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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2014-2015)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2014-2015)**

FIRST REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2014/Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2014-2015)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
- *3. Chh. Udayan Rajee Bhonsle
4. Kunwar Bharatendra
5. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
6. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
7. Shri Jhina Hikaka
8. Shri Prakash Babanna Hukkeri
- **9. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti
10. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
11. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
12. Smt. Maragatham K.
13. Shri Kariya Munda
14. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
15. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
16. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
17. Dr. Udit Raj
18. Smt. Satabdi Roy
19. Prof. Sadhu Singh
20. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
21. Vacant

MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Ahamed Hassan
24. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
25. Shri Prabhat Jha
- #26. Shri. Avtar Singh Karimpuri
27. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
28. Shri Praveen Rashtupal
29. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
30. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
31. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

* Chh. Udayan Rajee Bhonsle ceased to be a Member of the Committee w.e.f. 7.10.2014.

** Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti ceased to be a Member of the Committee w.e.f. 9.11.2014 consequent upon her appointment as Minister.

Shri. Avtar Singh Karimpuri ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent upon his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 25.11.2014.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Shilpa Kant - Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2014-15) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this First Report on Demands for Grants for the year 2014-15 of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the current year i.e. 2014-15 which was laid on the Table of the House on *i.e.*, 22.07.2014 in Lok Sabha and 24.07.2014 in Rajya Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) on 09.10.2014. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 17.12.2014.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired and tendering evidence before the Committee in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

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

NEW DELHI;

17th December, 2014
26th Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is responsible for looking after the welfare of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society such as Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Senior Citizens and victims of substance abuse. The basic objective of policies, programmes, laws and institution of the Indian Welfare System is to bring the target-groups into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant.

1.2 The population of the main target groups of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment as per census 2001 is given below:

Table 1.2: Population of target groups of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Sl. No.	Target Group	Population and its per cent in total Population (as per 2011 Census unless otherwise stated)
1.	Scheduled Castes	20.14 crore (16.6 per cent)
2.	Other Backward Classes	Caste Census has not been done since 1931. The Mandal Commission had estimated OBC population at 52 per cent of the total population while NSSO (2004-5) had estimated it to be 42 per cent.
3.	Senior Citizens	9.5 crore (7.8 per cent)
4.	Victim of Substance Abuse	Authentic data not available. At least 1 per cent of the population is believed to be addicted.

1.3 As per the Allocation of Business Rules 1961 the subjects allocated to the Department are as follows:-

1. The following subjects which fall within List III – Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution:

Nomadic and Migratory Tribes (entry 15, concurrent list).

2. To act as the nodal Department for matters pertaining to the following groups, namely:-

(i) Scheduled Castes;

(ii) Socially and Educationally Backward Classes;

(iii) Denotified Tribes;

(iv) Economically Backward Classes; and

(v) Senior Citizens.

3. Special schemes aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of the groups mentioned at (i) to (iv) under entry 2 above, e.g. scholarships, hostels, residential schools, skill training, concessional loans and subsidy for self-employment, etc.

4. Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers in alternative occupations.

5. Programme of care and support to senior citizens.

6. Prohibition.

7. Rehabilitation of victims of alcoholism and substance abuse, and their families

8. Beggary.

9. International Conventions and Agreements on matters dealt within the Department.

10. Awareness generation, research, evaluation and training in regard to subjects allocated to the Department.
11. Charitable and Religious Endowments and promotion and development of Voluntary Effort pertaining to subjects allocated to the Department.
12. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (22 of 1955).
13. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (33 of 1989), (in so far as it relates to the Scheduled Castes, excluding administration of criminal justice in regard to offences under the Act).
14. The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
15. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
16. The National Commission for the Scheduled Castes.
17. The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis.
18. The National Commission for Backward Classes.
19. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation.
20. The National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation.
21. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.
22. National Institute of Social Defence.
23. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
24. Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment shall be the nodal Department for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for the development of the groups mentioned at (i) to (iv) (Point 2) and the welfare of the group at (v) above. However, overall management and monitoring, etc. of the sectoral programmes in respect of these groups shall be the responsibility of the concerned Central Ministries, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Each Central Ministry or Department shall discharge nodal responsibility concerning its sector.

REPORT

A. GENERAL PERFORMANCE

2.1 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has given the following statement showing the Plan and Non-plan expenditure of the Department for the year 2013-14 and budgetary outlay for 2014-15:-

Table 2.1: Plan and Non-Plan expenditure

Head	(Amount in Rs crore)			BE 2014-15
	BE 2013-14	RE 2013-14	Actual Expenditure	
Plan	6065.00	5165.00	5084.86	6165.00
Non-plan	49.12	48.40	48.11	47.74

2.2 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have attributed the shortfall in expenditure in major schemes to (i) receiving of fewer proposals; (ii) formation of new scheme; (iii) less demand; (iv) non-approval from the Planning Commission; and (v) pending utilizations certificates. As regards Non-Plan expenditure, no remarkable shortfall has been reported and it was expected that the entire non-plan budget funds will be utilized.

2.3 When asked about the reasons for under-utilization of the funds and steps taken to arrest the trend of under-utilization under the plan schemes, the Department submitted that:-

“The Department is dependent for the utilisation of its budget allocations on a number of agencies, among which State Governments account for the largest share of the budget. In the year 2014-15, central assistance amounting to 84.58 per cent of the Budget was released to the State Governments for implementing the programmes and schemes of the Department. Other agencies through whom the schemes of the Department are implemented are:

- i) Non-governmental Organizations/ Voluntary Organizations,
- ii) Its own organizations like : NSFDC, NSKFDC and NBCFDC, and
- iii) National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)

Regarding improvement in the utilization of funds and ensuring better implementation of schemes, the following measures have been taken:-

- (a) Performance of schemes has been monitored through the quarterly/annual progress reports furnished by the State Governments/UT Administrations.
- (b) For the effective monitoring of all the schemes, Department of SJ&E have designated Bureau Heads and Divisional Heads as Nodal Officers for various regions and States/UTs. During the field visits of officers of the Department to States/UTs, discussions are held in order to identify constraints and to take corrective measures.
- (c) Department of SJ&E also organizes Bi-annual Conference of State Social Welfare Ministers and the Annual Conference of State Welfare Secretaries wherein, inter alia, all the schemes of the Department of SJ&E are reviewed. The last Conference of State Ministries was held on 22.8.2014.
- (d) There is Video-Conferencing with the State Social Welfare Ministers/Secretaries to monitor and review the implementation of Schemes. The last Video-Conference of the Ministers of the Northern and Southern States was held on 28.10.2014.
- (e) NSFDC, NSKFDC & NBCFDC also review the performance with State Channelising Agencies periodically.

2.4 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished the following statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure incurred during the year 2013-14 alongwith BE for the year 2014-15 as also statement showing scheme-wise surrender of funds during the year 2013-14 :-

	Programmes/Schemes	BE 2011-12	RE 2011-12	Exp. 2011-12 (per centage)	Shortfall/Excess Exp., if any, indicating reasons in brief (per centage Achievement)	BE 2012-13	RE 2012-13	Exp. 2012-13	Shortfall/Excess Exp., if any, indicating reasons in brief	BE 2013-14	RE 2013-14	Exp. 2013-14	Shortfall/Excess Exp., if any, indicating reasons in brief	per cent variation	BE 2014-15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Secretariat	1.00	1.00	1.01 (101)		1.00	1.48	1.35 (91.21)		2.00	2.70	2.99 (110.74)			4.00
S.No.	SCD Division														
1	Post Matric Scholarship	2218.00	2441.70	2711.19 (111.30)		1500.00	1500.00	1654.65 (110.31)		1500.00	1908.87	2153.00 (112.84)		-38.97 23.15	1500.00
2	Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs	10.00	10.00	6.96 (69.60)		12.00	6.00	5.38 (89.66)		12.00	12.00	8.95 (74.58)		-22.70 39.89	12.00
3	Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana	100.00	100.00	100.00 (100)	-	1.00	0.01	0.00		100.00	25.00	0.00		-	100.00
4	Strengthening of machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Right Act 1955 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	70.00	70.00	72.05 (102.92)		100.00	84.00	97.48 (116.04)		90.00	130.00	127.68 (98.21)		35.28 23.61	90.00
5	Girls Hostels	95.00	50.00	38.31 (76.62)	Due to fewer proposals	95.00	14.00	20.22 (144.42)	Due to fewer proposals	50.00	41.24	41.52 (100)	Due to fewer proposals	-47.22 51.30	50.00
6	Boys Hostels	50.00	35.00	27.60 (78.86)	Due to fewer proposals	50.00	13.00	15.59 (119.92)	Due to fewer proposals	25.00	11.25	7.94 (70.58)	Due to fewer proposals	-43.51 -96.35	25.00
7	Vol. Orgns. for SCs.	35.00	30.00	19.35 (64.50)	Due to fewer proposals	50.00	15.00	14.86 (99)	Due to fewer proposals	28.00	28.53	27.10 (94.99)	-	-23.20 44.43	50.00
8	Research & Training	2.00	0.35	0.20 (57.14)	Due to fewer proposals	2.00	2.00	2.00 (100)	Due to fewer proposals	2.00	2.00	0.26 (13)	Due to fewer proposals	- -	0.00

9	Pre-matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupation	80.00	70.00	63.65 (90.92)	- Due to fewer proposals	10.00	9.00	10.00 (111.11)	Due to fewer proposals	10.00	20.60	18.43 (89.47)	-	-91.03 69.02	10.00
10	State Sch. Castes Development Corporations	20.00	20.00	20.00 (100)	-	20.00	5.00	5.00 (100)	-	20.00	20.00	20.00 (100)	-	-	20.00
11	Up gradation of Merit of SC Students	4.00	4.00	2.91 (72.75)	Due to fewer proposals	5.00	5.00	1.97 (39.40)	Due to fewer proposals	5.00	5.00	4.38 (87.60)	-	-32.30 55.02	5.00
12	National SC Finance and Dev Corporation	80.00	85.00	85.00 (100)	-	100.00	100.00	100.00 (100)	-	100.00	100.00	100.00 (100)	-	17.65 0	100.00
13	Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan	775.00	675.00	656.40 (97.19)	-	1200.00	1050.00	872.05 (83.05)	Due to fewer proposals	1051.00	800.00	790.25 (98.78)	Due to fewer proposals	32.85 -10.35	1060.00
14	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation	1.00	1.00	1.00 (100)	-	1.00	1.00	1.00 (100)	-	1.00	1.00	1.00 (100)	-	0	1.00
15	National SafaiKaramcharis Finance & Development Corporation	50.00	45.00	45.00 (100)	-	50.00	50.00	50.00 (100)	-	50.00	50.00	50.00 (100)	-	11.11 0	50.00
16	Assistance to Students Belonging to SCs for pursuing study in residential public school	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-		0.00
17	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs	125.00	125.00	103.69 (82.95)	-	125.00	25.00	0.00	-	100.00	25.00	24.50 (98)	-	-100 -	200.00
18	Self Employment Scheme -Rehabilitation of Scavengers	100.00	35.00	0.00	-	100.00	20.00	20.00 (100)	Due to fewer proposals	570.00	70.00	35.00 (50)	Due to fewer proposals	- 42.86	448.00
19	National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	6.00	6.00	7.07 (117.83)	-	6.00	6.00	6.89 (114.83)	-	6.00	6.00	6.13 (102.17)	-	53.48 4.33	6.00
20	Top Class Education for SCs	25.00	15.00	14.82 (98.80)	Due to fewer proposals	25.00	15.00	16.67 (111.13)	Due to fewer proposals	21.00	25.00	24.52 98.08	-	12.48 31.60	21.00
21	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Memorial	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	14.00	0.01	0.00	New Scheme	14.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	-	10.00

22	BabuJagjivan Ram National Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00
23	Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs	200.00	200.00	0.00	New Scheme	824.00	938.70	931.37 (99.21)	-	900.00	700.00	545.90 (77.99)	Due to fewer proposals		834.00
24	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Centre for Social Justice and Empowerment	10.00	1.00	0.00	New Scheme	10.00	0.01	0.00	-	10.00	3.30	3.30 (100)	-	-	45.50
25	Venture Capital Funds for SCs	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	200.00
	Total: SCD Division	4056.00	4019.05	3975.20		4300.00	3858.73	3825.13		4665.00	3984.79	3989.86			4837.50
Social Defence Media and Research															
1	National Institute of Social Defence	10.00	7.00	5.00 (71.42)	Less Demand	10.00	5.00	5.00 (100)	-	10.00	10.00	8.10 (81.)	Less Demand	-	11.00
2	Scheme for prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse	41.00	31.00	35.33 (113.97)	Less Demand	40.00	17.00	17.92 (105.41)	Due to fewer proposals	45.00	28.12	25.41 (90.36)	Due to fewer proposals	-49.28 29.48	50.00
3	Research Studies & Publications	1.00	0.25	0.14 (56)	-	1.00	1.00	0.99 (99)	-	1.00	1.00	0.23 (23)	-	-	5.00
4	Information & Mass Education Cell	25.00	25.00	22.27 (89.08)	-	30.00	30.00	28.53 (95.10)	-	40.00	40.00	27.20 (68)	-	-	41.00
5	Assistance to VO's. for Providing Social Defence Services	5.00	3.00	3.00 (100)	Less Demand	5.00	3.00	3.00 (100)	Less Demand	3.00	3.00	0.99 (33)	Less Demand	-	5.00
6	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations under the Scheme of Integrated Programmes for Older Persons	40.00	25.00	19.99 (79.96)	Due to fewer proposals	40.00	18.00	18.21 (101.17)	-	45.00	21.95	15.54 (70.80)	-		50.00
7	Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of Old Age Home for Indigent Senior Citizens	0.00	0.00	0.00		80.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		-	0.00
8	Scheme for Monitoring of Schemes of the Ministry through State and District Level VMCs	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	8.00	0.00	0.00	Planning Commission did not	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00

									approve						
9	Awareness Generation for Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	2.00	0.01	0.00	New Scheme	-	2.00
10	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at District Level	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	5.00	0.01	0.00		-	3.00
11	Setting up of National Commission for Senior Citizens	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	0.01	0.00		-	2.00
12	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National Level	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	0.66	0.00		-	5.00
13	Creation of National Trust for Aged	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	0.01	0.00		-	2.00
14	Implementation of National Policy for Senior Citizens	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	0.01	0.00		-	2.00
15	National Survey to Assess the extent, pattern and trends on Drug Abuse and Substance Abuse	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	0.01	0.00		-	2.00
16	National Policy on Prevention on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		2.00	0.01	0.00		-	2.00
17	Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	10.00	0.01	0.00		-	11.00
18	Scheme for Tansgender Persons						0.00	0.00	New Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00		-	1.00
	Total Social Defence	122.00	91.25	85.73		214.00	74.01	73.65		173.00	104.81	77.47			194.00

Backward Classes

1	National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation	70.00	70.00	70.00 (100)	-	100.00	27.65	27.65 (100)		100.00	100.00	100.00 (100)		-60.50 72.35	112.00
2	Pre-Matric Scholarship to OBCs	50.00	45.00	40.69 (90.42)	Due to pending UCs	50.00	50.00	46.84 (93.68)	-	150.00	123.00	115.86 (94.19)	Due to pending UCs	15.0259.47	150.00
3	Asstt. To Vol..Orgns for OBCs	5.00	2.00	1.02 (51)	Due to fewer proposals	5.00	1.50	0.46 (30.67)		5.00	3.83	3.00 78.33)	Due to fewer proposals	-54.9084.62	6.00
4	Boys & Girls Hostels for OBCs	45.00	25.00	16.07 (64.28)		45.00	15.00	14.76 (98.40)		45.00	23.53	23.20 98.60)		-8.1536.38	45.00
5	Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs	535.00	535.00	527.99 (98.68)	Due to pending UCs	625.00	722.35	666.73 (92.30)	-	900.00	822.34	768.56 (93.46)	Due to fewer proposals	26.2813.24	785.00
6	Scheme for Educational and Economical Development of De-notified and Nomadic Tribes	5.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	10.00	0.01	0.00	-	5.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	5.00
7	Post Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Classes	5.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	10.00	0.01	0.00	-	5.00	0.00	0.00		-	9.50
8	National Overseas Scholarship for OBCs	1.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	5.00	0.01	0.00		5.00	0.00	0.00		-	6.00
9	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for OBCs and ECBs	0.00	0.00	0.00	New Scheme	50.00	0.01	0.00		10.00	0.00	0.00		-	11.00
	Total Backward Classes	716.00	677.00	655.77		900.00	816.54	756.44		1225.00	1072.70	1010.62			1129.50
	Grand Total	4895.00	4788.30	4717.71		5415.00	4750.76	4656.57		6065.00	5165.00	5080.94			6165.00

2.5 When asked to specify the reasons for under utilization of funds, the representative of the Department candidly admitted that:-

“Sir, you had asked in the beginning as to what provisions have been made in respect of non-utilization of funds fully. To this, we frequently reply that proposals from State Governments and the NGOs are not received timely. It is a matter of great concern for us. We have already told you by this presentation that more than 80 percent of our budget is spent through State Governments. We carry out many sorts of activities in this. Firstly, a Minister level meeting is held bi-annually with State Governments. Ministries from States come and one Minister holds meeting with them. Besides, our senior officers visit frequently and monitor these schemes, particularly the major schemes. They try to understand their difficulties and problems and provide guidance to them to enable them to do it. I would like to give just one data. You said that the last year’s budget was Rs. 6065 crore and the expenditure was Rs. 5084 crore. Sir, in this connection, I would say that every Ministry was affected at the time of making of these revised estimates which were perhaps made keeping in view country’s resources – constraints Rs. 1000 crore were curtailed in respect of our Ministry and our Revised Estimates was reduced to Rs. 5165 crore against Rs. 6065 crore. We had spent approximately more than 98 percent of the revised budget. Some gap always remains there. Due to certain reasons, it is not cent percent. There are two-three major reasons for this. First, in each of our schemes in the North Eastern States we are bound to earmark a minimum of ten percent, except only in schemes for the Scheduled Castes, but in four of our Northeastern States there is no OBC population. 10 percent of the funds earmarked for OBC focused schemes in the Northeastern States can’t be spent since the required number of proposals are not received and thus the funds get lapsed. Besides, there are some cases that have not ripened on part of State Governments, some flaw has been there in them, no document has been received, that’s why we could not prepare State Government or NGO proposals. In total, there remains a gap of 2-3 percent in respect of revised estimates. It would be our endeavour to reduce that also to the minimum”.

Proposed Outlay and Approved Outlay 2014-15

2.6 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have furnished the following statement showing the allocations sought from the Planning Commission in 2014-15 and the amount actually allocated to the Department.

Table 2.5: Proposed Outlay and Approved Annual Outlay 2014-15

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment					
Proposed Outlay & Approved Annual Outlay 2014-15					
Rs. in crs.					
Sl. No.	Division	Proposed Outlay	2014-15		
			Annual Outlay		
			BE (ROC)	NE	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	10755	4740.75	96.75	4837.50
2.	Other Backward Classes	5770	1016.55	112.95	1129.50
3.	Social Defence	254	133.14	14.86	148.00
	Misc. (Media Secretariat Research)	43	45	5.00	50
	Grand Total	16822	5935.44	229.56	6165

2.7 When asked about new schemes proposed in the 12th Plan, the Department furnished the following details of various new schemes/programmes and initiatives and their proposed plan outlay which have been incorporated in the 12th Plan document:-

New Initiatives/Schemes during 2014-15

Sl. No.	Subject	Rs. in crore
1	Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars	11.00
2	Post-Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Classes	9.50
3	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National level	5.00
4	Setting up of a National Commission for Senior Citizens	2.00
5	Creation of National Trust for the Aged	2.00
6	Implementation of the National Policy on Senior Citizens	2.00
7	National Policy on Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	2.00
8	Awareness Generation for Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007	2.00
9	Scheme for Transgender Persons	1.00
10	Scheme for the welfare of DE-notified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)	5.00
11	National Survey to assess the extent, pattern and trends of Drug Abuse and Substance abuse	2.00

2.8 The Committee are constrained to note the under-utilization of funds in Plan allocations of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2013-14. Against a budgetary allocation of Rs. 6065 crore for the Department, the revised estimates were reduced to Rs. 5165 crore while the actual expenditure was Rs. 5084.86 crore. The Department too admitted before the Committee that under-utilization of funds has been a matter of worry for them too. Delays in receiving of proposals from the State Governments and the NGOs have been the major cause for shortfall in expenditure of allocated funds. In the year 2014-15, central assistance amounting to 84.58 per cent of the Budget was released to the State Governments for implementing the programmes and schemes of the Department. Taking cognizance of the revised expenditure norms and in order to ensure that there is no reduction in allocation at R.E stage in any scheme, the Committee recommend that the Department must impress upon the State Governments to forward the proposals of NGOs well in advance so that they could be processed timely and pursue this matter with the State Governments. Similarly, the State Governments be also persuaded to send their proposals timely so that the funds are utilized fully.

The Committee also desire the Department to ensure proper co-ordination amongst State Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) to improve the utilization of funds with better outputs.

2.9 The Committee are glad to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has come up with new initiatives/schemes during 2014-15 which inter-alia include Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars with the Plan Outlay of Rs. 11 crore, Post-Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Classes with the plan outlay of Rs. 9.50 crore and setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National level with plan outlay of Rs. 5 crore. The Committee desire the Department to prepare a dedicated action plan and implement these schemes with proper co-ordination with State Governments and other implementing agencies in order to check under-utilization of the funds.

B. Development of Scheduled Castes (Education Schemes)

Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes

2.10 The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste students studying at Post matriculation or post-secondary stage, to enable them to pursue higher education. The scheme provides for 100 per cent central assistance to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations over and above their committed liability. The North Eastern States are exempted from committed liability. The Scheme was revised in December, 2010. The revision, which became effective from 1.7 2010 *inter-alia* include (i) maintenance and other allowances and (ii) regrouping of courses. The Scheme has been further, partially revised w.e.f. 01.04.2013. The annual parental income ceiling as an eligibility condition has been revised from existing Rs. 2.00 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh.

2.11 The details of budgetary allocation and central assistance released during last three years are as under:-

Table 2.21: Budget allocation and Central assistance released

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget allocation	RE	Actual Expenditure
2011-12	2218.00	2441.70	2711.19
2012-13	1500.00	1500.00	1656.60
2013-14	1500.00	1908.87	2153.00
2014-15	1500.00	-	-

Elaborating further on the details worked out in the implementation of the schemes, the Department has informed that under the scheme, based on the proposals

received from the State Governments under Centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for SCs, the scholarship is disbursed to students under (i) Post-matric scholarship (ii) Pre-matric scholarship scheme for students studying in classes IX and X and (iii) Pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations. Under these schemes, based on the proposals received from the State Governments in the prescribed format, due central assistance is released after deducting committed liability and taking into account the utilization certificates furnished and the unspent balance available. Ad-hoc central assistance is also released to the States to whom regular central assistance was released in previous years.

2.12 When asked to elaborate the process of disbursing scholarship money to the students, the Department informed as under:-

“We provide funds to the State Governments. Every State Governments has its own cycle of process, according to which they invite applications, process them, get them verified and thereafter, the funds are disbursed. Different States have different process. Normally, applications are invited at the time of commencement of academic session and the funds are disbursed in January, February or March. In some States there is delay in this regard. Therefore, endeavouring in this regard we have requested the States to put in place an e-scholarship portal. Certain States have done so. A national e-scholarship portal is to be put in place. It means, you put in a place a portal and the students would apply on that portal”.

2.13 Further, elaborating the process of Direct Benefit Transfer in disbursement of scholarship money, a representative of the Department stated:-

“The Direct Benefit Transfer has been implemented only in 121 districts of the country ... A digitized list from 121 districts would come to us through the State Governments digitally by the officers there. That digitized list would contain the name, bank account number of the beneficiary student, along with his/her Aadhar Number, if any. It doesn't matter if there is no Aadhar Number. But that should definitely contain the student's bank account number. With availability of this information with us, we may directly transfer the funds through our CPMS portal to their accounts. The funds shall be transferred on yearly basis, monthly transfer of funds has not been possible as yet”.

2.14 When the Committee enquired about enhancing the current rates of scholarship, the Department replied as under:-

“The rates under Post-Matric Scholarship (SC) were last revised with effect from 1.7.2010. A proposal was forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for enhancing the rates in consonance with the increase in consumer price index during 2013. However, the proposal was not agreed to as it was unable to assure enhanced allocation of funds under the Scheme, required for enhancing the rates”.

Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme for the Children of those engaged in ‘unclean’ occupations

2.15 The objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to the children of the parents traditionally engaged in unclean occupations like scavengers of dry-latrines, tanners, flayers and sweepers having traditional links with scavenging and those engaged in cleaning of manholes or open drains and rag pickers. 100 per cent central assistance is provided to the State Governments and UT Administrations, over and above their committed liabilities. The ‘Object’ and ‘Conditions of eligibility’ have been modified in 2011, in such a manner as to do away with the condition which restricts the scholarship to the children of only existing manual scavengers.

2.16 The Department informed that the Scheme was last revised in 2008. The revision that became effective from 1.4.2008 *inter-alia* includes change in the pattern of central assistance and increase in the rates of scholarship. It was further stated that the scheme was open ended as all the eligible students are entitled to receive the scholarship.

2.17 The Department forwarded the following figures for BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the previous years and BE for the current year:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget allocation	RE	Actual Expenditure
2011-12	80.00	70.00	63.65
2012-13	10.00	9.00	10.00
2013-14	10.00	20.60	19.05
2014-15	10.00	-	-

2.18 The Department elaborated the number of beneficiaries State-wise for the last three years as under:-

The State-wise breakup of the No. of Beneficiaries for the last three years under the Pre-Matric scholarship scheme for the children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations.

S.N	Name of State/UT	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
		No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	16603	0	0
2	Assam	5405	0	0
3	Bihar	9280	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	23492	23889	0
5	Delhi	0	0	0
6	Goa	200	0	250
7	Gujarat	306970	317901	375739
8	Haryana	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	1586	1818	1796
10	J & K	4336	0	0
11	Jharkhand	N.R.	0	0
12	Karnataka	4054	0	0
13	Kerala	1291	1687	0

14	Madhya Pradesh	35448	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	102317	0	155664
16	Mizoram	0	118	197
17	Odisha	1843	0	1427
18	Puducherry	N.R.	0	0
19	Punjab	6731	0	0
20	Rajasthan	95170	104058	79369
21	Sikkim	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	61354	0	0
23	Tripura	4310	5019	0
24	Uttar Pradesh	N.R.	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	1608	0	0
26	West Bengal	4239	0	4571
	Total	686237	454490	619013

2.19 The Committee note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is mandated to empower the Scheduled Castes through implementation of educational schemes, notably, Post-matric scholarship scheme and Pre-matric scholarship scheme for the children of those engaged in 'unclean occupations'. The Committee observe that the actual expenditure under both the schemes was much higher *vis-à-vis* budgetary allocation. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Department and desire that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance to increase the budgetary allocation for these Schemes. The Committee also observe that for quick and flawless disbursement of the scholarship money to the students, the State Governments have been requested to put in place a national 'e-scholarship portal' and the Direct Benefit Transfer System in 121 districts of the country under which scholarship money would be transferred directly to the Aadhar enabled bank accounts of the individual beneficiaries on yearly basis has also been introduced.

The Committee are dismayed to note that the beneficiaries get the scholarship at the fag end of the year due to cumbersome procedures which defeats the very purpose of the scholarship. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Department to simplify the procedures so the beneficiaries receive the scholarship on monthly basis that too at the start of the academic session. The Committee also desire that a national 'e-scholarship portal' be put in place at the earliest so that the students can apply directly on the e-portal which would, in turn, save time and enable the Department to transfer the funds more efficiently. Having noted the role of State Governments, the Committee desire that the State Governments be advised regarding benefits and importance of the scheme and

impress upon them to submit the proposals timely to make the system of Direct Benefit Transfer a success.

2.20 The Committee note that the proposal forwarded by the Department to the Ministry of Finance to enhance the rates of Post-matric scholarship for SC students has not been agreed to by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire the Department to take up the matter again with the Ministry of Finance with more effective reasoning such as popularity of the Scheme, keeping in view of the fact that the amount utilized under the Schemes is more than what has been allocated.

The Committee appreciate to note that the Pre-matric scholarship scheme for the children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupation has been revised and modified to *inter-alia* include changes in the pattern of Central Assistance, increase in the rates of scholarship and to make the scheme open ended to entitle all the eligible students to receive the scholarship without restricting the scholarship to the children of only existing manual scavengers. The Committee also observe that the number of beneficiaries, during the last three years, except eight States, is nil during 2013-14. As the amount released and utilized exceeds the amount demanded by the Department in 2013-14, the Committee wish to know the reasons for asking lesser funds/grant in 2014-15 and also the reasons for not utilizing the scholarship money at all by some States. The Committee recommend the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to seriously take up the issue with the State Governments where number of beneficiaries was 'nil'.

Scheme of up-gradation of Merit of SC students

2.21 The purpose of the Scheme is to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Caste students by providing them with facilities for all round development through education in residential schools. Under this Scheme, coaching is provided in linguistic skills, Science and Mathematics. The Scheme provides for 100 per cent central assistance to States/Union Territories for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Castes students studying in Classes IX to XII. Financial assistance is provided to students as a package grant of Rs.15, 000/- per year per student, out of which Rs. 5,000/- is for boarding and lodging, Rs. 1,000/- for pocket expenses, Rs. 2,000/- for books and stationery and Rs. 7,000/- for honorarium to Principals/Experts involved in providing the remedial/special coaching. Scheduled Castes students with disability enjoy additional benefits.

2.22 The Department informed that the Scheme has been revised with effect from 01.08.2013 and the major changes are as follows: (a) The number of slots for each State has been increased; (b) the rate of scholarship has been enhanced from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 per annum; and (c) the rate of Disability Assistance has been doubled.

The budgetary allocation for the Scheme during last three years and current year is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget allocation	RE	Actual Expenditure
2011-12	4.00	4.00	2.64
2012-13	5.00	5.00	1.97
2013-14	5.00	5.00	4.38
2014-15	5.00	-	-

STATE-WISE CENTRAL ASSISTANCE RELEASED & BENEFICIARIES COVERED DURING THE YEAR 2011-12 TO 2013-14 UNDER UPGRADATION OF MERIT SCHEME FOR SC STUDENTS

(Rs. in crore)

S.N.	States / Union Territories	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		Amount Released (Rs in lakh)	No. of beneficiaries	Amount Released (Rs in lakh)	No. of beneficiaries	Amount Released (Rs in lakh)	No. of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	44.40	296	0.00	0	225.79	1044
2	Bihar	43.80	292	0.00	0	0	0
3	Chhattisgarh	12.26	23	10.94	105	0	0
4	Gujarat	18.60	186	8.09	92	35.64	149
5	Haryana	13.20	88	9.60	64	6.50	26
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.30	2	2.00	8
7	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
8	Karnataka	17.70	188	23.70	188	38.45	188
9	Kerala	3.85	40	6.00	40	9.97	40
10	Madhya Pradesh	17.70	188	58.80	392	96.56	392
11	Punjab	0.00	0	4.04	27	0	0
12	Rajasthan	6.86	86	11.79	86	6.40	53
13	Uttar Pradesh	6.56	295	39.71	371	0	0
14	Uttarakhand	10.46	20	2.55	17	5.00	20
15	West Bengal	6.56	295	0.00	0	0	0
	NE Region					0	0
1	Assam	44.40	296	3.45	23	0	0
2	Nagaland	12.00	80	12.00	80	0	0
3	Sikkim	3.00	20	3.00	20	6.61	28
4	Tripura	3.00	20	3.00	20	4.91	20
	Total	264.35	2413	196.97	1527	437.83	1968

2.23 The Committee note that budgetary allocation for Scheme of Up-gradation of Merit of SC students is Rs. 5.00 crore for the year 2014-15 and was Rs. 4.00 crore in 2011-12 which the Department was even unable to utilize fully in the last three years. Receipt of fewer proposals from the State Governments/UTs was attributed as a reason for lesser utilization of funds, under Plan head. The Committee find that only a small percentage of SC students is getting access to the scholarship that too in some States. Having noted the above facts, the Committee advise the Department to take up the matter with the Planning Commission to increase the budgetary allocation for the schemes so as to cover more deserving students in accordance with the SC population in the country. The Committee recommend that the Department, in co-ordination with the State Governments, should monitor the Scheme and set a defined procedure to process the applications of SC students in a time bound manner to ensure that the eligible candidates get the scholarship in time and the funds too do not go unutilized.

C. OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

I Pre-Matric Scholarship to OBC students.

2.24 The Scheme intends to motivate children of OBCs studying at pre-matric stage. As such, scholarships are awarded to students belonging to OBCs whose parents/guardian's income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500/- per annum. The rates of scholarship to students under the scheme are as under:-

Day Scholars (per month)		Hostellers (per month)		Ad-hoc Grant (per annum)
Class I to V	Rs.25/-	III to VIII	Rs.200/-	Ad-hoc grant of Rs.500/- to all students i.e. hostellers as well as day scholars is given.
Class VI to VIII	Rs.40/-	IX to X	Rs.250/-	

2.25 It has been stated that, under the Scheme, 50 per cent central assistance is provided to the State Governments over and above their committed liability while in case of UTs 100 per cent central assistance is provided. However, North-Eastern States are exempted from committed liability under the Scheme. The States/UTs have been asked to distribute scholarships through Banks/Post Offices. The Department furnished the following figures for BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on the Scheme as follows:-

(Rs in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2011-12	50.00	45.00	40.69
2012-13	50.00	50.00	46.84
2013-14	150.00	123.00	115.86
2014-15	150.00	-	-

The reason advanced by the Department for under utilization of the funds is the pendency of Utilization Certificates from State Governments/UTs.

2.26 In response to a query of the Committee, the Department informed that the rates of the scholarship were fixed in 1998-99. Regarding the revision of rates of scholarship the Department stated that it has been proposed in the 12th Plan period for enhancement under the composite scheme (Umbrella Scheme) of “Development of OBCs”.

2.27 Elaborating the process of disbursement of the scholarship money to the OBC students, the Department, in a written reply, submitted as under:-

“The Ministry implements the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for OBCs through State Governments/Union Territories. Every year the total budget provided under the scheme is bifurcated and released to States/UTs Administrations on notional allocation based on their total population [as per 2011 census data]. The Notional Allocation is conveyed to the States/UTs at the beginning of the financial year and they are requested to send proposals within their notional allocation. After receipt of the Central Assistance, the State Government/UT Administrations select the beneficiaries and disburse the scholarship amounts to the students”.

2.28 The Committee note that the Pre-matric scholarship to OBC students aims at motivating children of OBCs studying at Pre-matric stage. The Committee find that a miniscule amount of scholarship money is given to the students under the Pre-matric scholarship scheme for OBCs, both for the day scholars as well as for hostellers, which appears too less, to achieve the intended purpose. The Committee recommend that not only more funds be infused in this scheme but also the rates of scholarship be revised without delay. The Committee also desire that the income ceiling should also be revised and implemented with immediate effect so that more children can be covered under the Scheme in accordance with the OBC population in the country.

The Committee are concerned over under-utilization of funds due to pendency of Utilization Certificates from the State Governments/UTs. The Committee exhort the Department to take firm and effective measures, have better and more stringent monitoring and co-ordination with State Governments/UTs to ensure timely receiving of UCs from them.

**New Delhi;
17th December, 2014
26th Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)**

**RAMESH BAIS,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Social Justice
and Empowerment.**

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 2014

The Committee met from 1130 hrs. to 1725 hrs. in Committee Room No. 139, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

3. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
4. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti
5. Shri Kariya Munda
6. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Smt. Satabdi Roy

RAJYA SABHA

8. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
9. Shri Ahamed Hassan
10. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Shri Anoop Kumar Srivastava	Additional Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
2.	Shri Sanjiv Kumar	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
3.	Shri B.L. Meena	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
4.	Ms. Ghazala Meenai	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
5.	Shri Sujata Sharma	Economic Advisor, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
6.	Shri Shyam Kapoor	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
7.	Shri Mukut Singh	Deputy Director General, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
8.	Ms. Kiran Puri	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
9.	Shri R.K. Singh	CMD, NSFDC
10.	Shri M. Nagaraj	Managing Director, NSKFDC
11.	Shri A.A. Naqvi	Managing Director, NBCFDC

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Shri Anoop Kumar Srivastava, Additional Secretary and other officers of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and

invited their attention to the provisions contained in Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The Chairman, thereafter, asked the Secretary to brief the Committee on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to his Ministry.

4. The Secretary then briefed the Committee about the performance of the Department, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Department are as follows :-

- (i) Scholarship schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Caste students (Pre-matric as well as Post-matric).
- (ii) Provision of hostels for Scheduled Caste students specially for girl students.
- (iii) Under utilization of the funds provided to the Department for welfare of Scheduled Castes students.
- (iv) Meagre amount of scholarship money to the Scheduled Castes students and diversion of scholarship money provided to the State Governments.
- (v) Schemes relating to Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Drug Abuse.
- (vi) Non-utilization of funds allocated for the welfare of OBCs in North Eastern States.

5. The representatives of the Department also responded to the queries by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairman directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat within a week.

6. The Chairman then thanked the Additional Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and

Empowerment) for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner on various issues raised by the Members.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting was kept for record.

[The representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) then withdrew]

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2014.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1610 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra
4. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
6. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
7. Smt. Maragatham K.
8. Prof. A.S.R. Naik

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
10. Shri Ahamed Hassan
11. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
12. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
13. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the First, Second, Third and Fourth Reports on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment (Departments of Social Justice and Empowerment and Disability Affairs), Tribal Affairs and Minority Affairs respectively, Fifth Report on "The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014" and Sixth Report on "The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014".

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the above Reports without modifications and authorized the Chairman to finalize these draft Reports and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.