upon the Ministry to take up this important matter with the State Governments of

Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab at the highest level and impress upon them to ensure compliance of the same.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (S.No. 1, Para No. 1.4)

2.1 The Committee are not satisfied with the implementation aspect of the Recommendations contained in their Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants, 2007-08 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as only 6 out of 19 recommendations have been implemented. The Committee desire expeditious implementation of the remaining recommendations.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment contained 19 recommendations. Action Taken Notes were furnished to the Committee in respect of all the recommendations vide O.M. dated 13th August 2007. According to 29th Report of the Standing Committee, the Committee accepted the Action Taken Notes (ATN) in respect of 6 recommendations and did not desire to pursue further 4 recommendations in view of the ATN of the Government. Final Action Taken Notes in respect of remaining 9 recommendations have already been sent to Lok Sabha secretariat vide O.M. dated 4th July 2008.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 2, Para No. 3.19)

2.3 The Committee note that the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2008-09 has been pegged at a level below the projections made by the Ministry. As against the projection of Rs. 2726 crore, the amount allocated to the Ministry is Rs. 2400 crore. According to the Ministry the reduction in the allocation

will affect achievements in major schemes like Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Component Plan, Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Scavengers, Pre and Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students, scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, etc. Considering the Ministry's record of optimum utilization of allocated funds which is 98.95% of the outlay during 2007-08 and to enable them to effectively fulfil their mandate of empowering the vulnerable sections of our society, the Committee hope that Government would consider provision of additional funds to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at RE stage.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The Ministry is thankful for this recommendation, and will quote it while projecting its requirements to the Planning Commission in future.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 5, Para No. 3.22)

2.5 It is a matter of concern that 12814 Utilization Certificates for various welfare schemes amounting to Rs. 735 crore are still outstanding from States/UTs/Voluntary Organizations. The Committee view with concern this situation as the Ministry would not able to release funds if utilization certificates in respect of funds allocated are not submitted in time. This in turn affects timely implementation of various schemes consequently. The Government ought to impress upon the States/UTs/Voluntary Organizations to exercise fiscal prudence and submit utilization certificates in time to ensure un-interrupted flow of Central funds

Reply of the Government

2.6 The Ministry regularly monitors the status of receipt of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and follows up with the State Governments/UT Administrations and Non-Governmental Organizations for timely submission of Utilization Certificates. Instructions in this regard are reiterated every year. In case of NGOs, the application form for grant in aid also includes the requirement for utilization certificate to be furnished by NGOs. Funds for the current year are released only on the receipt of Utilization Certificates in respect of previously released funds. With the constant efforts of the Ministry, the number of pending UCs has decreased from 12814 amounting to Rs. 735 crores in March 2008 to 11219 amounting to Rs. 625 crores in September 2008. The number of pending UCs will further go down when proposals for the current year are processed and implementing agencies of various projects submit their pending UCs before the grant for current year is released.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 6, Para No. 3.23)

2.7 As many as ten glaring shortcomings have come to notice as a result of the audit of various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment like (i) Underutilization of funds, inter-state imbalances in allocation of funds, non-availing of central assistance, delayed/non/short release of funds, unspent balances lying with States/UTs, diversion of funds etc which have been observed in respect of most of the schemes; (ii) The schemes were not given adequate publicity resulting in poor awareness of different schemes amongst the target population; (iii) Failure to monitor the receipt of different reports and returns relating to the schemes, maintain databases in respect of different schemes, carry out on the spot inspections in the States/UTs/NGOs, conduct independent evaluation of schemes and inadequate internal audit rendered the internal controls weak, etc. The Committee expect the

Ministry to analyze the reasons for shortcomings and make concerted efforts to take suitable remedial measures to overcome the same.

Reply of the Government

2.8 From the year 2007-08 a new procedure has been introduced in respect of six of the Ministry's schemes under which State/UT wise notional allocation is intimated to the States/UTs in the beginning of the year with a request to submit/forward complete proposals from State Governments and NGOs. This procedure would have the following benefits:-

1. Ensure equitable distribution of funds across States based on target group population.
2. Information regarding funds allocated for various schemes becomes available in the beginning of the year, which would help, in proper planning.
3. Encourages State Governments, which had not been submitting proposals or had low utilization, to prepare and submit adequate proposals.

In order to provide publicity, various schemes implemented by the Ministry have been put on its website. Further, a radio programme namely 'Sanwanti Zayen Jeevan Ki Rahen' is being broadcast in all regional languages through All India Radio. The Ministry also publishes advertisements about its schemes from time to time.

The State Government/UT Administrations have been entrusted the task of inspections of NGOs before recommending their proposals. The evaluation of schemes and programmes of the Ministry is being got conducted through independent research organizations.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 7, Para No. 4.17)

2.9 The Committee observe that during 2007-08 some States with sizable SC population have not allocated funds for their SCSP as per the percentage of their SC population namely; (Andhra Pradesh – SC population 16.20%, SCSP outlay 7.53%, Himachal Pradesh – SC population 24.70%, SCSP outlay 11.00%, and Punjab – SC population 28.90%, SCSP outlay 26.02%. Other States like Bihar – SC population 15.70%, Kerala SC population 9.8% and Rajasthan – SC population 17.20% have not allocated any funds from their annual plan to their SCSP. Keeping in view the fact that the allocations under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan in proportion to the percentage of SC population in the State is the main criteria for release of grants by the Centre under the scheme, the Committee express their displeasure at the non-adherence to the norms by some States, as this deprives them of their rightful Central share of SCA funds. The Committee, desire that all the States/UTs should be persuaded to allocate funds for SCSP in proportion to their SC population so that they could get their entitled share of SCA funds from the Centre.

Reply of the Government

2.10 To ensure that the States/UTs allocate Plan outlay in proportion to SC population under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan, the matter has been taken up with the State Governments/UT Administration vide this Ministry's O.Ms dated 18th July 2007 & 12th May 2008 and also discussed in the State Social Welfare Secretaries Conference held on 14th and 15th June 2007. It is also proposed to be discussed in the forthcoming Conference of State Social Welfare Secretaries scheduled on 16th & 17th October 2008. Further, the matter has also been taken up in September, 2008 with the Chief Ministers of major

defaulting States, at the level of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. Efforts in this direction will continue.

25% of the Special Central Assistance to States/UTs is linked to percentage allocation by them under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in comparison to percentage of SC population of the State/UT.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 11, Para No 5.10)

2.11 The Committee regret to observe that there has been under-utilization of sanctioned funds under the “Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse” during last three years. The Ministry have explained this under utilization of funds to delay in receipt of proposals from some States along with some proposals having received were incomplete. The Committee take a serious note of this and urge the Government to take pro-active measures to ensure that the NGOs entrusted with operating this scheme forward their proposals timely and complete in all respects, as warranted in the guidelines prepared by the Ministry for voluntary organizations desirous to avail central funding. The Committee, desire the Ministry to take up this issue with the States/NGOs at the highest level so that proposals are received timely, thereby ensuring optimum utilization of sanctioned funds on a yearly basis.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The detailed guidelines regarding streamlining of procedure were circulated to all States and UTs. vide letter No.1-31/2006-Cdn, dated 21.3.07 and they were requested to send all the proposals of their respective State/UT along with recommendations of the State Grant-in-aid Committee in one lot indicating the inter-se priority by 30th June, 2007.

The Ministry had intimated notional allocation to the states at the beginning of financial year 2007-08. The efforts made in this regard have resulted in substantial increase in expenditure of Rs.26.11 crores during 2007-08 as compared to the expenditure of Rs. 20.41 crores in the previous year. The notional allocations to the States/U.Ts for the current year have also been intimated on 28.5.2008. Proposals from the States of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Kerala and Maharashtra have already been received, and it is expected that remaining States and UTs will send their recommendations soon.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 13, Para No 6.7)

2.13 Another instance of poor utilization of earmarked funds is the financial achievement regarding various programmes in the North-Eastern States and Sikkim during the year 2007-2008. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have contended that as the schemes of the Ministry are demand driven, funds are released to States on receipt of their proposals along with utilization certificates of the funds released previously. The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry is trying to pass the buck by shifting all responsibility to the State Governments. Keeping in view the strong presence of the audio-visual media in these States, the Committee desire that the Ministry should lay greater emphasis on generating awareness about its various schemes, especially those implemented by voluntary organizations. The Committee hope that adequate publicity will result in an increase in demand for funds from the NE States and Sikkim. The Committee also expect the Ministry to impress upon the North-Eastern States and Sikkim to send adequate number of proposals in time to ensure a full utilization of allocated funds for them.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The Ministry has already written to all the State Governments including NER States to submit complete proposals for the various schemes well in time so as to achieve cent percent utilization of allocated funds. Constant liaison is being maintained with the State Governments to ensure that proposals in adequate number as per norms of the schemes are submitted in time. Further, notional allocation of funds for the year 2008-09 has been communicated to State Governments of North-East and Sikkim. To generate awareness about the various programmes and schemes of the Ministry, a radio programme namely 'Sanwanti Zayen Jeevan Ki Rahen' is being broadcast in all regional languages of North-Eastern region through fifteen primary channels of All India Radio.

Recently, a team of senior officers of the Ministry, led by the Additional Secretary, held a meeting with Secretaries of State Governments and NGOs of the North Eastern Region at Shillong on 5th and 6th August, 2008 in collaboration with the North Eastern Council, to generate awareness about various grants-in-aid schemes, explore measures for their effective implementation, and to ensure submission of complete proposals well in time to the Ministry. Senior officers of NER States including Sikkim attended the meeting on 5th August 2008. In the Stakeholders meeting on 6th August 2008, approximately 50 representatives of NGOs from various NE States participated, besides Central and State Govts. representatives. This is expected to improve implementation of the Ministry's schemes in the N.E.region.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (S.No. 4, Para No. 3.21)

3.1 The Committee have been apprised that the Ministry is considering to change the funding pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for children of those engaged in unclean occupations to a Central Sector Scheme. Under the present funding pattern, Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments on a 50:50 basis and 100% to Union Territory Administrations over and above their committed liability, whereas in a Central Sector Scheme 100% funding is borne by the Central Government. The Committee feel that this would go a long way in ameliorating the problems faced by the States, who under the existing pattern of funding find it difficult to come up with their share of committed liability. Keeping in view the focus of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which is towards inclusive growth, the Committee urge the Government to examine the feasibility of changing the funding pattern of all other educational schemes by converting them into Central Sector Schemes. The Committee are of the opinion that such a step would enhance the viability and effectiveness of these schemes and bring the target groups into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant.

Reply of the Government

3.2 The schemes, which are implemented through the States, are categorized as Centrally Sponsored Schemes irrespective of their pattern of funding. The Ministry does not have its own agency to implement its schemes. Therefore, involvement of the States and UTs is necessary. Hence it is difficult to convert all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes into Central Sector Schemes. The decision regarding changing the funding

pattern of the schemes depends upon the availability of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to the plan. The funding pattern of scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Castes Girls has already been changed from 50:50 to 100% w.e.f.1.1.2008. A proposal to revise the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation, including change in the funding pattern from existing 50:50 to 100% is under consideration. Central Government is already giving 100% assistance under Post-Matric scholarships schemes for SC and OBC students for meeting expenditure incurred by States, in excess of their committed liability.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

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 (S.No. 3, Para No. 3.20)

4.1 The Committee have been informed that the rates under the schemes of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Post-Matric and Pre-Matric scholarships for OBC students and hostels for OBC boys and girls were fixed in nineties. In order to neutralize the effect of price rise, the revision of scholarships is necessary. Further, the cost of construction has also gone up necessitating the revision of cost norms for hostel scheme. Therefore, the Ministry is in the process of revising these Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In the opinion of the Committee these revisions would help in minimising the gaps and disparities (education development) that exist between general population and socially disadvantaged groups and will also neutralize the effect of price rise, thereby making these schemes more viable and ensure maximum coverage of beneficiaries. The Committee desire the Government to revise these schemes at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The process of revision of the schemes of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships for OBCs, and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls is on, and efforts are being made to expedite it.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (S.No. 9, Para No 4.19)

4.3 The Committee note that despite their repeated recommendations impressing upon all States/UTs, subscribing to the scheme of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP), to open a separate Budget Head for SCA funds, 2 States are yet to follow this instruction. The idea behind this exercise is to put an end to the practice of diversion of SCA funds by States/UTs. The Committee desire that these two States viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab should be persuaded by the Ministry at the highest level for opening of a separate Budget Head for SCA funds at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

4.4 Chief Secretaries of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have been demi-officially requested by the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment in September, 2008 to open a separate Budget Head for Special Central Assistance fund.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 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 INTERIM IN NATURE

Recommendation (S.No. 8, Para No. 4.18)

5.1 It is a matter of concern that the Ministry do not have any data highlighting the number of beneficiaries who were successful in crossing below the poverty line figure after having availed of the benefits of the scheme of SCA to SCSP. It has simply been conveyed that it is for the Planning Commission to decide. The Committee regret to observe that this is nothing but a casual approach on the part of the Government vis-à-vis its mandate for working towards bringing the target group into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant. The Committee desire that this aspect needs to be given serious attention and the Ministry should make all possible efforts to collect this data from all concerned implementing agencies for future planning of their schemes.

Reply of the Government

5.2 State Governments/UT Administrations, which implement the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan have been requested to provide by 31.10.2008 details of the Scheduled Castes families below poverty line covered under the scheme during 2005-06, who have been able to cross the poverty line so far. In future this information will be collected regularly

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 10, Para No 4.20)

5.3 In spite of clear cut instructions from the Planning Commission, directing all Central Ministries / Departments to formulate SCSP for SCs in their Annual Plan, only 7 Ministries / Departments out of 51 have complied till now. The Committee express their deep concern and total displeasure over this sorry state of affairs and recommend the Ministry to ensure expeditious compliance by the remaining Central Ministries / Departments of the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission in this regard.

Reply of the Government

5.4 Secretary (SJ&E) vide letter dated 11th December 2007 had requested all Central Ministries/Departments to implement the guidelines of the Planning Commission. Thereafter, a reminder was issued on 21-5-2008. The Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment had also, vide her letter dated 25th March 2008, requested the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, to devise modalities to link the Annual Plan of the Ministries/Departments with the Commission's guidelines regarding Scheduled Castes Sub Plan. She has now again requested the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in September, 2008 to ensure that SCSP outlays are earmarked by all Central Ministries/Departments, as part of Annual Plan/Budget exercise for 2009-10 and are reflected under a separate Minor Head "789". Simultaneously she has also requested the Finance Minister to issue necessary instructions to all Ministries/Departments to ensure that, from the financial year 2009-10, an appropriate portion of Plan Budget of every Ministry/Department is invariably shown under the said Minor Head "789"

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

Recommendation (S.No. 12, Para No 5.11)

5.5 The Committee note that the Government have institutionalised Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) with the broad objective for creating a database in respect of persons abusing drugs, types of drugs used and method of consuming drugs from the Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centre supported by the Ministry. However, It is a matter of concern that though the scheme for prevention of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse has been prevalent for years, yet the Ministry have no authentic data of the number of alcoholics and drug addicts in the country as no detailed survey has been conducted for this purpose so far. It is indicative of the casual approach of the Government in eradicating the menace of alcoholism and substance abuse from the country. The Committee desire that the Government may utilize the services of DAMS to obtain an authentic nationwide data of alcoholics and substance abusers at the earliest so that an effective action plan could be chalked out to rid the nation of its ill effects. The Committee also suggest that feasibility of introducing 'Gujarat Pattern of Prohibition' may be examined to eradicate alcoholism from the country.

Reply of the Government

5.6 The Ministry has requested the National Sample Survey Organization on 28.08.2006 to conduct a detailed household survey to assess the extent, patterns and trends of drug abuse in the country. NSSO had carried out a pilot study to find out the feasibility of collection of such information through household survey methodology adopted by them for their surveys. Based on the results of the pilot study, a Committee has been constituted on 30.05.2008 to suggest an appropriate survey methodology for undertaking a survey on Drug Abuse. Further, the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) is being reorganized and strengthened in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), for obtaining requisite data on alcoholics and victims of drug abuse. As per entry no. 8 under "State List" in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, "Intoxicating Liquors" (including their" production, manufacture, possession, transport,

purchase and sale”) is a State subject. Hence adoption of the “Gujarat Pattern of Prohibition” is essentially for individual State Governments to consider. It also has significant financial implications for them.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-7/2008/PS/PREM dated 26th September, 2008)

NEW DELHI;
17 December, 2008
26 Agrahayana, 1930 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice
Empowerment.

and

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

22. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
23. Shri Haribhau Jawale
24. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam
25. Shri Kailash Meghwal
26. Smt. Pratibha Singh
27. 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

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) Draft Thirty-ninth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- (ii) Draft Fortieth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iii) Draft Forty-first Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Third-third Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. **** **** ****

4. **** **** ****

5. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the Forty-first Report without any amendment.

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

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

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

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	13	
II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Paragraph Nos. 1.4, 3.19, 3.22, 3.23, 4.17, 5.10 and 6.7)	7	53.84%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government: (Paragraph No. 3.21)	1	7.70%
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 (Paragraph Nos. 3.20 and 4.19)	2	15.38%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: (Paragraph Nos. 4.18, 4.20 and 5.11)	3	23.08%