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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE  
AND EMPOWERMENT  
(2004-2005)**

**(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT**

**Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations  
contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and  
Empowerment on Demands for Grants-2004-2005 of the Ministry of Social  
Justice and Empowerment.**

**FIFTH REPORT**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.3.2005**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha 22.3.2005**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
March, 2005/Phalguna, 1926 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (2004-2005)**

**Smt. Sumitra Mahajan- CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri M. Appadurai
3. Shri Ashok Argal
4. Smt. Sushmita Bauri
5. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
6. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
7. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
8. Shri Kailash Meghwal
9. Shri Rupchand Murmu
10. Shri Jual Oram
11. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
12. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
13. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
14. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
15. Shri R. Senthil
16. Shri Mohd. Shahid
17. Smt. Pratibha Singh
18. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
19. Smt. Krishna Tirath
20. Smt. Usha Verma
21. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

*Rajya Sabha*

22. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
23. Shri Silvius Condpan
24. Shri R.S. Gavai
25. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
26. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
27. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
28. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
29. Smt. Savita Sharda
30. Shri Tarlochan Singh
31. Shri Veer Singh

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri P.D.T. Achary - Secretary
2. Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu - Joint Secretary
3. Shri R.K. Saxena - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary
5. Shri Vanlalruata - Committee Officer

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2004-2005 relating to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

2. The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 18 August, 2004. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 17 December, 2004. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 18 March, 2005.
3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.
4. For the 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:  
18 March, 2005  
27 Phalguna, 1926 (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 recommendations/observations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2004-2005 relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.2 The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 18 August, 2004. It contained 19 recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the recommendations have been examined and are categorised as under: -

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:  
Sl. Nos. 2, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 19.

(Total 6 - Chapter II)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:  
Sl. Nos. 5, 15 and 17.

(Total 3 - Chapter III)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter I:  
Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 8 and 18.

(Total 4 - Chapter IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:  
Sl. Nos. 4, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 16.

(Total 6 - 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 the action taken replies of the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

**A. General Performance of the Ministry :**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para 2.7)**

1.5 The Committee had noted with concern that during 2003-04, the Ministry's Budget Estimate was Rs.1410 crore which was reduced to Rs.1250 crore at the Revised Estimate stage, and out of this reduced budget the Ministry could spend only Rs.1182.26 crore. The Committee had been apprised of various reasons for reduction of funds at RE stage and even less spending, such as the Ministry of Finance making the revised estimates on the basis of expenditure level upto 30<sup>th</sup> September, late receipt of proposals and utilization certificates from State Governments and NGOs resulting in utilization of funds to the extent of only 30-35%, non-utilization due to pendency of schemes for revision for years, unspent balance with institutes due to non-filling of posts, non-approval of awareness generation schemes, etc. Keeping in view the significance of the mandate of the Ministry, i.e. the upliftment of the most disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should gear up its implementation and monitoring machinery and conduct periodic review meetings with the State Governments/implementing agencies and impress upon them to fully utilize the fund allocated under various schemes.

1.6 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their action taken note have stated that it held meetings with Secretaries of States/UTs dealing with Social Welfare in 2002-03 and 2004-05. During these meetings,

they have been requested to send the complete proposals alongwith utilization certificates of previous releases.

1.7 The Committee are not at all satisfied with the stereotyped reply of the Ministry. The Committee are concerned to note that the same situation has been continuing for years, which has resulted in the Ministry of Finance resorting to drastic cuts of BE at RE stage. Apart from this, the underutilization of the funds year after year has caused serious concern to the Committee. Every year the Committee remind the Ministry to gear up its implementing and monitoring machinery and to impress upon the States/UTs to furnish utilization certificates in time and fully utilize the sanctioned funds. But the Committee has observed that no tangible and positive result has been achieved so far, which has proved detrimental to the interest of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of our society. In the opinion of the Committee a thorough analysis of the present monitoring mechanism of various welfare schemes being undertaken by the Ministry should be done. The Committee, therefore, reiterate earlier recommendation that the Ministry should gear up its monitoring and implementing machinery to ensure that all States/UTs not only furnish their utilization certificates on time, but also ensure full utilization of the sanctioned funds. The Committee desire that the matter be pursued with all the States/UTs at the highest level vigorously and in all earnest.

**B. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP):**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para 3.12)**

1.8 The Committee had noted with serious concern that during 2003-04 some States/UTs with sizeable SC population had not allocated funds as per laid down guidelines; (Andhra Pradesh –SC population 16.20%, SCP outlay 7.39%,; Bihar – SC population 15.70% SCP outlay Nil; Haryana – SC population 19.30%, SCP outlay-Nil; Karnataka – SC population 16.20%’ SCP outlay Nil; Madhya Pradesh – SC population 15.20%, SCP outlay 7.07%; Punjab SC population 28.90%, SCP outlay Nil; and West Bengal SC population 23% SCP outlay 7.01%.) Keeping in view the fact that percentage of SC population was

the basic criteria for allocation of funds by the Central and the State Governments, the Committee had expressed their dismay at that abysmal scenario and had desired that the State Governments be persuaded in right earnest to allocate funds as per their SC population, so as to get the entitled Special Central Assistance (SCA) share from the Centre.

1.9 In their action taken note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry have stated that the Special Central Assistance (SCA) is released to the States/UTs implementing Special component Plan (SCP) giving weightage to Scheduled Castes population of the States/ UTs (40%), relative backwardness of the States/ UTs (10%), percentage of SC families in the States/UT covered by composite economic development programmes in the plans to enable them to cross the poverty line (25%) and flow of funds to Special Component Plan out of the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs (25%). The Ministry have further stated that with a view to assisting the SC families living below the poverty line in an integrated manner and providing the required forward and backward linkages for various economic activities in a viable manner, 27 State Governments/UT Administrations having sizeable SC population were requested to formulate projects for utilization of Special Central Assistance in critical areas requiring intervention to bridge the gaps. The States/UTs are persuaded regularly through meetings and reminders to adhere to the norms laid down for SCP allocation/expenditure.

**1.10 The Committee express its deep concern to the fact that though the Ministry have been persuading the States/UTs regularly through meetings and reminders to adhere to the prescribed norms laid down for SCP allocation/expenditure, yet some States with sizeable SC population have not allocated funds for their SCP in proportion to their SC population. The main thrust of the scheme of SCA to SCP is to ensure that SC families are able to cross the below the poverty line figure. As per the criteria, 25% of allocation of SCA funds is made by the Ministry keeping in mind the flow of funds to the SCP out of the Annual Plan in proportion to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs. Consequently, if the States/UTs do not adhere to these**



**norms, their SCA share is commensurately reduced which adversely affects the Welfare measures of the targeted beneficiaries. The Committee, therefore, strongly reiterate their earlier recommendation that all States/UTs be persuaded in the right earnest to allocate funds as per their SC population, so as to get the entitled Special Central Assistance (SCA) share from the Centre and the benefits of this scheme could percolate down to the lowest level.**

**C. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP):**

**Recommendation (Sl.No.8, Para 3.17)**

1.11 The Committee further observed, as mentioned already, that funds were not being utilized properly by States/NGOs and they were not furnishing the Utilisation Certificates in time. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment should furnish the details of funds allotted under the schemes meant for the welfare of SC population and non-utilisation of the same by the State Governments/NGOs to the public representatives of the area to act as watchdogs and to monitor the functioning of the schemes properly.

1.12 The Ministry in their reply have stated that it releases funds to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations including schemes meant for welfare of SC population. State Governments/ UT Administrations furnish utilization of funds released under particular schemes for the State as a whole. District-wise allocation/ releases/utilization of funds are not maintained at the Ministry level. The Ministry will continue with the existing approach to pursue State Governments/UT Administrations to furnish utilization certificate of previous releases. In view of the position explained above it is not practically possible to furnish information to the public representatives of the area in respect of utilization of funds by the State Governments/UT Administrations for each district for all the schemes.

In case of non-governmental organizations second instalment of grant during the year is released only after the Ministry has received utilization

certificate along with audited statement of expenditure. The Ministry has already placed list of voluntary organizations released grant for each year district wise on the web site of the Ministry ([www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in)).

1.13 The Committee note the reply of the Ministry that they had placed the list of Voluntary Organizations released grants for each year district-wise on the website of the Ministry. However, the details of funds allotted under the schemes meant for the welfare of the SC population and non-utilisation of the same by the State Governments/UT Administrations is not available. The Committee are of the view that this vital information should also be made available on website of the Ministry to ensure transparency and efficient implementation of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to display the details of funds sanctioned to each State and UT, as well as the status of utilization of funds on an yearly basis on the website of the Ministry, so that the public representatives of the States/UTs and alert citizens may monitor the progress of the schemes and also impress their respective State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure optimum utilization of funds.

#### D. Rehabilitation Council Of India (RCI)

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

1.14 The Committee had noted with concern that for giving training to about 18.49 million disabled persons in the country only 20000 professionals (out of the total 24000 professionals) were engaged in teaching/training of persons with disabilities. The requirement of professionals who give training to the disabled for their rehabilitation, as per 1996 RCI report, was assessed to be 3,62,300 for only 10% of the total disabled population in the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee had noted with dismay that the number of professionals available for training/rehabilitation of the disabled i.e.20000 was too inadequate in view of the total number of disabled persons i.e. 18.49 million. The Committee had

therefore, strongly recommended that the Government should take urgent measures to ensure availability of optimum number of professionals for imparting training to the disabled as per established norms.

1.15 In their Action taken reply, the Ministry have stated that steps are also being taken to encourage various private institutions to take up training programmes to meet the requirement.

1.16 The Committee is perturbed at the casual way of the reply of the Government. The Committee are deeply concerned and feel that lack of adequate number of trained professionals would seriously jeopardize and hamper the rehabilitation programme of the disabled people thereby delaying their proper assimilation into society. The Committee therefore, once again urge the Government to ensure availability of optimum number of professionals for imparting training to the disabled as per established norms and herein, they can involve the private sector too.

## CHAPTER-II

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.2, Para 2.8)**

2.1 The Committee had noted that the budgetary allocation of the Ministry was reduced every year at RE stage. The Committee had been apprised that the basis of reduction at RE stage is the pace of expenditure upto 30<sup>th</sup> September, which is only 30% to 35%. The Committee had further noted that most of the schemes of the Ministry are implemented by the State Governments and NGOs. The State Governments are not able to submit their proposals along with their utilization certificates in time, which results in slow pace of expenditure and reduction at RE stage. In the opinion of the Committee most of the schemes/programmes of the Ministry relate to development and welfare of the marginalized sections including Scheduled Castes, OBCs, Minorities and the disabled. The Committee had, therefore, desired that keeping in view the practical difficulty of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the interest of the weaker sections, the Ministry of Finance should be persuaded to take a lenient view and avoid drastic cuts at RE stage in allocations.

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

2.2 Upto September, 2004, the Ministry had spent Rs.616.66 crore (41.33%) against an allocation of Rs. 1492 crore which was the highest in the last eight years for the same period. A letter has also been written to the Ministry of Finance, Department of expenditure conveying the expenditure level up to September 2004 and requesting that RE be maintained at the level of BE.

**(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(P.S) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.6, Para 3.15)**

2.3 Similarly, the Committee had recommended on many occasions during the last few years that in order to avoid diversion of SCA funds for other purposes, the States/UTs should maintain separate accounts of SCA funds, but it

was reported that only 19 States have so far opened separate budget heads for SCA funds. Further, the Ministry does not have the names of the defaulting States/UTs, which is very strange. The Committee were extremely disappointed and express their concern over this issue. The Committee strongly reiterated their earlier recommendation of opening up of a separate budget head of account of SCA funds by all States/UTs, so as to avoid diversion of funds.

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

2.4 A list of States that have opened Separate Budget Head and have furnished the details of the head is enclosed (Annexure). Remaining States have been reminded.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.9, Para 3.18)**

2.5 The Committee were constrained to note that a large number of potential beneficiaries for whose welfare the Ministry have formulated various schemes are unable to avail the benefits thereof as they are not even aware of the existence of those schemes. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should take effective steps in creating full awareness about the various schemes all over the Country. To meet this objective the Ministry should utilise the services of the audio-visual media, the print media and the village Panchayats.

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

2.6 The recommendation has been noted.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.10, Para 3.22)**

2.7 The Committee had noted with concern that the Ministry had drastically revised allocation of funds for the scheme of 'Upgradation of Merit for Scheduled Caste students' in anticipation of the replacement of the existing scheme with a new scheme namely "Merit Based Scholarship and Assistance to Meritorious SC

students for studying in residential public schools/premier institutions.” The Committee were extremely disappointed and expressed their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry had not been able to finalize their proposed modification in this scheme for the last two financial years due to procedural wrangles which have hampered the progress of this scheme. Keeping in view the pivotal role of this scheme in shaping up of the academic future of the SC students, the Committee strongly recommended that the Ministry thrash out the modalities of this new scheme with the concerned authority at the earliest, so that the bottlenecks holding the implementation of this scheme are overcome and the revised scheme can be implemented at the earliest. Further, the Committee had opined that implementation of the scheme in its present form should not be stopped until the scheme is fully revised and approved by the competent authority.

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

2.8 The existing scheme of “ Upgradation of merit of Scheduled Caste Students ” is being continued in its present form.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.11, Para 3.25)**

2.9 The Committee had noted that there were separate schemes for providing Hostel facilities to SC boys and girls and the Government is proposing to modify the existing scheme to provide for ‘Sangati Hostel’ jointly to students belonging to SCs, OBCs and Minority Communities for ensuring and enhancing such facilities and for integrating the weaker sections within the mainstream of society. The Committee had desired that while integrating the scheme, the Scheduled Caste students particularly Scheduled Caste girl students, should not be deprived of their legitimate share of number of seats in hostels.

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

2.10 The allocation of seats will be SC-45%, OBC-25%, Minority-10% Physically Challenged-3% (in tune with the current DOPT guidelines) and General Category-20% in order to bring the students into the mainstream

of development. The concerned State Government/University will have to ensure allotment of seats on this basis.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

**Recommendation (Sl.No.19, Para 7.2)**

2.11 The Committee had noted that the number of older persons who need State support for their care and protection was increasing year after year due to general improvement in health and their life expectancy. The Committee observed that there are large number of senior citizens who are not getting adequate State support for their care and protection whereas the government could not fully utilize even the meager budgetary provisions made for the purpose. The Committee had desired that the exact number of older persons may be assessed urgently and proper awareness about the Government schemes for their care and protection may be created to enable them to avail the benefit under the scheme. The performance of the NGOs engaged in this scheme should be strictly monitored.

**Reply of the Government**

2.12 As per Census of India, 1991 the persons above 60+ in 1991 were 5.66 crore. The size of population above 60 years of age in 2001 is yet to be made available by Census of India. The Ministry has been regularly monitoring physical performance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centers and Mobile Medicare units being run by NGOs with the financial support of the Ministry. During 2003-04 the Ministry deputed its officers for inspection of 170 voluntary organizations implementing the programmes. Efforts will also be made to further strengthen the monitoring mechanism

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

## CHAPTER-III

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.5, Para 3.14)**

3.1 The Committee had further noted that the SCA funds allocated during 2003-04 were lying unused with some State Governments like Bihar (Rs. 1237.53 lakh, Goa (Rs. 13.55 lakh), Jharkhand (Rs. 2117.13 lakh), Kerala (Rs. 712.44 lakh) and Punjab (Rs. 2084.62 lakh). The Committee were disappointed to note that despite several written requests from the Ministry, State Governments had not furnished the utilisation certificates so far. This clearly indicated that these State Governments were not fulfilling their commitment and obligation towards the poor SC beneficiaries and even the funds being provided by the Centre were not being utilised for their upliftment. The Committee were of the opinion that the matter should be taken up with the concerned State Governments at the highest level. The progress achieved may be conveyed to the Committee.

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

3.2 The matter is being taken up with the State Governments at the level of Chief Secretaries.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.15, Para 5.5)**

3.3 The Committee had noted that there was an overwhelming response to the educational schemes of the Foundation from all over the country. The Foundation had started some more schemes for the benefit of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the minorities like Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students, Maulana Azad Sadbhavna Kendra and training to girls in the trade of cutting and tailoring, Textile Designing, Arts & Crafts, etc. The Committee appreciate that the Foundation is providing useful services to the minorities. However, it was a matter of serious concern to the Committee that the required financial support to the Foundation, is not coming forward from the



Government. The remaining part of the approved corpus of Rs. 100 crore i.e. Rs. 30 crore have not yet been released to it, and instead grant equivalent to interest i.e. Rs. 3.75 crore has been released. The Committee had therefore, desired that the matter may be vigorously pursued with the Planning Commission and the Corpus Fund may be enhanced, so that the schemes of the Foundation do not suffer for want of funds.

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

3.4 As per the decision taken by the Planning Commission, based on a ZBB exercise the scheme of MAEF is to be weeded out after completion of its corpus fund to Rs. 100 crore. Last year, the Ministry was allocated Rs. 30 crore for this purpose, which was reduced to Rs. 20.32 crore at RE stage. Although the SFC meeting was held on 29.1.2004, the case could not be finalized with the Finance Ministry. In 2004-05 a token provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made. The balance allocation of Rs. 29 crores is to be released in the current year out of savings as suggested by the Planning Commission.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(P.S) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.17, Para 6.4)**

3.5 The Committee had noted that the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) had been established in February 2004 and that the budgetary allocation under the Non-Plan side is only to the tune of Rs. 1.44 crore. In the opinion of the Committee this meager allocation was woefully inadequate in view of the significance and ambit of its mandate. The Committee had therefore, desired that the budgetary allocation for the Commission should be suitably enhanced so as to ensure effective functioning of the Commission.

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

3.6 The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities has been wound up through Government of India Resolution notified on 20th October 2004.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(P.S) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

## CHAPTER-IV

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

#### Recommendation (Sl.No.1, Para 2.7)

4.1 The Committee had noted with concern that during 2003-04, the Ministry's Budget Estimate was Rs.1410 crore which was reduced to Rs.1250 crore at the Revised Estimate stage, and out of this reduced budget the Ministry could spend only Rs.1182.26 crore. The Committee had been apprised of various reasons for reduction of funds at RE stage and even less spending, such as the Ministry of Finance making the revised estimates on the basis of expenditure level upto 30<sup>th</sup> September, late receipt of proposals and utilization certificates from State Governments and NGOs resulting in utilization of funds to the extent of only 30-35%, non-utilization due to pendency of schemes for revision for years, unspent balance with institutes due to non-filling of posts, non-approval of awareness generation schemes, etc. Keeping in view the significance of the mandate of the Ministry, i.e. the upliftment of the most disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry should gear up its implementation and monitoring machinery and conduct periodic review meetings with the State Governments/implementing agencies and impress upon them to fully utilize the fund allocated under various schemes.

#### Reply of the Government

4.2 In 2002-2003 and 2004-05, meetings of States/UT Administrations Secretaries dealing with Social Welfare were held. During these meetings they have been requested to send the complete proposals alongwith utilization certificates of previous releases.

(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(P.S) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)

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

### **Recommendation (Sl.No.3, Para 3.12)**

4.3 The Committee had noted with serious concern that during 2003-04 some States/UTs with sizeable population have not allocated funds as per laid down guidelines; (Andhra Pradesh –SC population 16.20%, SCP outlay 7.39%,; Bihar – SC population 15.70% SCP outlay Nil; Haryana – SC population 19.30%, SCP outlay-Nil; Karnataka – SC population 16.20%’ SCP outlay Nil; Madhya Pradesh – SC population 15.20%, SCP outlay 7.07%; Punjab SC population 28.90%, SCP outlay Nil; and West Bengal SC population 23% SCP outlay 7.01%.) Keeping in view the fact that percentage of SC population is the basic criteria for allocation of funds by the Central and the State Governments, the Committee expressed their dismay at this abysmal scenario and desired that the State Governments be persuaded in right earnest to allocate funds as per their SC population, so as to get the entitled Special Central Assistance (SCA) share from the Centre.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.4 Special Central Assistance (SCA) is released to the States/UTs implementing Special Component Plan (SCP) giving weightage to Scheduled Castes population of the States/ UTs (40%), relative backwardness of the States/ UTs (10%), percentage of SC families in the States/UT covered by composite economic development programmes in the plans to enable them to cross the poverty line (25%) and flow of funds to Special Component Plan out of the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs (25%).

With a view to assisting the SC families living below the poverty line in an integrated manner and providing the required forward and backward linkages for various economic activities in a viable manner, 27 State Governments/UT Administrations having sizeable SC population were requested to formulate projects for utilization of Special Central Assistance in critical areas requiring intervention to bridge the gaps. The States/UTs are persuaded regularly through meetings and reminders to adhere to the norms laid down for SCP allocation/expenditure.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl.No.8, Para 3.17)**

4.5 The Committee further observed, as mentioned already, that funds are not being utilised properly by States/NGOs and they are not furnishing the Utilisation Certificates in time. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment shall furnish the details of funds allotted under the schemes meant for the welfare of SC population and non-utilisation of the same by the State Governments/NGOs to the public representatives of the area to act as watchdogs and to monitor the functioning of the schemes properly.

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

4.6 The Ministry releases funds to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations including schemes meant for welfare of SC population. State Governments/ UT Administrations furnish utilization of funds released under particular schemes for the State as a whole. District-wise allocation/ releases/utilization of funds are not maintained at the Ministry level. The Ministry will continue with the existing approach to pursue State Governments/UT Administrations to furnish utilization certificate of previous releases. In view of the position explained above it is not practically possible to furnish information to the public representatives of the area in respect of utilization of funds by the State Governments/UT Administrations for each district for all the schemes.

In case of non-governmental organizations second instalment of grant during the year is released only after the Ministry has received utilization certificate along with audited statement of expenditure. The Ministry has already placed list of voluntary organizations released grant for each year district wise on the web site of the Ministry ([www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in)).

### **Comments of the Committee**

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

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

4.7 The Committee had noted with concern that for giving training to about 18.49 million disabled persons in the country only 20000 professionals (out of the total 24000 professionals) are engaged in teaching/training of persons with disabilities. The requirement of professionals who give training to the disabled for their rehabilitation, as per 1996 RCI report, was assessed to be 3,62,300 for only 10% of the total disabled population in the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee had noted with dismay that the number of professionals available for training/rehabilitation of the disabled i.e. 20000 is too inadequate in view of the total number of disabled persons i.e. 18.49 million. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Government should take urgent measures to ensure availability of optimum number of professionals for imparting training to the disabled as per established norms.

**Reply of the Government**

4.8 Steps are also being taken to encourage various private institutions to take up training programmes to meet the requirement.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(P.S) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

**Comments of the Committee**

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

## CHAPTER-V

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

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para 3.13)

5.1 The Committee had noted that the Central Standing Tripartite Committee set up by the Planning Commission in 1999 had grouped all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India into three categories based upon the feasibility of earmarking funds under SCP and TSP. In category –III 30 Ministries/Departments have been grouped which are service oriented and also have activities of divisible nature. In its 30<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04) the Committee had recommended that out of the 30 Ministries/Departments only 14 had formulated their Special Component Plan and the remaining 16 Ministries/Departments were to be persuaded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for doing the same. Unfortunately no progress has been made in this regard. Therefore, the Committee took a serious note and strongly reiterated their earlier recommendation made in this regard. The Committee also further recommended that the Planning Commission should not approve the Annual Plans of the Ministries, which have not yet formulated the SCP for SCs.

#### REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.2 The Special Component Plan at the Central Government level involves participation of Central Government Ministries/Departments in formulating specific plans for the SCs as part of Annual Plans of respective Ministries/Departments. Those Ministries/Departments, which have not so far formulated Specific Plans for SCs in their Annual Plans, consultations were held with them on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2004 to do so. The recommendation of the Committee has also been forwarded to the Planning Commission for further action at their level.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para 3.16)**

5.3 The Committee had noted the recommendation of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes that the cultivable land should be distributed amongst the landless SC women from SCA funds. The land purchase scheme has been adopted in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for the upliftment of SC women. The Committee had therefore recommended that the Ministry should impress upon the other States to adopt this model, as it would lead to the socio-economic emancipation of SC women by making them self-reliant.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 All the States/UTs have already been asked to prepare proposals on the lines of the scheme of the Government of Karnataka. However, the land purchase scheme model specifically will be taken up with the other States/UTs.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

### **Recommendation (Sl.No.12, Para 4.3)**

5.5 The Committee had noted with dismay that the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides funds to State Channelising Agencies @ 3%, 2% and 1% interest respectively for various schemes, whereas, the SCAs are charging interest on the same @6%, 5% and 4% respectively from the beneficiaries. Thus, the SCAs are cornering away a sizeable share of interest by levying 3% as service charges. The Committee observed that this rate of interest is too high particularly in view of the current global scenario of falling interest rate and the poor financial condition of the beneficiaries. Besides, the Committee were of the strong view that the State Governments/UTs and SCAs are equally responsible and most have an equal commitment to contribute for the welfare of the OBCs. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the rate of interest charged by the SCAs should be rationalized and the State Governments/UTs should provide funds to their Channelising Agencies for building up their infrastructure.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.6 Like any other financial institutions under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the NBCFDC also provides service charges to the SCAs for proper implementation of NBCFDC schemes at the grass-root level. The service charges are kept at 3%. The service charges are to be utilized by the SCAs for the purpose of: -

Identification of eligible beneficiaries and their verification; Disbursement of loan, Recovery of loan from beneficiaries, Monitoring of the implementation of schemes at the grass-root level. Following the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry has also requested the State Governments/UT Adms. on 17-08-2004 to reimburse some of the expenditure incurred by the SCAs as they also have an equal obligation/commitment towards welfare of OBCs. It has been emphasized that if the States/UTs share some of the burden of the SCAs, then the service charges can be reduced considerably and the poor people belonging to OBCs will not be put to much hardship. The response from the State Governments is awaited.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(P.S) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

### **Recommendation (Sl.No.13, Para 4.4)**

5.7 The Committee had noted that the State Governments/UT Administrations had been requested to conduct surveys of OBCs living below the poverty line in their respective States/UTs, but only five States/UTs i.e. Haryana, Rajasthan, Tripura, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have furnished the information about the number of OBC families living below the poverty line. The Committee, therefore, once again recommended that the Ministry should take up the matter at the highest level with the remaining States/UTs to collect the necessary data so that welfare schemes for OBCs may be formulated as per their requirements and also budgetary allocations could be accordingly enhanced.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.8 The Ministry has been constantly pursuing the matter with the defaulting State Governments/UT Administrations. Barring State Governments of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh where there are no OBCs, no response has been received



from remaining State Govts/UT Admns. The defaulting State Governments/UT Admns. have been reminded again on 15-09-2004 to intimate the action taken for conducting the survey of OBCs living below the poverty line.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

**Recommendation (Sl.No.14, Para 5.3)**

5.9 The Committee had noted that keeping in view the percentage of minorities' population and their backwardness, particularly of the Muslims, being extreme, the budgetary allocation is very meager. The Committee also observed that there are very few welfare schemes formulated for the minorities. The Committee, therefore, recommended that more welfare schemes may be formulated for these sections of the society on the pattern of schemes in existence for the welfare of SCs and OBCs and the budgetary allocations be suitably enhanced.

**Reply of the Government**

5.10 The Government has decided to set up a National Commission to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities including reservation in education and Government employment. The Commission will submit its Report in a period of six months. The Government will consider its recommendations in due course.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

**Recommendation (Sl.No.16, Para 6.2)**

5.11 The Committee had noted that the ceiling of Rs. 6,000/- on the aids and appliances is meager in view of rise in price index and the fact that the objective of the scheme is to reduce the impact of locomotor, visual and other disabilities of serious impairment on the most vulnerable disabled persons. The Committee, therefore, desired that the Ministry should convince the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance about the need to increase the income ceiling as also the

ceiling on the cost of appliances to assist the needy physically handicapped persons.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.10 The Ministry is continuing its efforts and the scheme is at advanced stage of revision.

**(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment O.M. No.1-4/2004(PS) PREM dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2004)**

**New Delhi;  
18 March, 2005  
27 Phalgun, 1926(Saka)**

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

ANNEXURE – I

**LIST OF STATES THAT HAVE OPENED SEPARATE BUDGET HEAD OF ACCOUNT FOR SCA**

(As on 2.11.2004)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	SCA -Budget Head of A/c No.
1	Madhya Pradesh	SC Welfare 2225-01-277-4691
2	Tripura	2225-01-800-33-31-33 under demand No. 20
3.	Punjab	Matter is being taken up with the Finance Deptt.
4.	Uttaranchal	2225-01-0106
5.	Goa	2225-01-793
6.	Jharkhand	2225-01-0607
7.	Rajasthan	2225-01-793
8.	Karnataka	2225-01-793-0-00-State Sector 2225-01-197-01-02-District sector
9.	Pondicherry	2225-01-789(12)
10.	Chandigarh	2225-793
11.	Gujarat	2225-01-793
12.	U.P.	1601-03-80-8001
13.	Manipur	2225-01-793

14.	Delhi	2225-C-1-C-1 (1)(7)
14.	Delhi	2225-C-1-C-1 (1)(7)
15.	Bihar	2225-01-0602
16	Maharashtra	2225-01(01) Mahatma Phule BC Dev.Corp (2225-0225 2225-01(02) Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board (2225 0234) 2225-01(04) Sant Rohidas Leather & Charmakar Dev. Corp.(2225 0252 2225-01(06) Lokshahir Annabhau Dev. Corp. (2225 0272)
17.	Andhra Pradesh	2225-01-MH, 102 ECO Dev. – GH-10 CSS SH (15) SCA to SCP – 310/312
18.	Kerala	2225-01-793-99 S C A to S C P
19.	Sikkim	2225-01-01-793 S C A to S C P
20.	Orissa	2225-01-793 S C A
21.	Himachal Pradesh	2225-01-001-A00S Dte. Of SCs
22.	Chattisgarh	Demand No.15-64
23.	Haryana	2225-01-793 (Special Central Assistance)
24.	Assam	2225-793-818-09-SCA

## ANNEXURE II

### MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2005.

The Committee met from 14.00 hrs. to 15.15 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

#### PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

#### MEMBERS

##### LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Susmita Bauri
3. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
4. Shri Eknath M.Gaikwad
5. Shri Rupchand Murmu
6. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
7. Dr. R. Senthil
8. Mohd. Sahid Akhlaque
9. Smt. Pratibha Singh
10. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
11. Smt. Usha Verma

##### RAJYA SABHA

12. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
13. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
14. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
15. Shri Tarlochan Singh

##### SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. (Smt.) P.K. Sandhu - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary

2. XX XX XX

3. XX XX XX

4. XX XX XX

5. XX XX XX



APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE FIRST  
REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
I. Total number of Recommendations	19	
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government (Sl. Nos. 2, 6, 9, 10,11 and 19)	6	31.57%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies (Sl. Nos. 5, 15 and 17)	3	15.78%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which the Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee and which requires Reiteration (Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 8 and 18)	4	21.05%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are interim in nature (Sl. No. 4, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 16)	6	31.57%