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STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(2013 - 2014)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

FORTY-SECOND REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2014/Magha, 1935(Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 7.2.2014

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 7.2.2014



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2014/Magha, 1935(Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2013-2014)**

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
6. Smt. Rama Devi
7. Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal
8. Shri Mohan Jena
9. Shri Dinesh Kashyap
- *10. Shri Madhu Kora
11. Shri Kirodi Lal Meena
12. Kumari Meenakshi Natarajan
13. Smt. Mausam Noor
14. Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab R.
15. Smt. Sushila Saroj
16. Shri N. Dharam Singh
17. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
18. Dr. Naramalli Sivaprasad
19. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
20. Shri Kabir Suman
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

- **22. Shri K.R. Arjunan
23. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
24. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
25. Shri Mangala Kisan
- #26. Dr. V. Maitreyan
27. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
28. Prof. Mrinal Miri
29. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
30. Shri Mohammad Shafi
31. Shri Shivpratap Singh
32. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

* Shri Madhu Kora nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 18.9.2013.

** Shri K.R. Arjunan nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 7.9.2013.

Dr. V. Maitreyan ceased to be a Member of Committee w.e.f. 7.9.2013.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director
4. Smt. Shashi Bisht - Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2013-14) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Forty-second Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Thirty-seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2013. The Ministry of Minority Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 30.7.2013. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17.12.2013.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth 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.

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 2013
26 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

HEMANAND BISWAL
Chairman,
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-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2013-14 pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1.2 The Thirty-Seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2.5.2013. It contained 8 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :
Paragraph Nos. 2.22, 2.23, 2.28, 2.40, 2.65 and 2.78.

(Total : 6 -Chapter II)

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

(Total :Nil -Chapter-III)

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted :
Paragraph No. 2.52

(Total :1 -Chapter-IV)

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature:
Paragraph No. 2.51.

(Total :1 – 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 this Report.

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

A. Implementation of the various Centre Scheme and Centre Sponsored schemes

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.22)

1.5 The Committee noted that out of the total budgetary allocation of Rs. 3135.00 crore under Plan during the year 2012-13 the actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry was only Rs. 2165.62 crore (69.08%). As such, Rs. 969.38 crore, which could not be utilized, were ultimately surrendered by the Ministry. Notably, the Ministry of Finance reduced the budgetary allocation from Rs. 3135.00 crore to Rs. 2200 crore at RE stage during 2012-13 under the Plan Head, keeping in view the trend of expenditure till September 2012. The Committee deplored that no expenditure could be booked as the process of appraisal/approval of five schemes namely (i) Strengthening of State Waqf Board, (ii) Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies scheme for the students belonging to minority communities, (iii) Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community (iv) Support for students clearing Prelims Conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc. and (v) Skill Development Initiatives could not be completed during 2012-13. The Committee were however, apprised that out of the five, four schemes are likely to be approved by the Standing Finance Committee during the first quarter of the current financial year i.e. 2013-14 whereas the 'in principle' approval of Planning Commission of scheme for Strengthening of State Wakf Boards was still awaited despite good follow up by

them. The Committee found three distinctive reasons for 'surrender' of funds in respect of Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). These are:- (i) budget cut made by the Ministry of Finance at the revised estimates (RE) stage; (ii) non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from SWBs and many of the schemes could not be implemented (iii) the process of appraisal and approval of many of the schemes could not be completed during 2012-13.

The Committee were dismayed to note the budget cuts for various schemes at the RE stage, ostensibly due to the inability of the Ministry to utilize the funds for three quarters of the financial year and non-utilization of funds on account of non-receipt of proposals and utilization certificates. And yet again, in some cases the schemes could not take off at all for non appraisal and approval of schemes by the Planning Commission. The Committee are afraid if such a sorry State of affairs is not addressed, the entire range of Minority welfare and developmental schemes would become exercises in futility. The Committee, therefore, had recommended that Ministry should ask all the State Governments to send the proposals in the first quarter of the fiscal itself. Evaluation of proposals and release of funds should be made by the second quarter, and status report should be made available to the Committee on the progress made by the Ministry every quarter.

1.6 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply for Para 1.22 stated that:

"The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been noted for compliance. The following steps have been taken so as to ensure that the budgetary allocations are effectively utilized during 2013-14:-

- (i) The Ministry has taken steps to give wide publicity to generate awareness about the schemes/programmes for the welfare of the minority communities through print and electronic media. States/UTs have also been advised to gear-up extension activities to create awareness.
- (ii) Activity wise-lines have been drawn and communicated to the States/UTs under the Scholarships Schemes. Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS) launched for the Merit-cum- Means Scholarship scheme during 2011-12 was extended to post-matric Scholarship scheme during 2012-13. It has enabled

ease in application to students and also helped the States/UTs to process the application in an organized and fast manner.

- (iii) Letters have been sent to States/UTs which did not participate/performance well during 2012-13.
- (iv) The State Govts/UTs have been requested to hold monitoring meetings more regularly and sort out implementation or inter departmental problems so that funds are better utilized.
- (v) Regular review meetings with the officials of the State Government will be held to expedite the implementation of programmes/schemes. In addition, the officials of the Ministry will also visit States/UTs to review and inspect the implementation of projects under various schemes/programmes.
- (vi) A meeting with the Nodal officers of the State/UTs dealing with the scholarship schemes was organized on 4th April 2013 to discuss the status of implementation the these schemes and review of Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS). The issues relating to Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) under Merit cum – means and Post matric schemes were highlighted.
- (vi) Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured for implementation during 12th Five Year Plan. However, as a proactive approach the Ministry has already requested the State Governments concerned, where MsDP would be implemented during 2013-14, to prepare the project proposals costing upto Rs.10 crore for each of the identified blocks and towns/cities of the States/UTs and send it to the Ministry. In the conference of State Secretaries held on 08.04.2013, this point has been reiterated and all States/UTs have been requested to send the proposals at the earliest. During the 1st quarter of the current financial year 2013-14, the proposals amounting to Rs. 6.47 crore have been approved by the Empowered Committee. Further project proposals from Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal worth Rs.685.03 crore with Central share of Rs.578.54 crore have been approved by the Empowered Committee in July,2013. An amount of Rs.50.64 crore has been released to the States till 30th June 2013.

The scheme-wise status of release of funds under various schemes of this Ministry during the 1st quarter i.e upto 30.06.2013 is given below:-

(Rs. in crore)				
S. No	Name of the Scheme/Programme	BE (2013-14)	Funds sanctioned till 30.6.13	Remarks
Non-Plan Schemes				
1	Secretariat-Social Service	9.60	3.29	-
2	Other Social Services			

i)	National Commission for Minorities(NCM)	5.63	1.20	-
ii)	Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities (CLM)	1.54	0.32	-
3	i) Grants-in- Aid to Waqf	3.18	0.39	-
	ii) Grants-in- Aid to Central Waqf Council	0.03	0.00	Staff component yet to be approved.
	Total =	19.98	5.20	
Central Sector Scheme(CS)				
1	Grants in Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation	160.00	0.00	Yet to be approved by competent authority
2	Free Coaching & Allied Schemes for Minorities	25.00	2.05	-
3	Contribution to the Equity of NMDFC	120.00	0.00	Yet to be approved by competent authority
4	Research /studies , monitoring & evaluation of development Schemes for Minorities including publicity	45.00	11.60	-
5	Grant-in-aid to state Channelising Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme	2.00	0.00	Funds will be released in 2 nd quarter
6	Scheme for Leadership development of Minority Women	15.00	0.03	- Do-
7	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	90.00	0.00	Scheme is covered under DBT
8	Computerisation of records of State Waqf Boards	3.00	0.40	-
9	Interest subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas studies	2.00	0.00	Approved by competent authority, will be advertised shortly.
10	Scheme for containing population decline of small minorities	2.00	0.00	-Do-
11	Strengthening of States Waqf Boards.	7.00	0.00	-Do-

12	Skill Development Initiative.	17.00	0.00	Proposals likely to be invited in 2 nd Quarter
13	Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Services Commissions etc.	3.00	0.00	Approved by competent authority, will be advertised shortly.
	Sub-total(CS)=	491.00	14.08	
Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS)				
1	Merit-cum-Means scholarship for professional and technical courses of undergraduate and post-graduate	270.00	14.12	Process under DBT yet to be finalized
2	Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities in selected of minority concentration districts	1250.00	50.64	With the approval of project proposals for different States in July,2013 by the Empowered Committee the overall release of funds would be around Rs.350 crore by 15 th Augsut,2013
3	Pre-Matric Scholarships for Minorities	950.00	87.44	-
4	Post-Matric Scholarships for Minorities	548.50	0.00	Process under DBT yet to be finalized
9	* Secretariat-Social Service (IT)	1.50	0.09	
	Sub- total(CSS)	3020.00	152.29	
	Grand Total(A+B) =	3511.00	166.37	

1.7 The Committee note that two Central Sector Schemes (CS) having substantial budget allocation for the year 2013-14 namely Grants-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (Rs. 160 crores) and Contribution of the Equity of NMDFC (Rs. 120 crore) are yet to be approved by the competent authority. The Committee are apprehensive that due to delay in approvals, the implementation of these schemes would not be possible during the current fiscal. The Committee cannot brook such a callowness in granting approval rendering Rs. 280 crore idle and unused. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to direct its sincere efforts towards obtaining approvals for these schemes without further loss of time.

Another aspect for which the Committee are concerned about that the process under Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) is yet to be finalized. Obviously, without an effective mechanism in place, the intended beneficiaries cannot avail of the various fellowships and scholarships earmarked for the Minorities. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pay immediate attention to this aspect and apprise the Committee by 1.1.2014.

B. Free Coaching and Allied Assistance for candidates belonging to minority communities.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.51)

1.8 The Committee noted that a revised 100% Centrally funded scheme called Free Coaching and Allied Assistance for candidates belonging to Minority communities was launched by the Ministry in 2007. The objective of the scheme is to assist the economically weaker sections of students and candidates belonging to the Minority communities receiving coaching for group A, B and C services in Government. Asked to furnish the number of the beneficiaries who gained employment in Government/Private sector after availing benefits under the scheme during the last three years, the Ministry expressed their inability to submit the consolidated data for want of staff. The Ministry further submitted that the average duration of coaching/training course is 6-9 months, while the time taken to get the results of competitive examination or jobs/placement takes a much longer time. It was also stated that the candidates leave the institutions immediately on completion of course/training but the coaching/training institutes which are selected under the scheme must have 15% success rate in the past three years. The Ministry however submitted that data from these institutes whom they have funded and students who have gained employment in Government/Private Sector after availing training under the scheme since its inception, was available in the Ministry 'but the same will have to be compiled for submission to the Hon'ble Committee'. The Committee were surprised that such a vital data regarding the beneficiaries of Free Coaching and Allied Assistance Scheme, hundred percent funded by the Ministry is not being maintained despite the mandatory provision of the RTI Act (section 4 (1) (a) & (b). Moreover, it would be in their own interest if the Ministry compile the number of actual beneficiaries for proper appraisal of the budget allocated, the money released to the institutes and the number of candidates trained in the institutes, State and year wise. The Committee hoped that the Ministry would consolidate the data which is stated to be already available with them and upload the same on the 'website' of the Ministry.

They should also keep a trail of the expenditure and make regular assessment as to whether the money is being spent for approved purposes and the success rate of each institute receiving funds under the scheme.

1.9 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply for Para 1.51 stated that:

"The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance. The information has been called for from the Coaching Institutes. As soon as the information is received, this Ministry will consolidate the data of beneficiaries and upload the same on the website of this Ministry".

1.10 The Committee note the assurance of the Ministry to upload the consolidated data on the beneficiaries of their (the Ministry's) various coaching and allied assistance schemes by calling for the information from the coaching institutes. The Committee, however, find that the Government have not indicated any definitive time frame for collection, consolidation and uploading of the information, which in their view, should be done within 6 months of the presentation of this report and the Committee apprised.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.52)

1.11 The Committee had observed that during 2011-12 against the target of training/coaching 6000 students, the achievement was 7880 students. Similarly, 6636 students were covered (upto 21.03.2013) against the target of 6000 students during the year 2012-13. Modifications in the scheme have been proposed to improve both financial and physical performance from the year 2013-14. The rates for course fee payable to the institutions and stipend to the candidates are proposed to be kept at the maximum rate of Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 15000/- per course, while stipend from local and outstation candidate will be raised to Rs. 1500/- p.m. to Rs. 3000/- p.m. respectively. While expressing happiness on raising stipend from 1500/- p.m. to Rs. 3000 p.m., the Committee hoped that ministry would improve their achievement, both financial and physical performance, during the year 2013-14 under the scheme. However, considering that the achievements overshoot the target fixed for coaching the candidates, apparently, the target fixed were rather too modest and the Committee, therefore, had recommended that target fixed must be still higher and achievable.

1.12 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply for Para 2.52 stated that:

"The physical target of candidates/students to be covered under the Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for Candidates/Students belonging to minority communities during 2013-14 is 6,000. Out of this 6,000, at least 900 students will be pursuing classes XI & XII with Science subject (PCB/PCM) under the new component of the scheme in 9 (Nine) States/UTs on pilot basis. The average cost per student under the new component will be upto Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum. The stipend amount under the scheme has now been doubled (i.e. 2013-14). There are also committed liability in the form of pending 2nd installment to Institutions/Organizations which would be liable for release during 2013-14".

1.13 The Committee have noted the physical target set by the Ministry in regard to Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for candidates/students belonging to Minority communities during 2013-14 which is 6,000. Surprisingly , this figure was also the same for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13. Keeping in view the fact that in both the previous years the achievements (7880 and 6636 respectively) were substantially higher than the set target, the Committee had recommended that a realistic target should be fixed. Apparently, the recommendations of the Committee has not been given due consideration as is evident from the fact that the target for the year 2013-14 has again been set at 6000. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to correct the anomalous situations and set higher but achievable targets keeping in view the past achievements. In the wake of revision of the stipulated amount which has now been doubled, the Committee desire that funds for this scheme should also be enhanced commensurately.

CHAPTER – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.22)

2.1 The Committee note that out of the total budgetary allocation of Rs. 3135.00 crore under Plan during the year 2012-13 the actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry was only Rs. 2165.62 crore (69.08%). As such, Rs. 969.38 crore, which could not be utilized, were ultimately surrendered by the Ministry. Notably, the Ministry of Finance reduced the budgetary allocation from Rs. 3135.00 crore to Rs. 2200 crore at RE stage during 2012-13 under the Plan Head, keeping in view the trend of expenditure till September 2012. The Committee deplore that no expenditure could be booked as the process of appraisal/approval of five schemes namely (i) Strengthening of State Waqf Board, (ii) Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies scheme for the students belonging to minority communities, (iii) Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community (iv) Support for students clearing Prelims Conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc. and (v) Skill Development Initiatives could not be completed during 2012-13. The Committee were however, apprised that out of the five, four schemes are likely to be approved by the Standing Finance Committee during the first quarter of the current financial year i.e. 2013-14 whereas the 'in principle' approval of Planning Commission of scheme for Strengthening of State Wakf Boards was still awaited despite good follow up by them. The Committee found three distinctive reasons for 'surrender' of funds in respect of Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). These are:- (i) budget cut made by the Ministry of Finance at the revised estimates (RE) stage; (ii) non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from SWBs and many of the schemes could not be implemented (iii) the process of appraisal and approval of many of the schemes could not be completed during 2012-13.

The Committee are dismayed to note the budget cuts for various schemes at the RE stage, ostensibly due to the inability of the Ministry to utilize the funds for three quarters of the financial year and non-utilization of funds on account of non-receipt of proposals and utilization certificates. And yet again, in some cases the schemes could not take off at all for non appraisal and approval of schemes by the Planning Commission. The Committee are afraid if such a sorry State of affairs is not addressed, the entire range of Minority welfare and developmental schemes would become exercises in futility. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should ask all the State Governments to send the proposals in the first quarter of the fiscal itself. Evaluation of proposals and release of funds should be made by the second quarter, and status report should be made available to the Committee on the progress made by the Ministry every quarter.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been noted for compliance. The following steps have been taken so as to ensure that the budgetary allocations are effectively utilized during 2013-14:-

- (i) The Ministry has taken steps to give wide publicity to generate awareness about the schemes/programmes for the welfare of the minority communities through print and electronic media. States/UTs have also been advised to gear-up extension activities to create awareness.
- (ii) Activity wise-lines have been drawn and communicated to the States/UTs under the Scholarships Schemes. Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS) launched for the Merit-cum- Means Scholarship scheme during 2011-12 was extended to post-matric Scholarship scheme during 2012-13. It has enabled ease in application to students and also helped the States/UTs to process the application in an organized and fast manner.
- (iii) Letters have been sent to States/UTs which did not participate/perform well during 2012-13.
- (iv) The State Govts/UTs have been requested to hold monitoring meetings more regularly and sort out implementation or inter departmental problems so that funds are better utilized.

- (v) Regular review meetings with the officials of the State Government will be held to expedite the implementation of programmes/schemes. In addition, the officials of the Ministry will also visit States/UTs to review and inspect the implementation of projects under various schemes/programmes.
- (vi) A meeting with the Nodal officers of the State/UTs dealing with the scholarship schemes was organized on 4th April 2013 to discuss the status of implementation of these schemes and review of Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS). The issues relating to Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) under Merit cum – means and Post matric schemes were highlighted.
- (vi) Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured for implementation during 12th Five Year Plan. However, as a proactive approach the Ministry has already requested the State Governments concerned, where MsDP would be implemented during 2013-14, to prepare the project proposals costing upto Rs.10 crore for each of the identified blocks and towns/cities of the States/UTs and send it to the Ministry. In the conference of State Secretaries held on 08.04.2013, this point has been reiterated and all States/UTs have been requested to send the proposals at the earliest. During the 1st quarter of the current financial year 2013-14, the proposals amounting to Rs. 6.47 crore have been approved by the Empowered Committee. Further project proposals from Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal worth Rs.685.03 crore with Central share of Rs.578.54 crore have been approved by the Empowered Committee in July,2013. An amount of Rs.50.64 crore has been released to the States till 30th June 2013.

The scheme-wise status of release of funds under various schemes of this Ministry during the 1st quarter i.e upto 30.06.2013 is given below:-

(Rs. in crore)				
S. No	Name of the Scheme/Programme	BE (2013-14)	Funds sanctioned till 30.6.13	Remarks
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2	Other Social Services			
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ii)	Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities (CLM)	1.54	0.32	-
3	i) Grants-in- Aid to Waqf	3.18	0.39	-

	ii) Grants-in- Aid to Central Waqf Council	0.03	0.00	Staff component yet to be approved.
	Total =	19.98	5.20	
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5	Grant-in-aid to state Channelising Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme	2.00	0.00	Funds will be released in 2 nd quarter
6	Scheme for Leadership development of Minority Women	15.00	0.03	- Do-
7	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	90.00	0.00	Scheme is covered under DBT
8	Computerisation of records of State Waqf Boards	3.00	0.40	-
9	Interest subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas studies	2.00	0.00	Approved by competent authority, will be advertised shortly.
10	Scheme for containing population decline of small minorities	2.00	0.00	-Do-
11	Strengthening of States Waqf Boards.	7.00	0.00	-Do-
12	Skill Development Initiative.	17.00	0.00	Proposals likely to be invited in 2 nd Quarter
13	Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Services Commissions etc.	3.00	0.00	Approved by competent authority, will be advertised shortly.
	Sub-total(CS)=	491.00	14.08	

Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS)				
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4	Post-Matric Scholarships for Minorities	548.50	0.00	Process under DBT yet to be finalized
9	* Secretariat-Social Service (IT)	1.50	0.09	
	Sub- total(CSS)	3020.00	152.29	
	Grand Total(A+B) =	3511.00	166.37	

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July,2013)

Comments of Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.23)

2.3 The Committee note that Muslim community is lagging behind in education and job sector in comparison to other minority community. The large drop out rates at the secondary and higher secondary level is stated to be the main reason for this. The Ministry have however, stated that due to their constant endeavor through various schemes dedicated to the Minority community like Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme, the situation has improved in the

recent years and the all round effect would be visible once the data of census 2011 becomes available. Literacy rate among Muslims in rural and urban areas for the year 1999-2000 and 2007-08 has registered a marked improvement from 52.1% to 63.5% and from 69.8% to 75.1% respectively. The Committee are also pleased to note that the recruitment of minorities in Central Government jobs has increased from 6.93% in 2006-07 to 11.55% in 2010-11. While appreciating the efforts of the Ministry for improving the standard of the living conditions of the minority communities, the Committee observe that the results for the utilization of funds, which constitute only 0.67% of the total budget of the Government of India for the year 2013-14, available to the Ministry, are far from adequate as there are still large number of Muslim inhabited areas in the country where light of progress is yet to reach. The Committee note that despite marked improvement in the developmental indices of the Muslims, the community lags behind the national average. The Committee wish to caution that developmental disparities and growth asymmetry between socio-religious groups runs counter to the philosophy of inclusive growth and remind of the dictum that poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere.

The Committee, therefore, recommend undertaking a special drive by forming monitoring Committees in each of the minority concentration blocks, involving local MPs, MLAs and community leaders in collaboration with the State Governments to accelerate the development of these blocks under various schemes. The Committee are of the considered view that the nation can gain the advantages of its demographic curve if all vertical and horizontal divides and socio-economic disparities are removed by fast-pacing the development of all backward and neglected minority concentration blocks.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance.

Ministry of Minority Affairs places special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of schemes and programmes being implemented by the Ministry for which comprehensive multi-level

system of monitoring of its programmes has been evolved. Monitoring mechanism is in-built in each scheme to ensure that objectives are achieved.

In the restructured Multi-sectoral Development Programme it has been envisaged that there would be a Block Level Committee (BLC) in each of the minority concentration block. The illustrative constitution of Block Level Committee is given below:-

Block Level Committee

(i)	Block Level Committee of Panchayati raj	Chairman
(ii)	Block Development Officer	Co- chairman
(iii)	Block Level Officer of education	Member
(iv)	Block Level Officer of Health	Member
(v)	Block Level Officer of ICDS	Member
(vi)	Block Level Officer for Welfare	Member
(vii)	Local lead bank officer	Member
(viii)	Principal of ITI, if any	Member
(ix)	Three Representative nominated by DM/NGO/Civil society working for minorities.	

The committee would prepare the plan for development of block under MsDP and monitor the implementation of the projects approved.

Further, there are District and State Level Committees for monitoring 15 Point Programme. The involvement of peoples representatives like MPs, MLAs and PRI members has been ensured in this monitoring mechanism. MPs and MLAs have been included as members at the appropriate levels of district and state to monitor the progress of MsDP and 15 Point Programme. BLC being a grass root level body, involvement of PRI has been stressed at this level. Block Level head of the Panchayati Raj Institution has been proposed as chairman of the Block Level Committee (BLC).

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July,2013)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.28)

2.5 The Committee note that the scheme of grants-in-aid to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) for strengthening of their infrastructure was launched during 2007-08 and Rs. 2 crore, Rs. 3.83 crore and Rs. 1.35 crore were released during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. The Committee are dismayed to note that no funds have been released during the year 2012-13. The Ministry have reasoned that adequate proposals were not received from SCAs. Also some of the SCAs are not operational and funds cannot be released to such SCAs. Some SCAs are not able to submit UCs as they have not utilized the previous funds released to them because of the ceiling limits fixed for various categories of expenditure. The Committee are however happy to note that Grants-in-aid scheme has been modified to make it more effective by removing ceiling limits of 90% (from centre) and 10% (from States) and making it a 100% Central Sector scheme. The Committee hope the SCAs will take full benefit of the fully funded Central scheme. The Ministry should also revise their timeline and insist that SCAs send their recommendations well in advance i.e. the first quarter of the year itself so that funds earmarked do not remain unutilized.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The Meeting of Standing Finance Committee (SFC) was held on 14th March, 2013 for continuation and amendment of the Scheme for Grants in aid to State Channelising Agencies” of NMDFC during 12th Five Year Plan. The Scheme has been approved by the competent authority i.e. Minister of Minority Affairs. As per the revised scheme, the following timelines have been fixed, in order to ensure that funds do not remain unutilized:-

- (1) SCAs will required to submit their proposals under this scheme by 31st May of every financial year.
- (2) NMDFC would examine these proposals of SCAs and submit a consolidated proposal, for release of funds, to the Ministry by 15th June.
- (3) The consolidated proposal would be examined by the Ministry and fund be released by 30th June.

Further, the ceiling limits have been removed and the components have been made more focused.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July,2013)

Recommendation (SI. No. 4, Para No. 2.40)

2.7 The Committee note that Government launched the laudable scheme for leadership development of minority women with a view to empowering them so that they move out of the confines of their home and community, assert their rights and become equal partner in the developmental drive of the nation. The scheme was formulated in the year 2011-12 but implementation took off in 2012-13 with a RE of Rs. 12.80 crore of which almost 92% could be utilized by releasing funds to 64 NGOs across 12 States based on mandatory processing weightage criteria. The Committee are far from enthused with the tardy implementation of the scheme. Considering the potential of the scheme and the enormity of the challenge of empowerment and given the zeal and motivation of modern women belonging to minority communities, the Committee recommend that the budget allocation be commensurately enhanced and the scheme monitored rigorously.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance. The observations of the Hon'ble Committee have also been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission with the request to enhance the allocation under the scheme. Accordingly, this Ministry will make all efforts to cover larger number of minority women under the scheme.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated July ,2013)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 2.65)

2.9 The Committee note that the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) was established in 1989 as a voluntary, non-political, non-profit making Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with the objectives of formulating and implementing educational schemes and plans for the benefit of the weaker sections in general and the educationally backward minorities in particular, to facilitate establishment of residential schools especially for girls. MAEF's schemes are of two types viz. (i) Grants-in-aid to NGOs for construction and expansion of schools/hostels, technical/vocational training centres with emphasis on girl students and (ii) Scholarships to meritorious girl students. The Committee regret to note that funds could not be released as the scheme could not be approved during the year 2012-13. The reasons given by the Ministry in this regard is that after the new Minister took over in October, 2012, he reviewed all the schemes to be taken up during the 12th Plan for MAEF and suggested incorporation of changes/additions of scheme. Accordingly, the EFC note for augmentation of corpus funds of MAEF was withdrawn. It was submitted that new EFC note is being circulated and that the corpus fund of MAEF is proposed to be raised from the existing Rs. 750 crore to Rs. 1500 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan. Further, the budget allocation for MAEF during the 12th Plan period has been fixed at Rs. 500 crore. The Committee welcome augmentation of the corpus fund but they are anguished that the first year of the 12th Plan has elapsed and the new EFC note is still being circulated by the Government. The Committee strongly feel that implementation of the MAEF scheme would immensely help empowering the Minorities, specially girls students and they therefore recommend that the Ministry should pursue the matter with the Planning Commission for early finalization so that the scheme could be implemented during the year 2013-14 itself.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The draft EFC memorandum for enhancing the corpus fund of MAEF from the existing Rs. 750 crore to Rs. 1500 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultation. Comments/inputs received have been incorporated in the EFC memorandum and the same is under process to take a date from MOF for holding meeting of the EFC. The budget allocation for MAEF during the 12th Plan period has been fixed at Rs. 500 crore. However, Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2013-14 announced that the Corpus Fund of MAEF would be enhanced to Rs.1500 crore from existing Rs.750 crore, during the 12th Five Year Plan. The matter for allocation of additional amount of Rs.250 crore over and above the allocation of Rs.500 crore 12th Five Year Plan is being taken up with the Ministry of Finance. An amount of Rs.100 crore allocated for 2012-13 could not be released for want of approval of the competent authority. An amount of Rs.160 crore has been allocated for the Annual Plan 2013-14. The matter is being pursued with Planning Commission, as directed by the Hon'ble Committee, so as to ensure that the scheme could be implemented during the year 2013-14 itself.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July,2013)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.78)

2.11 The Committee note that Multi-sectoral Development Programme is undergoing Structural changes during the plan period of 2013-14. The first year of the plan period i.e. 2012-13, however, did not see any change in the original scheme of the programme. The Committee find that the MsDP is one of the most important programmes of the Ministry for addressing the issue of Primary education, basic health infrastructure, sanitation, pucca housing, drinking water, income generating activities, construction of connecting roads, etc. in Minority Concentration Blocks/Districts in rural and semi rural areas which is sought to be extended to

Minority Concentration towns/cities and cluster of Minority Concentration villages during the 12th five year plan. However, the Committee are distressed to note that the implementation of the programme continues to receive setback as funds are being returned/surrendered due to budget cuts, insufficient proposals, non submission of utilization certificates, etc. The Committee are alarmed that an important programme like the MsDP, which otherwise has an immense potential for changing the lives of million members of minorities with its vast sweep covering almost all the basic needs of the poor minorities across the country, is being rendered dysfunctional. The Committee, therefore, while welcoming the efforts of the Ministry to streamline the MsDP by restructuring it, recommend following the line of action suggested by them at Para No. 2.23 of this report.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance. The Multi-sectoral Development Programme has since being restructured and the position has been explained in reply to Para No.2.23.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July,2013)

CHAPTER – III

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER – IV

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.52)

4.1 The Committee observe that during 2011-12 against the target of training/coaching 6000 students, the achievement was 7880 students. Similarly, 6636 students were covered (upto 21.03.2013) against the target of 6000 students during the year 2012-13. Modifications in the scheme have been proposed to improve both financial and physical performance from the year 2013-14. The rates for course fee payable to the institutions and stipend to the candidates are proposed to be kept at the maximum rate of Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 15000/- per course, while stipend from local and outstation candidate will be raised to Rs. 1500/- p.m. to Rs. 3000/- p.m. respectively. While expressing happiness on raising stipend from 1500/- p.m. to Rs. 3000 p.m., the committee hope that ministry would improve their achievement, both financial and physical performance, during the year 2013-14 under the scheme. However, considering that the achievements overshoot the target fixed for coaching the candidates, apparently, the target fixed were rather too modest and the Committee therefore recommend that target fixed must be still higher and achievable.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The physical target of candidates/students to be covered under the Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for Candidates/Students belonging to minority communities during 2013-14 is 6,000. Out of this 6,000, at least 900 students will be pursuing classes XI & XII with Science subject (PCB/PCM) under the new component of the scheme in 9 (Nine) States/UTs on pilot basis. The average cost per student under the new component will be upto Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum. The stipend amount under the scheme has now been doubled (i.e. 2013-14). There are

also committed liability in the form of pending 2nd installment to Institutions/Organizations which would be liable for release during 2013-14.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July,2013)

Comments of Committee

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

CHAPTER - V

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.51)

5.1 The Committee note that a revised 100% Centrally funded scheme called Free Coaching and Allied Assistance for candidates belonging to Minority communities was launched by the Ministry in 2007. The objective of the scheme is to assist the economically weaker sections of students and candidates belonging to the Minority communities receiving coaching for group A, B and C services in Government. Asked to furnish the number of the beneficiaries who gained employment in Government/Private sector after availing benefits under the scheme during the last three years, the Ministry expressed their inability to submit the consolidated data for want of staff. The Ministry further submitted that the average duration of coaching/training course is 6-9 months, while the time taken to get the results of competitive examination or jobs/placement takes a much longer time. It was also stated that the candidates leave the institutions immediately on completion of course/training but the coaching/training institutes which are selected under the scheme must have 15% success rate in the past three years. The Ministry however submitted that data from these institutes whom they have funded and students who have gained employment in Government/Private Sector after availing training under the scheme since its inception, was available in the Ministry 'but the same will have to be compiled for submission to the Hon'ble Committee'. The Committee are surprised that such a vital data regarding the beneficiaries of Free Coaching and Allied Assistance Scheme, hundred percent funded by the Ministry is not being maintained despite the mandatory provision of the RTI Act (section 4 (1) (a) & (b). Moreover, it would be in their own interest if the Ministry compile the number of actual beneficiaries for proper appraisal of the budget allocated, the money released to the institutes and the number of candidates trained in the institutes, State and year wise.

The Committee hope that the Ministry would consolidate the data which is stated to be already available with them and upload the same on the 'website' of the Ministry. They should also keep a trail of the expenditure and make regular assessment as to whether the money is being spent for approved purposes and the success rate of each institute receiving funds under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted for compliance. The information has been called for from the Coaching Institutes. As soon as the information is received, this Ministry will consolidate the data of beneficiaries and upload the same on the website of this Ministry.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20011/3/2013-Budget dated 30th July ,2013)

Comments of Committee

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

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 2013
26 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

HEMANAND BISWAL
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 2013

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1515 hrs. in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
4. Smt. Rama Devi
5. Shri Mohan Jena
6. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

7. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
8. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
9. Prof. Mrinal Miri
10. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
11. Shri Mohammad Shafi
12. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened for consideration and adoption of the draft Thirty-ninth Report on the subject "Implementation of schemes for welfare of Senior Citizens", Fortieth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment), Forty-first Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) and Forty-second Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, Forty-first and Forty-second Report of the Committee without any amendment.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalize the draft Reports and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

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

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	8	
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.22, 2.23, 2.28, 2.40, 2.65 and 2.78).	6	75.00
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies -Nil	0	0
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted (Paragraph No. 2.52).	1	12.50
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph No 2.51).	1	12.50