

27

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2015-2016)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2016-2017)**

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2016/Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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(2016-2017)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 28.04.2016

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 28.04.2016



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2016/Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-2016)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
6. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
7. Shri Jhina Hikaka
8. Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri
9. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
10. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
11. Smt. K. Maragatham
12. Shri Kariya Munda
13. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
14. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
15. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
16. Dr. Udit Raj
17. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
18. Prof. Sadhu Singh
19. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
20. Smt. Mamta Thakur
21. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

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

* Smt. Jharna Das Baidya, MP, Rajya Sabha retired w.e.f. 2.4.2016.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director
4. Smt. Shilpa Kant - Sr. Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2015-16) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants for the year 2016-17 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department 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. 2016-17 which was laid on the Table of the House on 15.03.2016 in Lok Sabha and 16.03.2016 in Rajya Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on 29.03.2016. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 27.04.2016.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Department 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 and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in the Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;

27 April, 2016

07 Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

A. INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment are 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 erstwhile Ministry of Welfare was bifurcated in 1985-86 to form a separate Department of Women and Child Development. Subsequently, the name of the Ministry was changed to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in May, 1998. In October, 1999, the Tribal Development Division moved out from it to form a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In January, 2007, the Minorities Division also shifted away from it and was formed a separate Ministry.

1.3 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment are entrusted mainly with the task of empowerment of their socially and economically marginalized target groups.

Target groups of the Department include:

- (i) Scheduled Castes,
- (ii) Other Backward Classes,
- (iii) Senior Citizens,
- (iv) Victims of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse,

- (v) Transgender Persons
- (vi) Beggars
- (vii) Denotified Nomadic Tribes and Semi-nomadic Tribes (DNTs)
- (viii) Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)

1.4 The 'vision' of the Department is to build an inclusive society wherein members of the target groups can lead productive, safe and dignified lives with adequate support for their growth and development, whereas the 'mission' of the Department is to support and empower their target groups through programmes of educational, economic and social development, and rehabilitation wherever necessary.

1.5 The objectives of the Department are:

- (i) Educational and economic development along with the social empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs);
- (ii) Educational and economic development along with the social empowerment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs); and Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs);
- (iii) Support to Senior Citizens by way of their maintenance, welfare, security, health care, productive and independent living;
- (iv) Prevention and treatment of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (Drugs);
- (v) Educational and economic development along with the social empowerment of Transgender Persons;
- (vi) Educational and economic empowerment of Economically Backward Classes (EBCs); and
- (vii) Rehabilitation of beggars

1.6 The population of the main target groups of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment as per Census 2011 is given below:

S. No.	Target Group	Population ad its % in Total Population (as per 2011 Census unless otherwise stated)
1.	Scheduled Castes	20.14 crore (16.6%)
2.	Other Backward Classes	Caste Census has not been done since 1931. The Mandal Commission had estimated OBC population at 52% of the total population while NSSO (2009-10), 66th Round, had estimated it to be 41.7%.
3.	Senior Citizens	10.36 crore (8.56%)
4.	Victims of Substance Abuse	Authentic data not available. Around 1% of the population is believed to be addicted.

B. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) for the year 2016-17 are given under Demand No. 44. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 15.03.2016 and in Rajya Sabha on 16.03.2016. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for the last three years along with the Budget Estimate for 2016-17 under Plan and Non-plan expenditure:

Table 2.1: A statement showing Plan and Non-Plan expenditure for the last three years and current year:

(Amount in Rs Crore)					
Head	Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Expenditure as Percentage of RE
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Plan	2013-14	6065.00	5165.00	5084.86	98.45%
	2014-15	6165.00	5400.00	5352.32	99.12%
	2015-16	6467.00	5911.78	5693.56	96.30%
	2016-17	6500.00	--	--	--
Non Plan	2013-14	39.13	41.63	40.33	96.88%
	2014-15	47.74	52.05	50.27	96.58%
	2015-16	57.82	57.67	52.19 (upto February, 2016)	90.50% (upto February, 2016)
	2016-17	65.95	--	--	--

2.2 As is evident in the above statement, the Department have been able to utilize their almost entire allocation. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Department due to which they have been able to utilize almost entire Budget allocation.

2.3 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment submitted their requirement of Rs 10,573.53 crore for 2016-17 to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance allocated Rs 6500.00 BE for the year 2016-17 against the projected requirement of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. This has lead to a squeeze in the proposed outlay of some schemes.

2.4 Following data was furnished by the Department for Proposed Outlay and Approved Annual Outlay for 2015-16 and 2016-17:

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment					
Proposed Outlay & Approved Annual Outlay 2015-16 and 2016-17					
Rs. in crore					
Sl. No.	Division	Proposed Outlay 2015-16	Approved Annual Outlay 2015-16	Proposed Outlay 2016-17	Approved Annual Outlay 2016-17
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	7520.00	5128.50	7798.02	5128.99
2.	Other Backward Classes	1599.60	1225.48	2545.50	1215.00
3.	Social Defence	188.50	84.52	189.01	125.01
	Misc. (Media + Secretariat + Research)	59.25	28.50	41.00	31.00
	Grant Total	9367.35	6467.00	10573.53	6500.00

2.5 When asked to justify seeking the enhanced budgetary allocation in the year 2016-17, the Department stated that "the proposal for enhanced budgetary allocation

was made on account of requirements for payment of pending dues of Post Matric Scholarship for SC Students, including arrears. Further, there was additional allotment required in some schemes on account of revision of cost norms - Scheme for assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for Scheduled Castes and Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. The cost norms of these Schemes had been revised in 2015-16. As per the revised schemes, honorariums to the staff had been increased in the range of 80-100%. Accordingly, grant-in-aid to the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) would have to be disbursed at higher rates. Therefore, more budgetary allocation was sought for the year 2016-17 under the Schemes. In addition, some new schemes had been launched by the Department for which the enhanced budgetary allocations were required. Also, higher amounts were generally required under scholarship schemes like Post Matric Scholarship for SCs, OBCs, etc. due to increasing number of beneficiary students".

2.6 Responding to a query by the Committee regarding inability of the Department in arresting the perennial trend of under-utilization on some vital schemes, stated that "it is not correct to state that the Department were unable to arrest the trend of under utilization of funds. In fact the Department were short of funds for some of their most critical programmes including the Post Matric Scholarship for SCs. At the RE stage when the discussions were taken up, the Department had demanded an additional Rs.4100 crores over and above the allotted BE. At that point of time the expenditure incurred by the Department on all schemes was 51.55% which was much above the Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) of the Department. However, instead of additional amount requested, the RE was reduced by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to Rs. 5911.78 crore, citing general position of budgetary deficit across all

departments, thereby reducing the BE 2015-16 by about Rs.556 crore. This reduction of the budget, at the RE stage, was beyond the control of the Department. Further, there are certain schemes, in particular with respect to Grants-in-Aid (GIA) to be received by the NGOs and Pre-Matric scholarship for SCs, where the proposals were received towards the second half of the financial year. In all such cases steps were taken to make internal adjustments based on anticipated releases so that the funds available within the Department would be pooled to meet the large deficits faced under scholarship schemes in particular Post Matric Scholarship scheme".

2.7 The Secretary of the Department also candidly admitted during the deposition before the Committee:

"...The estimated dues at the end of 2015-16 were more than Rs.7000 crore with the Department. As there was not much increase of the BE between the year 2012-13 to 2016-17, we were unable to expand and deepen the Schemes as expected..."

2.8 The Committee are pleased to note that out of total budget allocation (RE) of Rs.6467 crore during 2015-16, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have utilized Rs. 5693.56 crore, which constitutes 96.30 per cent of RE. The Committee further note that the Department submitted their requirement of Rs.10,573.53 crore to the Ministry of Finance, which was reduced to Rs.6500.00 crore at BE stage for the year 2016-17. The Secretary of the Department while deposing before the Committee informed that this reduction of funds has lead to squeeze in the proposed outlay of some Schemes in the last few financial years particularly the Post Matric Scholarship for SCs. During 2015-16 also, Rs.9367.35 crore was demanded by the Department, against which the RE was reduced by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to Rs.5911.78 crore and they had to make internal adjustments to meet the large deficits faced under Scholarship Schemes particularly Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs. The Committee are deeply concerned regarding reduction in demand of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment by the Ministry of Finance for the year 2016-17, keeping in view the fact that the Department have been successful in utilizing 96.30 per cent of their allocation in 2015-16. The Committee also take note of the fact that the Ministry of Finance in fact have curtailed funds of almost all the Ministries/Departments in last year and also this year. But the Committee feel that the case of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is different vis-à-vis other Ministries/Departments as the mandate of this Department is primarily to take care of the welfare of the most disadvantaged and marginalized sections of our society and to bring them into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant, which is not possible without adequate funds for schemes meant for

them. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Secretary should pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance vigorously and convince them not to cut her Department's Demands either at BE stage or at RE stage, keeping in view their utilization of funds during 2014-15 and 2015-16, as it will be extremely difficult for them to implement their critical Schemes particularly for SCs. If need be, the observations of the Committee may be conveyed to the Ministry of Finance. The Committee are worried that if this trend of slashing budgetary allocation of the Department continues by the Ministry of Finance, the accumulation of arrears with the Department will never end and important schemes, such as Pre and Post Matric Scholarship for SCs and OBCs would not only suffer adversely and become meaningless but affect the lives and the future of a large number of SC students depending on these schemes.

2.9 The Department have furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and AE incurred on all the Schemes under the three Divisions from the year 2012-13 to 2015-16 along with BE for the year 2016-17 on the basis of which some of the Schemes have been commented upon :

Allocation of 12th Five year Plan, BE, RE and Expenditure of 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, BE, Re and Exp. for the 2015-16 upto February, 2016.															
(Rs in crore)															
Sl. No.	Programmes/Scheme.	BE 12th Plan	BE 2012-13	RE 2012-13	Exp.	B.E. 2013-14	RE	Exp.	BE. 2014-15	RE. 2014-15	Expend. 2014-15	BE 2015-16	RE 2015-16	Exp.(upto February, 2016)	BE 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	15	16	17	
SCD Bureau															
1	Post Matric Scholarship for for SCs	7120.00	1500.00	1500.00	1654.65	1500.00	1908.87	2153.00	1500.00	1904.78	1963.17	1599.00	2216.05	2005.83	2791.00
2	Free Coaching SCs & OBCs students.	57.00	12.00	6.00	5.38	12.00	12.00	8.65	12.00	9.00	8.14	12.24	12.24	6.09	25.00
3	Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana	4.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	100.00	25.00	0.00	100.00	33.00	30.00	200.00	200.00	195.82	90.00
4	Implemententation of PCR Act 1955 and PoA Act, 1989	480.00	100.00	84.00	97.48	90.00	130.00	127.68	90.00	150.00	147.39	90.75	120.75	115.96	150.00
5	Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna - Girls Hostels	695.00	95.00	14.00	20.22	50.00	41.24	41.52	50.00	26.51	18.73	50.00	45.00	39.82	40.00
6	Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna - Boys Hostels		50.00	13.00	15.59	25.00	11.25	7.94	25.00	9.15	4.41	25.00	5.00	3.27	5.00
7	Assistnace to VOs Working for SCs.	240.00	50.00	15.00	14.86	28.00	28.53	27.10	50.00	23.72	19.02	51.00	51.00	29.39	50.00
8	Pre-matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations.	47.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	20.60	18.43	10.00	10.00	0.90	10.00	2.50	2.42	2.00
9	State Scheduled Caste Development Corporation - Equity support	100.00	20.00	5.00	5.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
10	Up gradation of Merit of SC Students	24.00	5.00	5.00	1.97	5.00	5.00	4.38	5.00	3.66	2.78	4.00	4.00	2.14	3.00
11	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	139.00

12	Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)	5775.00	1200.00	1050.00	872.05	1051.00	800.00	790.25	1060.00	700.00	700.00	1107.44	800.00	790.78	800.00	
14	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation	4.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	125.55	13.00	1.00	
15	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Center.	215.00	10.00	0.01	0.00	10.00	3.30	3.30	45.50	45.50	44.59	48.00	0.01	0.01	100.00	
16	National Safaikaramcharies Finance and Development Corporation(NSKFDC).	724.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
17	Assistance to students belonging to SCs for pursuing study in residential public schools	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
18	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs (RGNF).	600.00	125.00	25.00	0.00	100.00	25.00	24.50	200.00	150.00	148.85	209.55	209.55	200.55	200.00	
19	Self Employment Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	480.00	100.00	20.00	20.00	570.00	70.00	35.00	448.00	50.00	0.00	470.19	10.01	0.00	10.00	
20	National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	28.00	6.00	6.00	6.89	6.00	6.00	6.14	6.00	6.00	8.78	6.12	16.12	9.50	15.00	
21	Top Class Education for SCs	120.00	25.00	15.00	16.67	21.00	25.00	24.52	21.00	21.00	19.37	21.42	31.42	22.97	21.00	
22	Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
23	Development of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial.	400.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	3.10	10.00	10.00	0.00	16.99	
24	Research Study and Publication.	15.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
25	Pre Matric Scholarship for SC Students (Class IX & X)	4098.00	824.00	938.70	931.37	900.00	700.00	545.90	834.00	500.00	514.08	842.55	550.00	380.01	550.00	
26	Credit guarantee Fund for Scheduled Castes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	98.24	0.01	0.00	10.00	
27	Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	102.00	0.01	0.01	40.00	
	Total: SCD Bureau	21321.00	4300.00	3858.72	3825.13	4665.00	3984.79	3989.57	4837.50	4213.32	4204.31	5128.50	4579.22	3987.57	5128.99	
Social Deference																
1	National Institute for Social Defence	200.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	8.10	11.00	8.63	7.96	4.73	16.73	9.42	22.00	

2	Scheme for prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drug) Abuse	415.00	40.00	17.00	17.92	45.00	28.12	25.41	50.00	35.11	30.74	20.15	36.15	22.55	35.00
3	Assistance to voluntary organizations for General Grant in Aid in the field of social defence.	25.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.99	5.00	3.65	3.65	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4	Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOPOP	440.00	40.00	18.00	18.21	45.00	21.95	15.54	50.00	25.00	14.99	55.00	27.97	21.28	37.00
5	Scheme of Assistance for Establishment of OAHs for Indigent Senior Citizens	0.00	80.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Awareness Generation for Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	0.66	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
7	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National level	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.01	0.00	5.00	0.50	0.13	0.01	2.01	0.00	0.00
8	Setting up of Helpline for Sr Citizens at District level (in 120 Districts @ Rs.15 lakh per District)	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.66	0.00	3.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Setting up of a National Commission for Senior Citizens	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
10	Creation of National Trust for the Aged	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
11	Implementation of the National Policy on Senior Citizens	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
12	Detailed National Survey to assess the extent, pattern and trends on Drug and Substance Abuse in the Country	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.75	0.01	2.01	0.00	3.00
	Scheme for transgender persons.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.30	0.00	1.56	0.01	0.00	15.00
13	National Policy on Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01

14	Scheme of Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars (IPRB)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.01	0.00	11.00	1.00	0.00	0.01	3.01	0.00	10.00
	Total : Social Defence Bureau	1470.00	175.00	43.01	44.13	132.00	63.81	50.04	148.00	75.90	58.22	84.52	90.94	56.25	125.01
Backward Classes Devt Bureau															
1	National Backward Class Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC)	500.00	100.00	27.65	27.65	100.00	100.00	100.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	100.00
2	Pre-matric Scholarship to OBC students	670.00	50.00	50.00	46.84	150.00	123.00	115.86	150.00	116.63	109.56	150.00	135.90	120.79	142.00
3	Grant in aid to Vol.Orgns working for BCs	22.00	5.00	1.50	0.46	5.00	3.83	2.99	6.00	4.50	4.48	6.12	5.12	3.66	4.00
4	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	205.00	45.00	15.00	14.76	45.00	23.53	23.20	45.00	30.22	30.22	45.00	41.30	32.01	40.00
5	Post-Matric Scholarship for BCs	4695.00	625.00	722.35	666.73	900.00	822.34	768.56	785.00	790.13	780.35	885.00	885.00	791.14	885.00
6	Scheme for Educational and Economical Development of DNTs	13.00	10.00	0.01	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	4.00	3.50	5.00	4.50	3.00	5.00
7	Scheme for Educational Empowerment of Economically Backward Classes	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Dr Ambedkar scheme of interest subsidy on Educational loans for overseas studies for OBCs & EBCs.	21.00	5.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	1.00	0.90	6.66	1.00	0.00	2.00
9	Post Matric Scholarship for EBC		10.00	0.01	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	9.50	1.00	0.50	9.50	10.00	9.05	10.00
10	National Fellowship for OBCs (NF-OBCs)	42.00	50.00	0.01	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	11.00	9.43	6.20	18.30	5.15	27.00
	Total: Backward Classes Bureau	6174.00	900.00	816.54	756.44	1225.00	1072.70	1010.61	1124.50	1070.48	1051.12	1225.48	1213.12	1076.8	1215.00
Miscellaneous															
1	Information & Mass Education Cell	400.00	30.00	30.00	28.53	40.00	40.00	26.19	41.00	32.00	31.99	23.50	23.50	17.51	30.00
2	Research Study Publication & Training	15.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.23	5.00	1.00	0.77	1.00	1.00	0.57	1.00
4	Scheme for Monitoring of Schemes of Ministry through State and District level VMCs	0.00	8.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Secretariat	20.00	1.00	1.48	1.29	2.00	2.70	2.99	4.00	4.00	2.81	4.00	4.00	1.11	0.00
	Total: Miscellaneous	435.00	40.00	32.49	30.81	43.00	43.70	29.41	50.00	37.00	35.57	28.50	28.50	19.19	31.00
	Grand Total	29400.00	5415.00	4750.76	4656.51	6065.00	5165.00	5079.63	6165.00	5396.70	5349.22	6467.00	5911.78	5139.81	6500.00

C. SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

I. BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAVAS YOJNA - GIRLS & BOYS HOSTELS FOR SC STUDENTS

3.1 The primary objective of this scheme is to attract the implementing agencies for undertaking hostel construction programme, especially for SC Girls towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their dropout rate. The other objectives are (i) having a girls hostel with a capacity of 100 seats, in every block headquarters/of low literacy Districts not having one now, by way of priority, (ii) reduction in gestation of construction period and (iii) having an effective mechanism for monitoring, review, quality control etc.

3.2 The Scheme is implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations and the Central and State Universities/Institutions and they are provided eligible central assistance as per provision of the Scheme, both for fresh construction of hostel buildings as well as for expansion of the existing hostel facilities. The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and deemed Universities in the private sector having good track record are eligible for the central assistance under the Scheme only for expansion of their existing hostel facilities.

Funding Pattern

Hostels for SC Girls:

(a) 100% central assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations and the Central & State Universities/Institutions;

(b) 90% central assistance is provided to NGOs and Deemed Universities in the private sector, only for expansion of the existing hostel facilities.

Hostels for SC Boys:

- (a) 50% Central Assistance to State Governments on matching share basis and 100% to UT Administrations.
- (b) 90% Central Assistance to Central Universities/institutions (remaining 10% cost to be borne by the University/institutions concerned), while for State Universities/institutions, the Central Assistance would be 45%, the remaining 55% cost to be borne by the University/institution and State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 10:45.
- (c) 45% central assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Deemed Universities in the private sector, only for expansion of their existing hostel (the remaining 55% cost to be borne by the agency concerned and the State Government/UT Administration in the ratio of 10:45).

3.3 The Department further stated that in case the State Government/UT Administration concerned do not contribute their expected share of 45% to the NGOs/Universities as prescribed above, the share of the former will also have to be borne by the NGOs/Universities concerned, thereby raising their contribution to 55%.

3.4 According to the Department, the physical target set in 2014-15 was 25 Hostels (2500 seats) each for SC Girls and Boys under the Scheme, out of which only 14 hostels (1272 Seats) were sanctioned for Girls and 4 hostels (329 seats) for Boys. For the year

2015-16, the target set was again 2500 seats each for Girls and Boys, out of which only 15 hostels with 1050 seats for Girls and 3 hostels with 372 seats for Boys were sanctioned.

3.5 The Department furnished the following details regarding number of hostels sanctioned under Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna (BJRCY) during the period 2012-13 to 2015-16 (XII Plan Period) (up to 24.2.2016):

Sl	States/UTs	GIRLS hostel				BOYS Hostel				Total	
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Girls Hostel	Boys Hostel
1	A.P.	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	3
2	Assam	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
3	Bihar	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
4	Chatisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	6	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	7	6
6	Haryana	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	0
7	H.P.	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1
8	J&K	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
9	Jharkhand	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	5	4
10	Karnataka	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
12	M.P.	0	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	6	5
13	Maharashtra	1	5	2	0	0	3	1	0	8	4
14	Manipur	4	2	5	-	2	0	0	0	11	2
15	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Punjab	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	4	2
20	Rajasthan	1	0	1	9	1	2	1	0	11	4
21	Sikkim	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
22	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
24	UP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
25	Uttrakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	WB	10	6	3	2	6	0	0	0	21	6
27	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	32	33	14	16	20	15	4	3	95	42

NOTE:(1) Hostels are to be completed within two years from the date of sanction of the project by the Department.

(2) Two years admissible period for completion of hostels is available for the hostels sanctioned during 2014-15 and 2015-16

3.6 Further, the Department informed that during 2007-08 to 2011-12 (XI Plan Period), 326 and 246 hostels were sanctioned for girls and boys, respectively, out of which, 64 were left incomplete for girls and 50 for boys.

3.7 When asked about the reasons for low achievement in terms of number of hostels completed, the Department stated that "the implementing agencies such as NGOs and Deemed Universities in the private sector do not seek assistance as they are unable to meet their commitment upto 55% of the total cost. Even in respect of State Universities, since the central assistance is restricted to 45%, only very few eligible proposals are received and also proposals so submitted are often incomplete. Clear title to land along with supporting documents, approved site plan and building plan, detailed cost estimates and justification for proposals, etc. are not submitted in proper format and protracted correspondence has to be carried out with the agencies through the State Government for furnishing of all particulars."

3.8 When enquired about the measures adopted by the Department to overcome the perennial problem of not receiving complete and timely proposals from the State Governments, the Department replied that "All the State Governments and UT Administrations will be intimated their Notional Allocation immediately after the start of the year 2016-17 and proposals for the year will be invited from them. The receipt and processing of eligible proposals will be monitored closely. The States will also be advised to send complete proposal according to the Scheme guidelines."

3.9 The Department furnished the following figures of BE, RE and AE for the last 4 years and BE for 2016-17 under the Scheme for providing Hostels to SC Boys:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2012-13	50	13	15.59
2013-14	25	11.25	7.94
2014-15	25	9.15	4.41
2015-16	25	5	3.28
2016-17	5	-	-

3.10 When asked about the reasons for huge cut at RE stage year after year in the last four years and Budget Estimates for 2016-17 fixed at Rs.5 crore only, for the boys hostel, the Department stated that due to very less utilization of the allocated budget for the reasons mentioned above, the BE for 2016-17 has been kept at Rs. 5.00 crore to ensure proper and full utilization of allocated budget.

3.11 When the Department was asked whether any survey was conducted to find out the reduction and containment of dropout rates, the Department informed that "the Department have conducted inspection of hostels from time to time to verify the status for construction, physical condition of hostel buildings, facilities available to the students, etc. As per the data compiled by Ministry of Human Resource Development, the drop-out rates in School Education (Classes I-X) in respect of SC students in the year 1990-91 were: Boys-74.3% and Girls-83.4% (Total-85.0%) respectively. In the year 2013-14, these rates were: Boys-51.8% and Girls-48.0% (total-50.1%). Above data shows that the

drop-out rates of both SC boys and girls students are steadily declining. Hence the objectives of BJRCY are being met through its proper implementation".

3.12 The Department further informed the Committee that "for reviewing the performance of the State Governments, a Steering Committee has been constituted under the Scheme to monitor and review the construction of hostels based on the physical and financial reports submitted by the Implementing Agencies. For the purpose, the State Governments are requested to send the quarterly progress reports on construction work to the Department. Also, field visits by officers of the Department with the assistance of the authorities of State Governments are made to inspect the sanctioned projects. Last inspection of the sanctioned hostels was carried out by the Department in May-June, 2015".

3.13 When enquired whether any survey was conducted to confirm/check how many girls and boys are actually availing the hostel facility, the Department replied that "as per the guidelines of the scheme, the maintenance of hostels and their utilization is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Implementing Agencies. The State Governments/UT Administrations send the proposals as per their requirements. Surveys/Inspections have been conducted by the Department to review the status of construction of hostel and provision of facilities for the students. Inspection of 443 hostels sanctioned under BJRCY during 2007-08 to 2009-10 was carried out by joint teams comprising officers of MSJE and respective State Government in May-June 2015. However, in subsequent surveys, actual utilization of seats will also be included as part of the inspection".

3.14 The Committee note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have been mandated to empower the Scheduled Castes through implementation of various educational schemes, amongst which Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna - Girls & Boys Hostels for SC Students is an important one. The Committee, however, are dismayed over the inability of the Department to utilize the allocated budget for construction of hostels under this Scheme, especially for boys. The Committee were informed that the Implementing Agencies such as NGOs and Deemed Universities in the private sector do not seek assistance as they are unable to meet their commitment upto 55 per cent of the total cost. Moreover, very few eligible proposals were received from the State Universities since the central assistance is restricted to 45 per cent and matter of incomplete proposals is another problem for the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should first consider lowering down the percentage of present commitment by Implementation Agencies (NGOs and Deemed Universities) and also raise the central assistance from current 45 per cent reasonably so as to attract the Implementation Agencies for seeking Central assistance which would also help the Department for full utilization of funds under the scheme. Further, the Committee desire the Department to start online submission of proposals under this Scheme by simplifying the procedure further and impress upon the States to send complete proposals in proper format. Taking note of the fact that the budgetary allocation of this Scheme, particularly for constructing boys hostels is Rs.5.00 crore, the Committee desire the Department to pursue the Ministry of Finance to raise this amount at RE stage so that the incomplete sanctioned hostels of the last Plan period could be completed

expeditiously. The Committee are saddened to note that only three hostels with 372 seats for boys could only be sanctioned out of the target of building hostels of 2500 seats in 2015-16. The Committee desire that the Department should complete the target of constructing work of boys hostel during 2016-17 financial year. The Committee further observe that surveys/inspections have been conducted by the Department to review the status of construction of hostels and provision of facilities to the students. As the Department have not adopted any procedure to check how many SC girls and boys are actually availing this facility and occupying the hostels meant for them, the Committee urge upon the Department to conduct surveys of these hostels to find out actual utilization of seats by the students in these hostels so as to know the successful or otherwise implementation of Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna.

II. SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME OF LIBERATION & REHABILITATION OF SCAVENGERS

3.15 The Parliament passed the 'Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013' (MS Act, 2013) in September, 2013 which came into effect from 6th December, 2013. This Act intends to, *inter-alia*, achieve its objectives to:-

- i) Eliminate the insanitary latrines.
- ii) Prohibit:-
 - a) Employment as Manual Scavengers
 - b) Hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.
- iii) Survey of Manual Scavengers and their **rehabilitation**, within a time bound manner.

3.16 The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been revised w.e.f. November, 2013 to provide the following benefits to identified manual scavengers:

- (i) One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/- (one from a family)
- (ii) Training upto two years with a stipend @ Rs. 3,000 per month.
- (iii) Capital subsidy upto Rs. 3.25 lakh.
- (iv) Loan at concessional rate of interest for self employment projects upto Rs. 10 lakh (Rs. 15 lakh in case of sanitation related projects).

3.17 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE for the last 4 years and BE for 2016-17 under Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS):

	BE	RE	AE
2012-13	100	20	20
2013-14	570	70	35
2014-15	448	50	0
2015-16	470.19	10.01	0
2016-17	10	-	-

3.18 The Committee enquired why there was nil expenditure under the SRMS Scheme for the last two financial years despite repeated recommendations of the Committee for proper implementation of the Scheme. The Department in their reply stated that "the house listing and housing Census-2011 reported existence of 26.06 lakh insanitary latrines in the country of which 7.94 lakh were serviced by humans. Based on this data it was estimated that there would be about 2 lakh manual scavengers in the country who would be required to be rehabilitated. Accordingly a Budget provision of Rs.470.19 crore was made for the year 2015-16. However, the States which are mandated to identify the manual scavengers have reported identification of 12226 manual scavengers, but uploaded the details of only 11861 manual scavengers".

3.19 The Department further informed that "expenditure on this scheme in the Department was incurred from the unspent balance of funds released in the earlier years available with the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC). Rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the SRMS on the basis of proposals received from the States by NSKFDC, the implementing agency for SRMS. Due to very poor progress of identification

of manual scavengers and submission proposals for rehabilitation by the States the funds allocated for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 could not be utilized".

3.20 When asked the reasons for decreasing the Budget Estimates for the year 2016-17 to only Rs.10 crore vis-à-vis Rs. 470.19 crore in 2015-16, the Department replied that "the States/Union Territories have not reported identification of any additional manual scavengers over and above already identified 12226 manual scavengers. Of these, 10,031 identified manual scavengers have been provided onetime cash assistance of Rs.40000/- each. NSKFDC, the implementing agency for SRMS is having some unspent balance from the earlier releases. Since it has not been possible to utilize any funds from the Budget allocation for 2014-15 and 2015-16, B.E. for 2016-17 has been kept at pragmatic level of Rs.10 crore which is expected to be adequate to provide rehabilitation benefits to the already identified manual scavengers reported by the States/UTs. In case additional manual scavengers are identified during the 2016-17 and additional funds are required to rehabilitate them, additional demand would be projected in the supplementary Demands for Grants".

3.21 The Department have furnished details of expenditure incurred during the last three years in providing onetime cash assistance, skill development training and comprehensive rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers as follows :-

Status of Comprehensive rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers for the years 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 (till 15.2.2016)

	State	Comprehensive Rehabilitation (Funds released) (Rs. In lacs) -									
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15				2015-16 (15.02.2016)			
				Capital Subsidy	Loans	Also opted Skill Development Training	opted only skill development training	Capital Subsidy Released	Loans	Also opted Skill Development Training	opted only skill development training
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	
	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	128.63	574.75	0	0
	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	38.29	0	7.81	0
	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.36	0	0	2.82
	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.82
	Tamilnadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	38.665	0	2.405	3.27
	West Bengal	0	0	48.51	59.49	17.60	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	0	0	48.51	59.49	17.60	0	218.94	574.75	10.215	8.91

Note: In case of Karnataka, the amount shown in column 10 has been sanctioned to the State Channelizing Agencies

3.22 The Committee note that the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a very significant scheme for socio-economic upliftment of the manual scavengers in the country. The Committee find that the States which are mandated to identify the manual scavengers, have reported identification of only 12226 manual scavengers throughout the country, but uploaded the details of only 11861 manual scavengers, due to which, the Budget provision of Rs.470.19 crore for the year 2015-16 could not be utilized in full. The Committee, however, are constrained to note that despite their recommendation in this regard earlier, the Department have done very little to identify manual scavengers, as a result, the States/UTs have not reported identification of any additional manual scavengers over and above already identified 12226 manual scavengers. The Committee also do not know whether any extra efforts have been made by the Department to impress upon the State Governments to identify the exact number of scavengers. As a result, the BE for 2016-17 had to be kept as low as Rs.10.00 crore by the Department. Taking note of the fact that the house listing and housing Census-2011 reported existence of 26.06 lakh insanitary latrines in the country out of which 7.94 lakh were serviced by humans, and there is no increase in the number of manual scavengers reported since last one year, the Committee are of the considered view that the Department should seriously take up the matter for identifying the manual scavengers, as without identification this Scheme for their welfare is meaningless. The Committee impress upon the Department to pursue the States/UTs to set up an effective mechanism for carrying out proper identification of scavengers in the rural as well as in urban areas that too in a time bound manner. The Committee

are surprised to note that funds under this Scheme for training, capital subsidy, loan at concessional rate of interest have not been released in some major States, like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh from 2012 to 2016. The Committee desire that the Department should take effective and concrete measures to monitor the Scheme properly so as to identify more manual scavengers so that funds for their rehabilitation and upliftment throughout the country could be utilized.

III. PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SC STUDENTS (CLASS IX & X)

3.23 The Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students (Class IX & X) has been introduced w.e.f. 1st July, 2012. The Scheme is implemented by the State Governments and UT Administrations, which will receive 100% Central Assistance from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme, over and above their Committed Liability. The objective of the Scheme is to support parents of SC children for education of their wards studying in Classes IX & Xth so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized, and to improve participation of SC children in classes IXth and Xth of the pre-matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the post-matric stage of education. For being eligible under this Scheme, the student should belong to Scheduled Caste and parent's income should not exceed Rs.2.00 Lakh per annum.

3.24 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 4 years and BE for 2016-17 for Pre Matric Scholarship for SC Students (Class IX & X):

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2012-13	824	938.70	931.37
2013-14	900	700	545.90
2014-15	834	500	514.08
2015-16	842.55	550	524.65
2016-17	550	--	--

3.25 Regarding continuous under-utilization of funds under the Scheme every year, the Department clarified that "the scheme has been introduced w.e.f. 01.07.2012 in the financial year 2012-13. During 2012-13, the State Governments/UTs sent their proposal based on the anticipated number of beneficiaries as they did not have actual data on the

number of beneficiaries. It was observed that States were not able to utilize full funds released in 2012-13, resulting in huge unspent balances with them, which were adjusted in the subsequent years. Hence demand was lower in the subsequent years.

In the Pre-matric scholarship scheme, fees are not reimbursed to the beneficiaries, only maintenance allowance for ten months in an academic year and one time ad-hoc grant for day scholars and hostellers is paid. Hence, the demand for release of Pre-matric Scholarship from the States is low and utilization of RE was possible only after monitoring and repeated requests to the States to send their demand. The actual expenditure for 2015-16 was Rs. 524.65 crore. The funds earmarked for the North East could not be utilized due to lack of proposals from the respective state governments".

3.26 On being asked about the steps taken by the Department to ensure full utilization of the allocated funds in 2016-17, the Department stated that "it has been made mandatory to release scholarship amounts to beneficiary students directly into their bank accounts by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India under DBT through PFMS portal. Some States/UTs are finding it difficult in uploading the digitized list of beneficiaries in PFMS. In such cases, on the request of such States/UTs, Central Assistance is released to State Government with the advice to disburse the scholarship amount to their beneficiary students directly into their accounts through bank. Through close monitoring and follow up with the States, it will be ensured that the demand from the States is received in time to enable timely release of scholarship".

3.27 The Department have furnished the following data regarding number of beneficiaries under the Scheme during the last three years:

Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC studying in Classes IX and X during the years 2012-13 to 2015-16 as on 31.03.2016

		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Sl	State/ UT	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries (Anticipated)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	444807	--	193188	157736
2.	Assam	--	59823	62560	--
3.	Bihar	251908	274407	1581	453885
4.	Chhattisgarh	--	105399	105399	246715
5.	Goa	110	--	--	--
6.	Gujarat	47185	--	46318	69045
7.	Haryana	--	--	--	143537
8.	Himachal Pradesh	40933	--	--	23572
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	--	7667	7863	--
10	Jharkhand	56948	--	--	--
11	Karnatka	198200	190466	210639	--
12	Kerala	93034	101386	88783	84250
13	Madhya Pradesh	449942	0.00	373866	303397
14	Maharashtra	--	466771	64629	--
15	Odisha	185690	238874	276345	230920
16	Punjab	186097	313936	189705	189705
17	Rajasthan	209345	245366	264372	15358
18	Sikkim	382	--	--	236
19	Tamilnadu	162544	170672	204620	455420
20	Tripura	25439	38660	36853	8799
21	Uttar Pradesh	1111909	--	--	--
22	Uttrakhand	76009	76300	82499	25719
23	West Bengal	515000	445979	302266	--
24	Daman & Diu	--	--	74	118
25	Manipur	414	465	--	1217
26	Meghalya	--	--	100	--
27	Chandigarh	--	1887	1432	1888
	Total	4055896	2738058	2513092	2411517

3.28 The Committee note that empowering and uplifting of the Scheduled Castes people by implementation of educational schemes notably Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students (Class IX and X) is the prime objective of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment so that these students could perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the Post Matric stage. However, the Committee are dismayed over under-utilization of funds under the Scheme, every year. Keeping in view the fact that this Scheme was introduced in 2012-13 and the demand for release of Pre Matric Scholarship from the States is very low as it constitutes only the maintenance allowance for ten months in an academic year and that too, after repeated requests to the States to send their demand, the Committee are of the considered opinion that the Department should vigorously pursue the States to identify and encourage more eligible SC candidates under this Scheme and send their proposals, complete in all aspects, to the Department by the end of third quarter of the financial year, every year. The Committee wonder when there is only 1.55 per cent SC population in North Eastern States and the Department have already been exempted from making a provision of 10 per cent of the total Plan allocation for development of SCs in North Eastern States, why the Department have mentioned that the funds earmarked for the North East could not be utilized under this Scheme. The Committee are of the firm view that if there is no SC population in North East and the funds allocated under this Scheme remain unutilized, the Department may take measures to utilize this amount under other Schemes of Social Defence Sector, such as granting funds to NGOs, voluntary organizations working genuinely and sincerely as Implementing Agencies of the Schemes

pertaining to Social Defence sector particularly in the field of treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse and alcoholism.

3.29 The Committee note that there are no beneficiaries under this Scheme in some States, which have large SC population, such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Jharkhand in 2015-16. The Committee, therefore, wish to be apprised of the reasons for the same and desire that the Department must pursue every State, especially with huge SC population to send proposals for the eligible candidates under this Scheme.

IV. SCHEME FOR PROVIDING VENTURE CAPITAL FUND FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

3.30 Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes was introduced during 2014-15 by the Department as it was *inter alia* announced by then Finance Minister in his interim Budget speech for financial year 2014-15. The main objective of this Scheme to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes and to provide concessional finance to them, a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes was set up by Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI). Initially, a capital of Rs.200 crore was provided for the Scheme. Accordingly, the Government has approved on 22.12.2014 a 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes'. The Scheme is implemented by the IFCI Limited. The other objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

- It is a Social Sector Initiative to be implemented nationally in order to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled caste population in India.
- Promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes who are oriented towards innovation and growth technologies.
- To provide concessional finance to the scheduled caste entrepreneurs, who will create wealth and value for society and at the same time will promote profitable businesses. The assets so created will also create forward/backward linkage. It will further create chain effect in the locality.
- To increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs and to motivate them for further growth of SC communities.
- To develop SC entrepreneurs economically.

- To enhance direct and indirect employment generation for SC population in India.

3.31 During 2014-15, out of an allocation of Rs.200 crore provided for the Fund, Rs. 200.00 has been released to IFCI Venture Capital Funds (VCF) Limited.

3.32 The Department forwarded the following details of BE, RE and AE since the Scheme has been launched and BE for current financial year under this Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2014-15	200.00	200.00	200.00
2015-16	102.00	0.01	0.01
2016-17	40.00	--	--

3.33 When the Department was asked about the reasons for cutting down BE of Rs.102.00 crore to Rs.0.01 crore at RE stage, the Department replied that "Rs.200 crore was released in December, 2014 under the Venture Capital Funds for Scheduled Castes to IFCI Ltd. A provision of Rs.102 crore was made during the year 2015-16 under the Scheme. However, due to non-receipt of utilization certificate of above said amount i.e. Rs.200 crore from IFCI Ltd., the funds have been cut down from BE of Rs.102 crore to Rs.0.01 crore at RE stage".

3.34 When the Department was enquired about the reasons for the proposal of BE of Rs.40 crore during 2016-17, the Department informed that "as proposed by IFCI Ltd. the revisions in the eligibility criteria of the operational guidelines under the Scheme of the Venture Capital Funds for Scheduled Castes are under consideration. The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) in its meeting held on 14.03.2016 under the Chairpersonship

of the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment has recommended the proposed modifications and these are under process of approval of the competent authority. After implementation of the proposed modifications it is expected that the number of beneficiaries of the target group will increase under the Scheme. Subsequently, the allocated amount of Rs.40 crore is expected to be utilized by IFCI Ltd. during 2016-17".

3.35 The Committee note that Capital Venture Fund for Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs is the only Scheme to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes, and to increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs and to motivate them for further growth in the society. Since introduction of Scheme in 2014-15, the allocation for this Scheme is on wane. From Rs.200 crore in 2014-15, the BE for 2016-17 has drastically reduced to Rs.40.00 crore and the actual expenditure by the Department was only Rs.0.01 crore in 2015-16. The Committee note that non-receipt of utilization certificates from Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) was the reason for cutting down the RE from Rs.200 crore to Rs.0.01 crore in 2015-16 and lowering the Budget Estimate to Rs.40.00 crore in 2016-17. The Committee observe that the Department are lacking in seriousness in implementing this Scheme. The Committee desire that the Department should set up a strong and effective mechanism for pursuing IFCI Ltd. to utilize the allocated amount in full and also provide Utilization Certificates well in time so that the allocation for this Scheme is not reduced every year. The Committee also desire that as this is entirely a new approach by the Department in the field of promotion of entrepreneurship, besides Schemes for educational and economic development of the Scheduled Castes, they should take extra effective measures to make it successful at every level so that they need not lower the budgetary allocation for this Scheme. The Committee further note that the eligibility criteria of the operational guidelines under this Scheme have been revised and are under consideration. The Committee, therefore, wish to be apprised of the outcome of this revision and its impact on the overall performance of the Scheme with reference to the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme.

V. NEW INITIATIVES/SCHEMES OF THE DEPARTMENT

3.36 There are some new initiatives taken by the Department in the field of Transgender Persons and Beggars. The Department are under process of implementing Schemes related to Transgender Persons and Beggars, which are as follows:

I. SCHEME FOR WELFARE OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS

3.37 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been handling the issues relating to Transgender persons with effect from July 2012. An Expert Committee was constituted to make an in-depth study of the problems being faced by the Transgender Community. The Committee has submitted its report on 27th January 2014, suggesting various measures to ameliorate the condition of the transgender persons. The concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments/UT Administration are being consulted for their suggestions/views on the recommendations made by the Expert Committee and also confirm what action can be taken at their end.

3.38 The Expert Committee has recommended that “Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment may set up a Standing Coordination Mechanism in the form of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for coordinating the welfare activities being undertaken by the various Ministries and State Governments/UT Administration for transgender community comprising representatives of concerned Central Government Ministries and representatives of State Governments.” Accordingly, an Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted to discuss these issues. Till date four Inter Ministerial meetings have been conducted.

3.39 On 15th April, 2014, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Writ Petition No. 400/2012 filed by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) has delivered its judgement on the issues of Transgender Persons directing the Central and State Governments to take various steps for the welfare of the transgender community and also to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee based on the Legal declaration made in the above said judgment.

3.40 The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended formulating an Umbrella Scheme for empowerment of the transgender community. Accordingly, the Department have drafted an umbrella scheme for empowerment of transgender persons and the same is under consideration.

3.41 The Department are also in the process of formulating a draft bill titled, "The Right of Transgender Persons Bill", which was placed on the website of this Department on 3.12.2015 for seeking comments from the Public. A pre-legislative Consultation Meeting with the stakeholders on "The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill" was also held on 18.01.2016.

3.42 The Committee are happy to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment are taking seriously the plight of transgender persons and addressing their issues by formulating and drafting an Umbrella Scheme for empowerment of the transgender community on the recommendations of the Expert Committee which are under consideration. The Committee feel that all the sections of the society should get the benefits of social schemes run by the Government. The Committee are also aware that the transgender community has different and special needs which need to be addressed differently and specifically. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should expedite the finalization of the umbrella Scheme without further delay so that the same could be implemented at the earliest being the only Scheme for the welfare of the transgender community.

3.43 The Committee further observe that the Department are in process of formulating a draft Bill titled "The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill", which is prudent in the direction of welfare of transgender persons and a pre-legislative Consultation Meeting with all the stakeholders on the Bill has also been held. The Committee desire that the Government should finalize the Bill expeditiously and introduce it in Parliament as soon as possible in order to protect the rights of transgender community.

II. SCHEME FOR REHABILITATION OF BEGGARS/DESTITUTES

3.44 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have taken a serious view on the problem of beggary. So far two National Consultation meetings involving State representatives, experts in the field of beggary etc. have been held, one in July, 2010 the other in July, 2012 to discuss issues relating to beggary. As per information available at present, 20 States and 2 UTs have either enacted their own Anti Beggary Legislation or adopted the legislation enacted by other States. Despite the fact that many States/UTs have enacted laws relating to beggary, however, the provisions of these legislations differ across the States and their status of implementation, including the measures taken for rehabilitation of beggars, are also not uniform. One of the suggestions made was to bring out a Model Legislation for Elimination of Beggary which can be suitably adopted/adapted by the States/UTs. The proposed Draft Model legislation was re-looked by a Special Committee constituted by the Department (representing members from judiciary, experts in the field of beggary etc.). The Special Committee recommended that a Central Legislation would be more effective compared to Model Legislation for maintaining uniformity in different States. Accordingly, a draft Central legislation named "The Persons in Destitution (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2015 was formulated. However, in the meantime, the matter was discussed in the month of February, 2016 with the Legislative Department and it was suggested that the Department may go for a Model Legislation. A decision would be taken accordingly.

3.45 Similarly, in order to rehabilitate beggars/destitute, a draft scheme for protection, care and rehabilitation of this target group has been drafted. The concerned Central Ministries were requested to provide information regarding schemes being implemented

by them for convergence of our draft scheme with other schemes. M/o Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has informed that Shelters for Urban Homeless under NULM could be converged with the Scheme. Accordingly, modified Draft Scheme for Rehabilitation of Beggars/Debitutes is under consideration.

3.46 The Committee note that for the welfare of destitute people and beggars, a Model Legislation for Elimination of Beggary was suggested by the National Consultation Meeting as the measures taken by some States/UTs for rehabilitation of beggars are not uniform all over India. Further, a special Committee constituted by the Department recommended for a Central Legislation for maintaining uniformity in different States. Accordingly, a draft Central Legislation namely "The Persons in Destitution (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2015 was formulated. In February, 2016, the matter was again discussed with Legislative Department who suggested that the Department may go for a Model Legislation. The Committee are constrained to note that the Department are making efforts for formulating schemes for the welfare of beggars and destitutes since July 2010 but still is not sure whether to draft a Model Legislation or a Central Legislation. As a consequence, nothing concrete has been done in all these six years while the problem of beggars and destitutes is increasing day by day. The Committee further observe that the Scheme drafted for protection, care and rehabilitation of beggars/destitutes by the Department is still under consideration. The Committee are not at all happy with the Department, apprising them of the same status of this Scheme year after year. The Committee wish to know the reasons for delay and the time by which this Scheme would be finalized and finally implemented. The Committee also desire that the Department should come to a conclusion without any delay whether to draft a Model Legislation or Central Legislation and finalize it expeditiously for these people who face innumerable difficulties and hardship everyday which does not auger well for a welfare society like ours.

D. SOCIAL DEFENCE

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR OLD PERSONS (IPOP)

4.1 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment are implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities etc. through providing support for capacity building of Government/ Non-Governmental Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/ local bodies etc. Under the Scheme financial assistance up to 90% of the project cost is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations for running and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare units etc. The cost norms of the scheme have been revised, with effect from 01.04.2015. The average increase in the amount of financial assistance in the latest revision has been 70% to 110%.

New Programmes/Schemes under IPOP

4.2 Some new Schemes/Programmes have been undertaken under IPOP on the basis of recommendations of the Working Group on Social Welfare, constituted by the Planning Commission:

- i) Awareness Generation for the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- ii) Setting up a National Commission for Senior Citizens
- iii) Creation of National Trust for the Aged

- iv) Setting up of Helpline and Counselling for Senior Citizens at District level
- v) Implementation of the National Policy on Senior Citizens
- vi) Setting up of Helpline and Counselling for Senior Citizens at National level

4.3 The new schemes as listed above at Point nos. (i), (iv), (v) & (vi) have been merged with the existing components of the scheme of IPOP and the schemes as listed above at Point nos. (ii) and (iii) as the National Council for Sr. Citizens is being strengthened, hence these Programmes have been dropped.

4.4 The Department have been implementing this Scheme with the help of NGOs which are granted funds for implementing various schemes under IPOP. The Department forwarded the following details of BE, RE and AE for the last three years and BE for current financial year for Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2012-13	40.00	18.00	18.21
2013-14	45.00	21.95	15.54
2014-15	50.00	25.00	14.99
2015-16	55.00	27.97	21.28 (upto 29.02.2016)
2016-17	37.00	--	--

The Ministry furnished the following data regarding number of beneficiaries, State-wise, for the last three years, under the Scheme of IPOP:

Name of the Scheme: - Integrated Programme for Older Persons									
Rupees in Lakh									
S. No.	Name of State/UT	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 (upto 28.3.2016)	
		Funds released	No. of Beneficiaries assisted	Funds released	No. of Beneficiaries assisted	Funds released	No. of Beneficiaries assisted	Funds released	No. of Beneficiaries assisted
ROC States									
1	Andhra Pradesh	365.07	8100	347.24	4550	352.91	3875	374.71	4700
2	Bihar	20.44	150	8.21	75	5.6	75	4.44	75
3	Chhattisgarh	12.22	75	4.88	25	0	0	13.85	25
4	Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
6	Haryana	48.28	625	56.45	700	10.22	175	45.82	500
7	Himachal Pradesh	6.10	50	9.82	960	7.54	425	11.99	450
8	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	229.33	1895	84.10	645	114.39	515	377.9	1615
11	Kerala	0.00	0	11.33	1003	5	0	16.62	100
12	Madhya Pradesh	21.52	95	11.60	445	25.19	125	28.67	100
13	Maharashtra	152.23	1390	157.04	2195	71.92	490	284.23	1690
14	Odisha	303.06	5675	354.43	5450	203.98	2775	338	1375
15	Punjab	5.79	175	16.71	350	14.91	225	18.25	250
16	Rajasthan	4.88	25	17.59	220	10.29	50	16.44	75
17	Tamil Nadu	257.72	3395	30.73	725	190.07	1970	471.26	3895
18	Telangana	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	34.45	175	43.77	275
19	Uttar Pradesh	83.88	975	60.73	650	37.17	475	33.39	400

20	Uttarakhand	23.22	75	26.75	150	7.32	75	12.13	125
21	West Bengal	42.14	625	182.36	3125	108.63	2325	120.01	1900
UTs									
22	A & N Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
23	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
25	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
26	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
27	Delhi	43.46	3200	46.67	5070	55.15	125	60.91	150
28	Pudicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
NE Region States									
29	Arunachal Pradesh	4.08	25	0.00	0	0	0	1.13	25
30	Assam	77.71	1800	50.07	700	99.26	2500	182.82	2825
31	Manipur	112.12	2375	79.90	875	131.26	1725	252.05	2250
32	Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
33	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.00	0	3.1	50	3.76	100
34	Nagaland	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.13	25	8.1	25
35	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
36	Tripura	7.78	50	0.00	0	9.58	50	8.33	50
Total		1821.03	30775	1556.61	27913	1499.07	18225	2728.58	22975
No ongoing projects of IPOP Scheme exist in the States/UTs mentioned at SI No. 4, 5, 8, 9, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32 & 35									

4.5 The Committee note that Integrated Programme for Old Persons (IPOP) is a significant Scheme which deals with improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities through providing financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the project cost to the Government/Non Governmental Organizations/ Panchayti Raj Institutions/ local bodies etc. for running and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units. The Committee are constrained to observe the details of the funds released and number of beneficiaries under this Scheme in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Committee find that there are some States like Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Goa, Meghalaya, Sikkim and all the Union Territories except Delhi etc. where there is nil disbursal of funds, hence there are no beneficiaries and there are no projects ongoing in these States for the last two years. The Committee, having noted the fact that six other Schemes/Programmes have been merged with the existing components of the Scheme of IPOP, fail to understand that when there are so many variants of this Scheme, how is it possible that there are no projects running in 11 States/UTs of the country. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Department to vigorously pursue more and more States/UTs to send the proposals for financial assistance under this Scheme from the very beginning of the financial year so that the funds allocated for the Scheme do not remain unutilized.

4.6 The Committee are concerned to note that there is a shortfall in expenditure in the last three years under Integrated Programme for Old Persons (IPOP). In 2015-16, BE of Rs.55.00 crore has been cut down to Rs.27.97 crore at RE stage and the Department could utilize only Rs.21.28 crore (upto 29.02.2016). The BE for the year 2016-17 has been kept by the Department as low as Rs.37.00 crore. As there

are six new Schemes/Programmes merged with the ongoing Scheme of IPOP, and Scheme has been revised w.e.f. 01.04.2015 resulting in the average increase in the amount of financial assistance from 70 per cent to 110 per cent, the Committee fail to fathom the reason for lowering the BE for 2016-17 under this Scheme and the shortfall of expenditure in previous years. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to streamline the procedure of selecting the eligible agencies for granting financial assistance to them from all the States/UTs throughout the country so that more and more senior citizens from all over the country are covered under this Scheme and allocated funds are also utilized optimally.

E. BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR OBC STUDENTS

5.1 The aim of this Scheme is 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 being awarded 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/-	
Class IX to X	Rs.50/-			

5.2 The scholarship is available in such institutions and for such pre-matriculation courses, which have been duly recognized by the concerned State Government and Union Territory Administration. Under the scheme, 50% Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments over and above their committed liability while in case of UTs 100% central assistance is provided. However, North-East States are exempted from Committed Liability under the Scheme. The States/UTs have been asked to distribute scholarships through Bank/Post Office.

5.3 When asked about any proposal by the Department to enhance the amount of scholarship awarded to the day scholars under the Scheme viz. Rs. 25, Rs.40 and Rs.50, the Department replied that "the scholarship amount is in addition to the facilities

provided under Right to Free and Compulsory Education, 2005. For the increase in scholarship rates, which involves huge financial implications, the Department of Expenditure has not committed or assured any additional resources. Moreover, the existing budget provision is utilized for covering the poorest of poor (below double poverty line) among the OBCs under the scheme every year".

5.4 When the Department was enquired about the last revision of the rates of scholarship done, it was informed to the Committee that "the rates of scholarships have not been revised so far since inception of the scheme in 1998-99".

5.5 Following figures have been forwarded by the Department showing BE, RE and AE of the last three years and BE for the current year:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2012-13	50.00	50.00	46.84
2013-14	150.00	123.00	115.86
2014-15	150.00	116.63	109.56
2015-16	150.00	135.90	120.79
2016-17	142.00	--	--

5.6 The Department furnished the following data for State-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students during last three years:

State-wise No. of Beneficiaries under the Scheme of Pre-Matric for OBC Students during last three years				
<i>(In lakhs)</i>				
S.No.	States/ UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.36	0.24	0.46
2	Bihar	48.24	120.00	40.39

3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	\$
4	Goa	0.01	0.04	0.08
5	Gujarat	1.29	1.26	1.20
6	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.16	0.15	0.00
8	Jammu & Kashmir	0.52	0.52	0.00
9	Jharkhand	0.12	0.00	0.10
10	Karnataka	3.06	1.61	5.70
11	Kerala	0.94	7.46	3.81
12	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	3.74
14	Odisha	0.73	1.44	1.02
15	Punjab	0.77	0.00	1.76
16	Rajasthan	4.07	4.19	4.24
17	Tamil Nadu	2.49	2.47	3.17
18	Telangana	0.00	0.00	\$
19	Uttar Pradesh	6.56	57.27	1.31
20	Uttarakhand	0.48	0.44	1.55
21	West Bengal	0.96	1.83	3.02
22	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.36
23	Manipur	0.00	0.00	\$
24	Tripura	0.72	0.71	0.70
25	Sikkim	0.00	0.01	0.00
26	Andaman Nicobar Island	0.04	0.04	0.00
27	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.00
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Daman & Diu	0.03	0.01	0.01
30	Delhi	0.06	0.05	0.06
31	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.13
	Total	72.62	199.50	72.81
	\$ Awaited from State Govts.			

5.7 The Committee note that the Backward Class Division of the Department have the responsibility of empowering the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) through their various educational Schemes. Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs is important amongst them with an objective to motivate children of OBCs studying at Pre Matric level, covering the poorest of poor *i.e.*, below double poverty line among the OBCs under the Scheme. The Committee are shocked to observe that the rates of scholarship are Rs.25 for Class I to V, Rs.40 for Class VI to VIII and Rs.50 for Class IX to X, which are too less to be used for the purpose. The Committee are dismayed to find that the rates of scholarship have not been revised since inception of the Scheme in 1998-99. The Committee wonder even if it is so, the scholarship amount is provided in addition to the facilities provided under Right to Free and Compulsory Education, 2005, what is the use of Rs.25, Rs.40 as this amount is too low as per present Consumer Price Index and does not solve any purpose. The Committee recommend that the Department should immediately revise the rates of Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs which have not been revised for last eighteen years.

5.8 The Committee note that there are nil beneficiaries in some of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh and would like to know the reasons for the same and the remedial/corrective steps taken by the Department in the matter. The Committee may also be furnished the latest information pertaining to number of beneficiaries during 2015-16 under the Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs, which has not been furnished to the Committee.

5.9 The Committee are concerned to note the continuous trend of under-utilization of budgetary allocation under this Scheme. Despite giving shortage of funds as a major reason for overall poor performance of the educational schemes and accumulation of arrears of Scholarship Schemes, the Department have not been able to utilize the entire budgetary allocation under this Scheme, the reason being late and incomplete submission of proposals by State Governments. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to take up this matter seriously with the State Governments and strictly advise them to send adequate number of proposals to the Department for grant of scholarships with complete information not later than by the end of third quarter of the financial year and monitor it throughout the year effectively so that the allocated funds are utilized fully.

NEW DELHI;

April, 2016

Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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

MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-16) HELD ON TUESDAY, 29th MARCH, 2016

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1345 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
7. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Dr. Udit Raj
12. Smt. Satabdi Roy
13. Smt. Mamta Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri Ahamed Hassan
15. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
16. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
17. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
18. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

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

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Smt. Anita Agnihotri	Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
2.	Shri Arun Kumar	Additional Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
3.	Smt. Aindri Anurag	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
4.	Shri B.L. Meena	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
5.	Smt. Ghazala Meenai	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
6.	Smt. Sujata Sharma	Economic Advisor, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
7.	Shri Shyam Kapur	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
8.	Shri T.C.A. Kalyani	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
9.	Smt. Indira Murthy	Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
10.	Shri Mukat Singh	Deputy Director General, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
11.	Dr. R.K. Singh	CMD, NSFDC
12.	Shri M. Nagaraj	Managing Director, NSKFDC
13.	Shri K. Narayan	CMD, NBCFDC

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the Secretary and other accompanying officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to their Department. Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly 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 (2016-17) of the Department are as follows :-

- (i) Shortfall in over all expenditure of the allocated funds under Plan head provided to the Department for welfare of the targeted groups in majority of schemes.
- (ii) Strategy adopted to deal with the perennial problem of late receipt of utilization certificates by the Department from State Governments/Implementing Agencies.
- (iii) Under-utilization of funds under the Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.
- (iv) Remedial measures for late and incomplete proposals pertaining to the educational and other welfare schemes of the Department.
- (v) Shortage of funds and accumulation of arrears with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment pertaining to the educational schemes particularly Post Matric Scheme for SC students.
- (vi) Achievements of the Department under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse.
- (vii) Work done for identification, liberation and rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.
- (viii) New schemes and initiatives related to transgender persons, beggars and destitutes.

4. The representatives of the Department responded to the queries by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat by 1st April, 2016 for early finalisation of the Report.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the 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 on 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 THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27th APRIL, 2016

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
5. Dr. Udit Raj
6. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
7. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri Ahamed Hassan
9. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
10. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - 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) Twenty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (ii) *****
- (iii) *****
- (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 amendments. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to the Report.