

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

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants- 2014-15 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

EIGHTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2015/Shravana, 1937(Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.8.2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.8.2015



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2015/Shravana, 1937(Saka)

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

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

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

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

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

Nominated w.e.f. 22.12.2014

Nominated w.e.f. 29.1.2015

* Nominated w.e.f. 25.3.2015

** Shri Dilip singh Bhuria expired on 24.6.2015

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director
4. Smt. Shashi Bisht - Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, 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 Eighteenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2014-15 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 2014. The Ministry of Minority Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 16th June, 2015. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 6.8.2015.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth 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;
6 August, 2015
15 Shravana, 1937 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2014-15 pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1.2 The Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 2014. It contained eight 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. 2.7, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.29, 2.40, 2.41 and 2.50)

(Total : 8, 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 and which require reiteration :

Nil

(Total : Nil, Chapter -IV)

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

Nil

(Total : Nil, Chapter -V)

1.3 The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I 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. GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

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

1.5 The Committee noted from the reply of the Government that the Ministry of Finance reduced the budgetary allocation from ₹3511 crore to ₹3111 crore under Plan Head at RE stage during 2013-14 keeping in view the trend of expenditure till September 2013. The Committee were unhappy to observe that year after year, the Ministry of Finance had to decrease the allocations at the RE stage mainly because of under spending by the Ministry. The Committee were further dismayed that even the revised allocations were not utilized by the Ministry resulting in eventual surrender of substantial amount every year. With the consistently less spending every year by the Ministry, important schemes like, Multi-sectoral Development Programme, Contribution to equity of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, and Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students have been affected. The Committee had strongly recommended a complete revamp of the implementation machinery so that the allocated funds are utilized prudently and optimally.

1.6 The Ministry in their Action taken note have stated:

“In this para, the Committee has recommended that a complete revamp of the implementation machinery may be undertaken so that allocated funds are utilized prudently and promptly.

2. In this connection, it is stated that the scheme relating to contribution of equity to NMDFC had been delayed, as the proposal to enhance the authorized share capital of NMDFC could not be approved by the Government till February, 2015. Hence, provision made in BE/RE for this purpose had to be surrendered. Approval of Government for enhancement of the authorized share capital of NMDFC from Rs.1500 crore to Rs.3000 crore, with the Central Government share at 73%, States/ UTs share at the 26% and individuals/institutions share at 1%, having been received in February, 2015 a sum of Rs.30 crore had been released to NMDFC during 2014-15.

3. Scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students has not been affected by the cut imposed by Ministry of Finance on the budgetary allocation of Ministry of Minority Affairs from Rs.3511 crore to Rs. 3111 crore under Plan Head at RE stage during 2013-14. An amount of Rs.116.00 crore had been released to UGC during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14. Fresh physical target under the scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students has been successfully achieved every year in addition to Renewals.

In order to improve, strengthen and streamline the implementation process of the scheme and also better utilization of resources, Ministry had held consultations with experts and corrective measures were undertaken.

4. As regards Multi sectoral Development Programme, it is stated that the budgetary allocation for 2013-14 was projected at Rs.1086.25 crore More than 55% of this amount was utilized up to September, 2013 and it was expected that the expenditure would go up to 70% by December, 2013, as proposals were in hand for sanction and release of funds. In the meantime, instructions were issued to stop release of funds till the State Governments submit all the UCs.

5. Adequate number of project proposals were in hand for utilization of the entire budget allocation; but the cut imposed on the budgetary allocation for MsDP from Rs.1086.25 crore to Rs.949.28 crore in RE, without taking into account the fund utilization pattern had not allowed the full utilization of funds. Thus, it is not correct to say that MsDP was not implemented fully due to under-utilization of funds.

6. The MsDP was revamped in June 2013 and adequate provisions had been made for proper implementation and monitoring. Since then, the programme is running smoothly and there are no complaints from the State Governments/UT administrations, which are the major stakeholders of the programme. Already, project proposals worth Rs.3398 crore had been approved

and Rs.2365 crore had been released during 12th Five Year Plan (as on 31.03.2015)".

1.7 The Committee are satisfied with the reply of the Government regarding implementation of the Multi-sectoral-Development Programme stating that the same is running smoothly and there are no complaints from the State Governments/UT administrations, which are the major stakeholders of the programme.

The Ministry, in their Action taken reply, have also clarified that Scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students has not been affected by the cut imposed by the Ministry of Finance due to budgetary allocation of Ministry of the Minority Affairs under Plan Head at RE stage during 2013-14. The Ministry have further stated that in order to improve, strengthen and streamline the implementation process of the scheme and also for better utilization of resources, they have held consultations with experts and corrective measures were undertaken. In Committee's view, this is indeed a positive step. The Committee, however, exhort the Ministry neither to stop consultation process with experts nor continue it to only one scheme but on the contrary make it a regular feature and for all such schemes so that the advice of those experts becomes instrumental in smooth functioning of these schemes.

B. POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.40)

1.8 The Committee had noted with concern that under Post Matric Scholarship the BE during the year 2012-13 was reduced from Rs.500.00 crore to Rs. 340.75 crore and from Rs. 548.50 crore to Rs. 542.53 crore in 2013-14 due to non-receipt of adequate proposals from the States/UTs. Further, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand have huge unspent balance, resulting in reduction in release of grants- in- aid. NE States also could not avail their allocated funds. The Committee are not happy with the reply of the Government and feel that as it is an important scheme of the Ministry for minority students, the Ministry should impress upon the States/UTs for sending viable proposals. Ministry may also urge the States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand to spend the full allocated amount under the Scheme, while ascertaining the reasons and taking corrective action to ensure the utilization of allocated funds by NE States.

1.9 The Ministry in their action taken note have stated:

“There is no State-wise and UT-wise financial allocation under the Scholarship schemes of this Ministry. Only tentative State-wise and Community-wise physical targets for fresh scholarships are made every year. The suggestions made by the committee have been noted. Extension activities through Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP), All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan and National Film Development Corporation (Digital Cinema) etc. have been used to make the target group aware of the programme. This also helps to reach target groups and receive proposals in time to ensure that amount allocated for Scholarship scheme is fully utilized. Regional Conferences are also being held on regular basis and State visits are also undertaken by Senior Officers of the Ministry to monitor and review the implementation of the Schemes. From the financial year 2013-14, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS) is implemented online (i.e. students apply online, institutions and State Government/UT Administration scrutinize and generate award list online) to bring transparency, accuracy and timeliness of processing. The budget allocated for NE States could not be fully utilized due to in-adequate demand from students of these States”.

1.10 The Committee accept the reply of the Ministry. However, as the budget allocated for North Eastern States could not be fully utilized due to in-adequate demand from NE students, the Committee urge the Ministry to device further ways and means and mechanism too, to explain the benefits of the scheme among N.E. State students so as to generate demand among them so that they could avail the benefits under the scheme.

C. SCHEME FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITY WOMEN

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.50)

1.11 The Committee had noted the Ministry have started implementation of a new scheme “Nai Roshni” from 2013-14 for Leadership Development of Minority Women with the objective to empower and instill confidence among minority women including their neighbours from other communities living in the same village/locality, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions at all levels.

The Committee are happy to find that against the target of training 40,000 minority women, 60,875 minority women were actually trained. Further, during 2014-15, 66,350 women were trained (upto 30.09.2014) against the target of 40,000. Considering the fact that achievements overshoot the target fixed for training under “Nai Roshni” in both the years, the Committee desire that targets still need to be higher and achievable as the scheme not only empowers the minority women but also brings them in the mainstream of society.

1.12 The Ministry in their written reply have stated:

“The Committee desired fixing of higher target (of beneficiaries) and achievable under the scheme of ‘NaiRoshni’.

2. As per the guidelines of the scheme ‘NaiRoshni’, 40,000 women have to be trained each F.Y. The scheme is meant for both residential and non-residential training of minority women. The expenditure on residential training is obviously more vis-à-vis non-residential training. Sometimes, it may happen there are more number of women, who have applied for residential training. In that case, bulk of budget allocation would be spent on them. In such a situation, it may not be possible to fix a higher target; more so, when the fund available each year for this scheme is restricted to Rs.15 crore during the entire 12th F.Y.P. Therefore, it would be possible to enhance the target, when budget allocation for the scheme is increased. It may be noted that during 2013-14, less number of

residential courses were there and in 2014-15, no residential course was there, thus the achievement was more than the targets”.

1.13 The Committee note the reply and reasoning advanced by the Ministry as to why higher targets cannot be fixed under the Scheme. The Committee, however, urge the Ministry to furnish separate data of residential and non-residential trainees under the scheme in future so that the Committee may under the reasons as to why demand for non-residential trainees *vis-à-vis* residential trainees keep fluctuating and thereafter advise the Ministry accordingly.

CHAPTER – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

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

2.1 The Committee note from the reply of the Government that the Ministry of Finance reduced the budgetary allocation from ₹3511 crore to ₹3111 crore under Plan Head at RE stage during 2013-14 keeping in view the trend of expenditure till September 2013. The Committee are unhappy to observe that year after year, the Ministry of Finance had to decrease the allocations at the RE stage mainly because of under spending by the Ministry. The Committee are further dismayed that even the revised allocations were not utilized by the Ministry resulting in eventual surrender of substantial amount every year. With the consistently less spending every year by the Ministry, important schemes like, Multi-sectoral Development Programme, Contribution to equity of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, and Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students have been affected. The Committee strongly recommend a complete revamp of the implementation machinery so that the allocated funds are utilized prudently and optimally.

Reply of the Government

2.2 In this para, the Committee has recommended that a complete revamp of the implementation machinery may be undertaken so that allocated funds are utilized prudently and promptly.

2. In this connection, it is stated that the scheme relating to contribution of equity to NMDFC had been delayed, as the proposal to enhance the authorized

share capital of NMDFC could not be approved by the Government till February, 2015. Hence, provision made in BE/RE for this purpose had to be surrendered. Approval of Government for enhancement of the authorized share capital of NMDFC from Rs.1500 crore to Rs.3000 crore, with the Central Government share at 73%, States/ UTs share at the 26% and individuals/institutions share at 1%, having been received in February, 2015 a sum of Rs.30 crore had been released to NMDFC during 2014-15.

3. Scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students has not been affected by the cut imposed by Ministry of Finance on the budgetary allocation of Ministry of Minority Affairs from Rs.3511 crore to Rs. 3111 crore under Plan Head at RE stage during 2013-14. An amount of Rs.116.00 crore had been released to UGC during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14. Fresh physical target under the scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students has been successfully achieved every year in addition to Renewals.

In order to improve, strengthen and streamline the implementation process of the scheme and also better utilization of resources, Ministry had held consultations with experts and corrective measures were undertaken.

4. As regards Multi sectoral Development Programme, it is stated that the budgetary allocation for 2013-14 was projected at Rs.1086.25 crore More than 55% of this amount was utilized up to September,2013 and it was expected that the expenditure would go up to 70% by Dec.2013, as proposals were in hand for

sanction and release of funds. In the meantime, instructions were issued to stop release of funds till the State Governments submit all the UCs.

5. Adequate number of project proposals were in hand for utilisation of the entire budget allocation; but the cut imposed on the budgetary allocation for MsDP from Rs.1086.25 crore to Rs.949.28 crore in RE, without taking into account the fund utilization pattern had not allowed the full utilization of funds. Thus, it is not correct to say that MsDP was not implemented fully due to under-utilization of funds.

6. The MsDP was revamped in June, 2013 and adequate provisions had been made for proper implementation and monitoring. Since then, the programme is running smoothly and there are no complaints from the State Governments/UT administrations, which are the major stakeholders of the programme. Already, project proposals worth Rs.3398 crore had been approved and Rs.2365 crore had been released during 12th Five Year Plan (as on 31.03.2015).

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June, 2015)

Comments of Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.17)

2.3 The Committee note that the actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry under MsDP during the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 was Rs. 779.92 crore, Rs.

641.26 crore and Rs. 953.48 crore against R.E. of Rs. 1136.36 crore, Rs.649.56 crore and Rs. 958.53 crore respectively while the expenditure during the current financial year 2014-15 (upto 30.09.2014) is Rs.648.83 crore.

Non receipt of new project proposals and Utilization Certificates during 2011-12 from the States/UTs are the reasons advanced by the Ministry for less expenditure. Similarly, for less expenditure during 2012-13, the Ministry informed that it was the first year of 12th Five Year Plan and as per the instructions of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, the approval of Competent Authority for continuation of Multi-sectoral Development Programme during 2012-13 on the previous guidelines was sought, as a result, the process took some time. Again during 2013-14, the reasons given for less expenditure under the scheme were due to cut at RE stage and non receipt of adequate and viable proposals from the States.

The Committee are dismayed to note that the budget cuts under the scheme were effected at R.E. stage, ostensibly due to inability of the Ministry to utilize the funds for three quarter of the financial year and non utilization of funds on account of non-receipt of adequate and viable proposals from the States. As MsDP is the most important Programme of the Ministry, the Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to impress upon all the State Governments to send their proposals well in advance i.e. in the first quarter of the financial year itself so that evaluation/examination of the same can be done timely and funds released by the second quarter.

Reply of the Government

2.4 In this para, the Committee desired the Ministry to impress upon all the State Governments to send their proposals well in advance i.e. in the first quarter of the financial year itself, so that evaluation/examination of the same could be completed in time and funds released in the second quarter.

2. The advice of the Committee has been noted and accordingly, the States have been requested to submit their project proposals before 15.06.2015. In addition, the following measures are also being taken at regular intervals:-

- (i) Hon'ble Minister (MA) writes to the Chief Ministers of States requesting them to forward their proposals in time;
- (ii) Senior Officers impress upon the Secretaries concerned in States to ensure that proposals are sent in time.
- (iii) In the meetings of the Empowered Committee (set up under the MsDP) also, this matter is being emphasised with States, from time to time; and.
- (iv) During official visits, officers discuss the delay in submission of proposals with their counter-parts in States and insist them to submit their proposals for release of funds in time.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.18)

2.5 The Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) launched in the year 2008-09 in the Minority Concentrations Districts (MCDs). The Government has approved the restructuring of MsDP for its implementation in 12th Five Year Plan. The major projects undertaken under the scheme for Minority Concentration Blocks/Towns (MCBs/MCTs) during the 12th Five Year Plan in all States/UTs include Education, Skill Development, Health, Anganwadi Centres, Drinking water, Pucca Housing and Income Generation Infrastructure. The Committee express their serious concern at underutilization of allocations, year after year, primarily due to pendency of large number of UCs under MsDP during the years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and also for the current financial year, i.e. 2014-15. The Committee feel that the pendency of such large number of UCs is against the norms of General Financial Rules. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take concrete steps to reconcile the pending UCs by impressing upon the States for early clearance of UCs to obviate adverse impact of such huge pendency on the MsDP. The Committee also desire that strict and meticulous monitoring of various schemes under MsDP in the States/UTs be undertaken to avoid underutilization of funds.

Reply of the Government

2.6 Two issues namely timely submission of UCs and monitoring of various schemes under MsDP have been insisted by the Committee.

2. With the initiatives introduced by the Ministry, there has been significant reduction in the number of UCs pending with the States, as on 31.03.2015. In addition, Secretary (MA) has recently written to the Chief Secretaries of States

explaining the concerns of the Committee in this regard. Further, steps are being taken by discussing the matter with the States at the Empowered Committee Meetings and also by writing to the Chief Ministers of States in this regard at the level of Hon'ble Minister (MA).

3. As regards monitoring, a robust mechanism has been introduced in the guidelines of MsDP. Block level Committees have been set up for monitoring the programme at the Block level. The District and State level Committees for PM's New 15 Point Programme have been made responsible for review of the progress of implementation of the projects at District and State levels. Further, the Empowered Committee at the Centre serves as the Oversight Committee and monitors the implementation of the programme at the national level. The progress is also reviewed by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) along with PM's New 15 Point Programme. The observations of the CoS are reviewed by the highest authority in Government on half yearly basis. Monitoring is also done at the conferences held at various levels, as well as through the visits of officials to the project sites.

4. With these measures, it is envisaged that the allocation of funds for this project would be fully utilized and under-utilization of funds would not take place in future.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 2.19)

2.7 The Committee note that in the restructured Multi-sector Development Programme, the unit area of planning has been changed to blocks/towns instead of districts for sharper focus on the minority concentration area. The Programme has now identified 710 Blocks and 66 towns for implementation during the 12th Plan. The Committee find that, under the restructured MsDP, under Education, 487 units were sanctioned in School buildings out of which 3 units were completed and in 35 units work is going on in 16 States. In case of Hostels, out of 364 sanctioned units, only 15 units have been completed and in 49 units, work is in progress in 18 States. In case of toilets & drinking water in Schools, out of 3092 sanctioned units, not a single unit has been completed while in 78 units, work is in progress in 11 States. Similarly, under Health, 1223 units were sanctioned, out of which 37 units could be completed while in 243 units, work is going on in 16 States. Again, the number of units sanctioned under Anganwadi Centre were 7036, out of which only 577 were completed and work is progressing in 3080 units in 18 States. While under the Drinking water project, 25523 Hand pumps were sanctioned in 6 States and 10712 units sanctioned for Drinking water facilities in 11 States but the progress in this regard is 'nil'.

The Committee further note that the projects like Indira Awas Yojana Houses, (IAY) Skill Development Training Programme for minority youths and Bicycles for IXth Class students are individual beneficiary oriented projects. The Committee are deeply concerned that most of the States/UTs have not sanctioned these projects which are very vital for minorities. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to play a proactive role in obtaining proposals from the States which have not sent their projects

besides framing a time schedule in this regard so that the process of sanctioning these projects is not unduly delayed.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Committee desires that the Ministry should play a pro-active role in obtaining proposals from States, which have not sent their projects, besides framing a time schedule so that sanctioning of these projects is not unduly delayed.

2. The advice of the Committee has been noted for compliance. In the meantime, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard are given under:

- (i) Several times, Hon'ble Minister (MA) wrote to the Chief Ministers of States to submit the proposals for viable projects in time so that release of Grant-in-aid is not delayed.
- (ii) Senior officers of the Ministry are also writing to their counter parts in States at regular intervals in this regard.
- (iii) Directives have also been issued to States/UTs for timely submission of proposals for priority projects under MsDP.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.29)

2.9 The Committee find that the actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry during the year 2013-14 was Rs.963.79 crore against RE of Rs. 982.30 crore and an amount of Rs.19.91 crore was surrendered to the Ministry of Finance due to non-receipt of

adequate proposals from NE States, Sikkim and Puducherry. The Committee also find that the Ministry had fixed lower targets under Pre-matric scholarships during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 since achievements were more than 100% of the targets so fixed. The reason attributed for setting low targets during 2014-15 as compared to 2012-13 and 2013-14 was fresh scholarships and renewal scholarships which reflected the total achievement. The Committee find the reasons put forth by the Ministry not convincing and grossly unsatisfactory. The Committee desire that the Ministry may furnish comprehensive details with separate data (fresh and renewal) for the last three years. The Committee recommend that higher and achievable targets may be fixed and all out efforts should be made to utilize the entire amount allocated for Pre-matric scholarships during the current year 2014-15 so as to avoid any surrender of funds.

Reply of the Government

2.10 Physical targets for all scholarship schemes of this Ministry are only for fresh scholarships i.e. students who have not availed scholarship in the previous year. Renewal scholarships i.e. all students who have been awarded scholarship in the previous year are sanctioned in addition to fresh scholarships. Hence, the actual number of scholarships awarded in a year is much higher than the targets for that financial year.

In 2014-15, the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme has been made 100% centrally funded compared to the pattern of funding of 75:25 between Centre and States in the previous years. Hence, the physical target for fresh scholarships has been reduced

from 40 lakh to 30 lakh. The target fixed and achieved during the last three years are as under:

Table 1

Year	Target	Achievement		
		Fresh	Renewal	Total
2012-13	4000000	3756844	2680140	6436984
2013-14	4000000	3917966	3876224	7794190
2014-15	3000000	3045596	4450997	7496593

Table 2

(Rs. In crore)

Year	BE	Fund Released
2012-13	900.00	786.19
2013-14	950.00	963.79
2014-15	1100.00	1129.27

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.40)

2.11 The Committee note with concern that under Post Matric Scholarship the BE during the year 2012-13 was reduced from Rs.500.00 crore to Rs. 340.75 crore and from Rs. 548.50 crore to Rs. 542.53 crore in 2013-14 due to non-receipt of adequate proposals from the States/UTs. Further, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand

have huge unspent balance, resulting in reduction in release of grants- in- aid. NE States also could not avail their allocated funds. The Committee are not happy with the reply of the Government and feel that as it is an important scheme of the Ministry for minority students, the Ministry should impress upon the States/UTs for sending viable proposals. Ministry may also urge the States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand to spend the full allocated amount under the Scheme, while ascertaining the reasons and taking corrective action to ensure the utilization of allocated funds by NE States.

Reply of the Government

2.12 There is no State-wise and UT-wise financial allocation under the Scholarship schemes of this Ministry. Only tentative State-wise and Community-wise physical targets for fresh scholarships are made every year. The suggestions made by the committee have been noted. Extension activities through Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP), All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan and National Film Development Corporation (Digital Cinema) etc. have been used to make the target group aware of the programme. This also helps to reach target groups and receive proposals in time to ensure that amount allocated for Scholarship scheme is fully utilized. Regional Conferences are also being held on regular basis and State visits are also undertaken by Senior Officers of the Ministry to monitor and review the implementation of the Schemes. From the financial year 2013-14, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS) is implemented online (i.e. students apply online, institutions and State Government/UT Administration scrutinize and generate award list online) to bring transparency,

accuracy and timeliness of processing. The budget allocated for NE States could not be fully utilized due to in-adequate demand from students of these States.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Comments of Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 2.41)

2.13 The Committee note that the expenditure incurred during 2013-14 under Post-matric scholarship was Rs. 515.67 crore as against the allocation of Rs. 542.53 crore (RE) while an amount of Rs. 32.74 crore was surrendered. Further against the target of 5 lakhs, the achievement was 8.90 lakhs scholarship (both fresh and renewal) during the year 2013-14. While expressing happiness on enhancing BE for the year 2014-15 to Rs. 598.50 crore, the Committee desire the Ministry to expedite the pace of expenditure during 2014-15 by way of holding regular meetings at the highest level and conducting regular monitoring so that funds are not surrendered under the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.14 During 2014-15, the scholarship amount is directly transferred to students' bank account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. This has expedited the actual receipt of the Scholarship into student's bank account. Further, all the students who

have applied for Post-matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS) and found eligible were awarded scholarship during 2014-15. Regular meetings and video conferences with States/UTs are being held with a view to improving the implementation including timely booking of expenditure under all Scholarship Schemes. During 2014-15, an amount of Rs.501.28 Crore have been disbursed for award of 9.06 lakh eligible beneficiaries.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.50)

2.15 The Committee note the Ministry have started implementation of a new scheme “Nai Roshni” from 2013-14 for Leadership Development of Minority Women with the objective to empower and instill confidence among minority women including their neighbours from other communities living in the same village/locality, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions at all levels.

The Committee are happy to find that against the target of training 40,000 minority women, 60,875 minority women were actually trained. Further, during 2014-15, 66,350 women were trained (upto 30.09.2014) against the target of 40,000. Considering the fact that achievements overshoot the target fixed for training under “Nai Roshni” in both the years, the Committee desire that targets still need to be higher and achievable as the scheme not only empowers the minority women but also brings them in the mainstream of society.

Reply of the Government

2.16 The Committee desired fixing of higher target (of beneficiaries) and achievable under the scheme of 'Nai Roshni'.

2. As per the guidelines of the scheme 'Nai Roshni', 40,000 women have to be trained each year. The scheme is meant for both residential and non-residential training of minority women. The expenditure on residential training is obviously more vis-à-vis non-residential training. Sometimes, it may happen there are more number of women, who have applied for residential training. In that case, bulk of budget allocation would be spent on them. In such a situation, it may not be possible to fix a higher target; more so, when the fund available each year for this scheme is restricted to Rs.15 crore during the entire 12th Five Year Plan. Therefore, it would be possible to enhance the target, when budget allocation for the scheme is increased. It may be noted that during 2013-14, less number of residential courses were there and in 2014-15, no residential course was there, thus the achievement was more than the targets.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs O.M.No.G-20018/2/2014-Budget dated 16th June,2015)

Comments of the Committee

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

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

- NIL -

CHAPTER – V

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

- NIL -

**New Delhi;
6 August, 2015
15 Shravana, 1937 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 6th AUGUST, 2015**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1650 hrs. in Committee Room 'D',
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jhina Hikaka
3. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
4. Smt. Maragatham K.
5. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
6. Dr. Udit Raj

RAJYA SABHA

7. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
8. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
9. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
10. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
11. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports of the Committee :-

(i) *****

(ii) *****

(iii) Eighteenth Action Taken Report on Fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(iv) *****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any change. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses.

5. *****

6. *****

7. *****

8. *****

9. *****

10. *****

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	8	
II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.7, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.29, 2.40, 2.41 and 2.50).	8	100
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies - Nil	Nil	Nil
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration - Nil	Nil	Nil
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature - Nil	Nil	Nil