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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2016-2017)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2017-2018)**

THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

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(2017-2018)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.03.2017

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2017



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
7. Smt. K. Maragatham
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
12. Dr. Udit Raj
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
14. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamata Thakur
17. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
18. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
19. Vacant*
20. Vacant*
21. Vacant#

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
24. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25. Shri Ahamed Hassan
26. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
27. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
28. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

* Shri Bhagwant Khuba and Shri Mohanbhai K. Kundariya changed their nomination *w.e.f.* 19.10.2016.

Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri changed his nomination *w.e.f.* 23.11.2016.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Thirty-sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2017-18' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) which were laid on the Table of the House on 09 February, 2017. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on 27 February, 2017. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 16 March, 2017.

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

4. For ease of reference, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

16 March, 2017
25 Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

A. INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The core mandate of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is to look 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 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

1.3 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 and 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. 46. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 09.02.2017. 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 under Plan and Non Plan Expenditure along with the Budget Estimate for 2017-18 under Schemes and Non-Schemes allocation:

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	2014-15	6165.00	5400.00	5352.32	99.12%
	2015-16	6467.00	5911.78	5698.53	96.39%
	2016-17	6500.00	6501.33	5469.52 (upto December, 2016)	84.13%
Schemes	2017-18	6494.74	--	--	--
Non-Plan	2014-15	47.74	52.05	50.27	96.58%
	2015-16	57.82	57.67	54.69	94.83%
	2016-17	65.95	68.06	51.73 (upto December, 2016)	76.01% (upto December,2016)

(Amount in Rs Crore)					
Head	Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Expenditure as Percentage of RE
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Non-Schemes	2017-18	413.26	--	--	--

2.2 From the financial year 2017-18, the bifurcation of budget in Plan and Non-Plan has been done away with. In place of Plan and Non-Plan system, Ministry of Finance has introduced a new system of "schemes and Non schemes items" for providing budget and finalization of RE.

2.3 As is evident in the above statement, the Department has been able to utilize almost more than 95 per cent of its entire allocation in the last three years. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Department which have resulted in utilization of almost entire Budget allocation. The Committee also note that the Department has utilized 84.13 per cent of the total allocation of 2016-17, till December, 2016.

2.4 When the Committee asked the reasons for the unutilized amount left with the Department, the Secretary stated that, "under utilization of funds has been mainly under the North-Eastern Head of some Schemes. This has been due to the fact that *vide* decision of the Government of India in October 1996, all the Ministries/Departments have been making a lumpsum provision of 2 per cent of allocation for SC Schemes and 10 per cent for other Schemes of their annual plan allocations to be spent for North-Eastern States, unless specifically exempted. The allocated provision for NE States is not fully utilized due to low demand by some of these States". Regarding efforts being made in

the direction to tackle this problem, the Department in written reply stated that the Department had been consistently pursuing the matter requesting the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to relax the 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent. However, the request of the Ministry has not been acceded to by M/o DoNER so far".

2.5 When the Committee enquired about the under-utilization of funds during the sitting of the Committee, the Secretary submitted as under:

"In 2015-16, our expenditure is 96.39 per cent. There is a shortfall on expenditure of about 4 per cent. This shortfall is due to lack of expenditure in the North East States. ...until and unless the North East States give us an utilisation certificate for the prior year expenditure, we cannot do that."

2.6 The Secretary further deposed explaining the steps taken to deal with this problem as under:

"We are continuously writing and talking to them but since some of them are Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the State also has to release their share of money given the financial position in some of the States. If they do not release their share, they will not be able to give us the UCs. When they do not give UC, we are unable to spend the money. That is where the shortfall is." "...It is not that shortfall is because we could not spend, it is the Central sponsored Scheme, States have to release their share of the money, spend the money and give us the UCs, unless that comes, we cannot release the money."

2.7 Following data was furnished by the Department for Proposed Outlay and Approved Annual Outlay for 2016-17 and 2017-18:

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment					
Proposed Outlay & Approved Annual Outlay 2016-17 and 2017-18					
Rs. in crores					
Sl. No.	Division	Proposed Outlay 2016-17	Approved Annual Outlay 2016-17	Proposed Outlay 2017-18	Approved Annual Outlay 2017-18
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	7820.82	5149.66	8780.20	5441.61
2.	Other Backward Classes	2553.89	1221.56	1294.50	1245.30
3.	Social Defence	191.94	127.94	162.02	140.49
	Misc. (Media + Secretariat + Research)	76.02	66.79	118.99	80.60
	Grant Total	10642.67	6565.95	10355.71	6908.00

2.8 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment formulated the Annual Plan proposal for the year 2017-18 as per the direction given by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment submitted its requirement of Rs 10355.71 crore to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure allocated of Rs 6908.00 crore for the year 2017-18 against the projected requirement of the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. This has led to a squeeze in the proposed outlay of some Schemes.

2.9 When the Department was enquired about the Schemes which were affected by this reduced allocation, it was stated that "the main Scheme which will be affected by the reduced allocation is the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SCs, in which there are

pending arrears to the tune of approximately Rs. 8000 crore and other Schemes of social defence which focus primarily on, *inter-alia*, drug abuse prevention and welfare of senior citizens".

2.10 Regarding accumulated arrears with the Department under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs, the Secretary deposed before the Committee as under:

"Since it is a completely open ended Scheme, all the States, whatever is the number of SC students who get admission through the normal admission process, their fees are being put under this particular Scheme.

"Now, over the years, we have been able to, some extent, meet the arrears. In this financial year of 2016-17, as on date, we have been able to clear arrears upto 2014-15. Of 2015-16, we have been able to meet about one-third of the arrears. So, today, the arrears that we have, are the balance arrears of 2015-16 and 2016-17, which over all is coming to around Rs. 7,729 crore. The Budget of the Ministry is Rs. 6,908 crore. Our Post Metric arrears are Rs. 7,729 crore. We had requested the Finance Ministry to release this because the students are getting affected... We had requested the Finance Ministry to release the amount so that we can move to modifying the Scheme, reducing the quantum of fee reimbursement that we do, but the Finance Ministry says: 'You first do that and then come to us. Whereas our Minister says, we will first pay and then we will do'. Therefore, Sir, that is the reason why the arrears are there."

2.11 Further, elaborating the reasons for such huge arrears, the Department stated that "the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students, which is the flagship Scheme of the Department has been in operation since 1944. This is an open ended Scheme wherein the due arrears of the States/UTs which are the implementing agencies are carried forward to the subsequent year. There is no limit on the amount of tuition fee and the number of beneficiaries. The States do not have foolproof system to eliminate duplicate and multiple claims. Monitoring of the Scheme by them has not been effective.

2.12 The budget estimates and revised estimates under the Scheme every year have not been meeting the demand received from State/UTs for Central Assistance. This mismatch has resulted in accumulation of arrears. The average demand for Central Assistance from States/UTs is approximately Rs. 4500 to 5000 crore per annum. The build-up of arrears under Post matric scholarship for SC students is as under:-

Rs. In crores

Year	CA demanded	Arrear	Total Demand	CA released	Balance
2012-13	2365.00	847.00	3212.00	1654.00	1558.00
2013-14	2812.00	1558.00	4370.00	2153.00	2217.00
2014-15	4334.00	2217.00	6551.00	1963.00	4588.00
2015-16	4532.00	4588.00	9120.00	2213.00	6907.00
2016-17 (Estimated)	4500.00	6907.00	11407.00	2732.00	8675.00

2.13 In view of the inadequate allocation of funds, the arrears have accumulated and as per estimated demand received from States/UTs during 2016-17, the arrears are expected to be more than Rs. 8000 crore at the end of financial year as on 31.03.2017".

2.14 In order to deal with this problem of huge arrears, the Department further stated that "additional funds have been sought from Ministry of Finance for settling the arrear claims of States/UTs. Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has requested the Hon'ble Finance Minister *vide* letters dated 16.06.2015, 30.06.2015, 17.12.2015, 10.02.2016 and 08.12.2016 and the Hon'ble Prime Minister *vide* letter dated 15.02.2016 for providing additional budget to meet this every increasing arrears".

2.15 Further, it was informed by the Department that "all outstanding arrears upto 2014-15 and 30 per cent of arrears for 2015-16 have been settled from 2016-17 budget. 70 per cent of demand of 2015-16 and current year demand will stand as arrears by end of FY 2016-17 as per the existing Budgetary Allocations".

2.16 The Committee observe that during 2014-15, out of total budget allocation (RE) of Rs.5400.00 crore, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment utilized Rs.5352.32 crore, which constitutes 99.12 per cent of RE. Similarly, during 2015-16, the Department utilized Rs.5693.56 crore out of Rs.5911.78 crore (RE) constituting 96.3 per cent. During 2016-17 also, the Department utilized Rs.5469.52 crore (84.12 per cent) out of Rs.6501.33 crore upto December, 2016. The Committee find that this under-utilization has been mainly due to lack of expenditure in the North East States. The Committee are dismayed to note that despite continuous attempts by the Department, the North East States do not send the Utilization Certificates within time so that the funds may be released in time. Due to their failure in sending the UCs to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, their share of funds are being surrendered every year. Therefore, the Committee exhort the Department to take up the matter with the State Governments of North East and pursue them to release the State's share of money in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and provide UCs to the Department within the stipulated time so that the funds allocated for the NE States do not remain unutilized. The Committee feel that if the 10 per cent mandatory allocation for NE States could not be utilized year after year and surrendered repeatedly, there is need for urgent review of these provisions. The Committee desire that if there is low demand by some of the NE States due to which the mandatory allocation cannot be spent there, the Department should again take up the matter with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and request them to consider relax this 10 per cent mandatory allocation so that this amount could be

utilized in other Schemes where there are huge arrears or which require revision, such as Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs.

2.17 The Committee note that against the demand of Rs.10355.71 crore submitted by the Department for the year 2017-18, the Ministry of Finance have given only Rs.6908.00 crore. In the year 2016-17 too, the Department received Rs.6565.95 crore against the demand of Rs.10642.67 crore due to which, Department's important Schemes, such as 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students' and 'Schemes of Social Defence' which include drug abuse prevention and 'Welfare of Senior Citizens' have been adversely affected. More so, the arrears of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme keep surging year after year and the Department is not in a position to do much in this direction due to paucity of funds. The Committee also note that though the Department has repeatedly taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance yet it has not yielded any results. The Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment informed the Committee that accumulated arrears of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme at the end of the financial year 2016-17 would be more than Rs.8000 crore *vis-à-vis* Rs.6908.00 crore annual budget of the Department for the year 2017-18. The Committee are of the firm view that education is the glue that makes the society cohesive and helps in the formation of its paradigms. More so, the urge for higher education among students from Scheduled Castes has let them cement positions in the society, thereby helping them in looking for newer avenues of social mobility. Serving as the biggest leveler of the society since 1944, the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students presently eases the path of education of about 50 lakh students and enabling them to become a part of the

mainstream society. This being a flagship Scheme of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee are distressed to note that this vital Scheme is badly affected by and is suffering from the resource crunch and the Department is almost in a helpless position as the Ministry of Finance are not providing any additional funds for clearing the accumulated arrears.

2.18 The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment may again take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance by telling them about the importance of the Scheme and persuade for onetime special package for clearing the huge arrears of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and also apprising them to what extent SC students are suffering and their career is at stake due to non-payment of scholarship to them. The Committee also urge the Department to review this Scheme in such a manner so that this problem of accumulated arrears does not occur.

C. NEW INITIATIVES IN 2017-18

3.1 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken several initiatives for senior citizens and for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. The Department has initiated Vidyashree Scheme - Residential School for SC girls. Another new Central Sector Scheme "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" has also been started under which physical aids and assisted-living devices will be provided to senior citizens belonging to BPL. This Scheme will be funded by the interest from Senior Citizen's Welfare Fund. The Department has also introduced "Smart Card for Senior Citizens", which will be Aadhar-based and will include health details. The Department has also taken new initiatives in Civil Rights by including rape and gang rape also for providing compensation to the victims from Rs.1.80 lakh to Rs.8.25 lakh.

3.2 The Secretary of the Department deposed before the Committee explaining the new Scheme of Vidyashree Residential School as under:

"...we are now going to introduce from 2017-18 a Scheme of Vidyashree Residential School for Girls, where 70 per cent of the seats would be for SC girls and it would be open to the other girls in that area. They would also be able to study there."

3.3 The Committee are happy to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated two new programmes, one for the welfare of senior citizens belonging to BPL category, namely Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and also Smart Card for Senior Citizens having their health details and another Scheme, namely, Vidyashree Scheme - Residential School for SC girls. The Committee urge the Department to allocate sufficient funds for these Schemes and implement them effectively with due diligence. As there is already crunch of funds for implementing other significant Schemes run by the Department, the Committee wish to know how the Department would manage to create separate funds for these Schemes and what will be the efficacious monitoring mechanism in place for these Schemes.

3.4 The Department furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and AE incurred on all the Schemes under the three Division from the year 2012-13 to 2016-17 along with BE for the year 2017-18 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, 2015-16, 2016-17 and & BE 2017-18.

(Rs in crore)

Sl. No.	Programmes/Scheme.	BE 12th Plan	2012-13			2013-14			2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			2017-18
			BE	RE	Exp.	B.E.	R.E	Exp.	BE.	RE.	Expend	BE	RE	Exp	BE 2016-17	RE 2016-17	Exp.(upto December, 2016)	BE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SCD Bureau																		
1	Post Matric Scholarship 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	2214.04	2791.00	2820.70	2701.34	3347.99
2	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Weaker Sections including SCs & OBCs	57.00	12.00	6.00	5.38	12.00	12.00	8.65	12.00	9.00	8.14	12.24	12.24	6.83	25.00	2.00	0.37	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	50.00	31.18	40.00
4	Implementation 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	118.98	150.00	228.49	138.70	300.00
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	45.69	40.00	30.00	23.58	150.00
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	3.28	5.00	5.00	2.09	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	49.96	50.00	70.00	31.66	70.00

8	Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards.	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	1.00	0.18	2.70
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	20.00	19.36	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	2.75	3.00	1.00	0.22	2.00
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	138.00	138.00	128.21
12	Special Central Assitace 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	800.00	800.00	800.00	599.68	800.00
13	Dr Ambedkar National Memorial (new Scheme)	400.00	14.00	0.01	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	3.30	3.10	10.00	10.00	10.00	16.99	16.99	16.99	62.00
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	63.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	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	100.00	49.55	40.00
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	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	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	National Fellowship for SCs NF).	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	200.00	196.00	230.00
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	1.00	0.00	5.00

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	16.12	15.00	15.00	6.05	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	29.76	21.00	31.00	18.08	35.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Research Study and Publication.		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	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	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	524.65	550.00	510.00	342.65	50.00
25	Credi 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	0.01	10.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
26	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	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Total: SCD Bureau	21306.00	4300.00	3858.73	3825.13	4663.00	3984.79	3989.57	4837.50	4216.62	4204.31	5128.50	4579.22	4454.63	5128.99	5131.19	4406.68	5418.91
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	16.42	22.00	21.00	16.39	19.10
2	Scheme for prevention of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse (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	36.15	35.00	46.00	28.90	46.00
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	3.00	0.00	3.00
4	Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP	440.00	40.00	18.00	18.21	45.00	21.95	15.54	50.00	25.00	14.99	55.00	27.97	27.57	37.00	37.00	24.85	46.00
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	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	0.00	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	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Settin 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	0.01	0.00	0.00	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	0.00	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	0.00	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	6.00	2.90	15.24
	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	0.01	0.00	4.00
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	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	1.00	0.00	4.00
	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	84.17	125.01	114.02	73.04	137.35
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	100.00	100.00	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	142.00	69.25	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	5.02	4.00	9.00	3.07	10.00
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	40.29	40.00	40.00	32.12	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	780.53	885.00	885.00	822.60	885.00	885.00	735.10	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	4.50	5.00	4.50	4.31	6.00
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	0.00		0.00
8	NOS Scheme for OBCs	21.00	5.00	0.01	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	1.00	0.90	6.66	1.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	1.80	4.30
9	Post Matric Scholarship for EBC	0.00	10.00	0.01	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	9.50	1.00	0.50	9.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	15.12	9.87	10.00
10	National Fellowship for OBCs & EBCs	42.00	50.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	11.00	9.43	6.20	18.30	18.30	27.00	27.00	24.00	40.00
	Total: Backward Classes Bureau	6174.00	900.00	816.54	756.44	1225.00	1072.70	1010.61	1129.50	1070.48	1051.30	1225.48	1213.12	1134.5	1215.00	1225.62	979.52	1237.30
	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	22.19	30.00	30.00	10.21	33.00
2	Research Study Publication & Training	30.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.23	5.00	1.00	0.77	1.00	1.00	0.68	1.00	0.50	0.07	6.50
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	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	2.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total: Miscellaneous	450.00	40.00	32.49	30.81	43.00	43.70	29.41	50.00	37.00	35.57	28.50	28.50	25.23	31.00	30.50	10.28	39.50
	Grand Total	29400.00	5415.00	4750.77	4656.51	6063.00	5165.00	5079.63	6165.00	5400.00	5349.40	6467.00	5911.78	5698.53	6500.00	6501.33	5469.52	6833.06

D. SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

I. SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME OF LIBERATION & REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS (SRMS)

4.1 Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a Central Sector Scheme, which was introduced in January 2007 with the objective of rehabilitating remaining manual scavengers and their dependents.

4.2 The Scheme was revised in November 2013 in consonance with the prohibition of employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013 (MS Act 2013).

The main provisions of the revised Scheme are as follows:

- One time cash assistance of Rs.40,000 to one manual scavenger in a family.
- Capital subsidy upto Rs.3.25 lakh for setting up self employment projects costing up to Rs. 15.00 lakh.
- Liberal provisions for training of beneficiaries in marketable skills to enhance their employability. They are paid stipend of Rs. 3000 per month during the period of training which may extend upto 2 years.
- Under the Scheme, identified beneficiaries are provided loan, at subsidized rate of interest (4-6 per cent per annum), and credit linked capital subsidy.

4.3 The Registrar General of India (RGI), in its Census, 2011, data has, *inter-alia*, reflected presence of about 26 lakh insanitary latrines in 34 States/UTs in the Country. It suggests existence of sizeable number of manual scavengers. Department of Social

Justice and Empowerment is steering and coordinating the survey of manual scavengers in 3546 statutory towns.

4.4 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 4 years and BE for 2017-18 for Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS):

(Rs. in crores)

	BE	RE	AE
2013-14	570	70	35
2014-15	448	50	0
2015-16	470.19	10.01	0
2016-17	10	1.00	0
2017-18	5.00	--	--

4.5 When asked about the reasons for nil utilization in the last three years under the Scheme, the Department stated, that "house-listing and housing Census-2011 data released by the Registrar General of India, *inter alia* provided the number of households by type of latrine facilities, including latrines from which nightsoil is manually removed. After the release of Census data a Task Force was constituted for working out the modalities regarding survey of manual scavengers. Since the data regarding manual scavengers in rural areas was being captured under the Socio-Economic and Cast Census-2011, a decision was taken to undertake country-wide survey of manual scavengers in 3546 statutory towns. The scope of survey was limited to 3546 statutory towns, out of a total of 4041 statutory towns as 495 statutory towns did not have

households with insanitary latrines. The States were requested to initiate action for the survey as per guidelines". However, the survey was carried out by the States and Union Territories in 2955 Statutory towns and cities reporting identification 4482 manual scavengers as per following statement:

PROGRESS REPORT OF SURVEY OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AS ON 21.04.2015

Classification of States/UTs	Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	No. of Manual Scavengers identified	Number of Town/Cities
A. States/UTs where Survey has been completed and reports have been received.	1	Andhra Pradesh	53	101
	2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	16
	3	Bihar	137	137
	4	Chhattisgarh	3	82
	5	Goa	0	11
	6	Gujarat	0	160
	7	Haryana	0	77
	8	Jammu& Kashmir	119	78
	9	Karnataka	297	203
	10	Kerala	0	50
	11	Manipur	0	28
	12	Maharashtra	139	258
	13	Meghalaya	0	10
	14	Punjab	64	137
	15	Rajasthan	46	164
	16	Tripura	0	16
	17	Uttar Pradesh	2404	616
	18	Uttarakhand	137	41
	19	Sikkim	0	3
	20	Tamil Nadu	979	634
	21	West Bengal	104	125
	22	A & N Island	0	1
	23	Chandigarh	0	1
	24	Puducherry	0	6
Total			4482	2955

4.6 The Department further informed the Committee that "not much headway was made in this regard due to poor response from the States. In the meantime Parliament enacted 'Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013' (MS Act, 2013) in September, 2013 which was notified in October, 2013. This Act has come into force w.e.f. 06.12.2013 in all States and Union Territories except Jammu & Kashmir. MS Act, 2013 makes it mandatory for the local authorities to carry out survey of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers. The survey of insanitary latrines was to be completed by 06.02.2014. Under Sections 11 and 14 of the MS Act, 2013, the Chief Executive Officer the Municipality and Gram Panchayat are responsible to carry out survey of manual scavengers in urban and rural areas under their jurisdiction respectively as and when there are reason to believe existence of manual scavengers in the areas under the jurisdiction of concerned local authority, which is to be completed within one month". Only 13 States/UTs have reported existence of 12737 manual scavengers as per details given below:

**Reports received from States regarding Identification of Manual Scavengers as on
31st January, 2017.**

S.No.	Name of the States/UT	Number of Manual Scavengers whose details uploaded.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78
2.	Assam	191
3.	Bihar	137
4.	Chhattisgarh	03
5.	Karnataka	737
6.	Madhya Pradesh	36

7.	Odisha	237
8.	Punjab	91
9.	Rajasthan	322
10.	Tamil Nadu	363
11.	Uttar Pradesh	10301
12.	Uttarakhand	137
13.	West Bengal	104
Total.		12737

4.7 Responding to a query about inadequate demand for funds by the States, the Department stated that "there is very slow progress in the identification of manual scavengers by the States and UTs. Even after reporting identification of manual scavengers the data has not been completely uploaded on the website (www.mssurvey.nic.in), which is part of the procedure for release of one time cash assistance. Some deficiencies like incomplete details of the identified manual scavengers, bank accounts details, Aadhar number had been noticed in the proposals received from States at the time of scrutiny by the National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), the implementing agency of the Scheme".

4.8 Replying to a query about putting forth reduced demand every year by the Department for this Scheme, the Department stated "an expenditure of Rs.54.50 crores has been incurred from 2014-15 onwards upto 31.12.2016 from the corpus available with the NSKFDC from the earlier releases under the SRMS. NSKFDC is still having about Rs. 15 crore in the corpus of SRMS from the earlier releases. Keeping in view corpus available with NSKFDC and the progress of identification of manual scavengers by the

states the revised estimate for 2013-14. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 were reduced and BE of only Rs. 5 crores has been proposed for 2017-18".

4.9 When asked the reasons for nil expenditure under the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers for the last two financial years despite repeated recommendations by the Committee, the Department replied that "only 13 States and Union Territories have so far identified 12737 manual scavengers till end of January, 2017. 16 States and Union Territories have reported non existence of manual scavengers. There has been inadequate demand for funds due to very slow progress in the identification of manual scavengers and submission of proposals for the comprehensive rehabilitation of identified manual scavenger by the States and UTs. The expenditure for payment of onetime cash assistance, providing technical training and comprehensive rehabilitation of the identified manual scavengers has been met from the corpus of earlier releases under the SRMS available with the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, the implementing agency. Accordingly, the budget allocation for the financial years 2013-14 to 2016-17 remained un-utilized. An expenditure of Rs.54.17 crores has been incurred from 2014-15 onwards upto 31.12.2016 from the corpus available with the NSKFDC on the rehabilitation of manual scavengers. Accordingly, the budget allocation for the financial years 2013-14 to 2016-17 remained un-utilized".

4.10 The Department informed that the States/UTs have been requested to review the progress of identification of manual scavengers on the basis of Census-2011 data of insanitary latrines and SECC-2011 data of manual scavengers in rural areas and if necessary carry out a resurvey to ensure that all the manual scavengers in rural area

and urban areas are identified on the basis of revised data of manual scavengers that may be received from the States and UTs the fund requirement for their rehabilitation would be worked and necessary demand for grants would be raised at the time supplementary demand for grants".

4.11 When the Department was asked to explain the reasons for no beneficiaries reported in some States neither under 'One Time Cash Assistance', nor under sanctioned 'Self Employment Projects', the Department replied, that "in order to ensure that only the genuine manual scavengers get the rehabilitation benefits as per the guidelines of the SRMS the following steps are followed:

- (i) After the identification of manual scavengers the States are required to upload the data of the identified manual scavengers on the website www.mssurvey.nic.in
- (ii) The proposals for release of onetime cash assistance, skill development training and comprehensive rehabilitation are submitted by the concerned State Government agency to the NSKFDC with details of the manual scavenger, bank account, Aadhar particulars.
- (iii) After scrutiny the proposals onetime cash assistance is transferred to the bank account of beneficiary directly.
- (iv) The identified manual scavengers and their dependents are provided skill development training as per their eligibility and option exercised by them.

- (v) Proposals for loans for undertaking self employment projects as per the option of the beneficiary are processed for providing loans through bank and release of capital subsidy as applicable.

4.12 In case of some States the identified manual scavengers have not been provided rehabilitation benefits including onetime cash assistance either due to non receipt of proposals from the State or due to incomplete proposals as per details given in the

Annexure-III."

Progress Report on implementation of the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers as on 20th Feb., 2017- Release of One Time Cash Assistance

S.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Manual Scavengers whose details Uploaded	Not be provided OTCA as per norm of one MS per family/other reasons	Provided OTCA (No. of MS)	Yet to be paid (3-4-5)	Reasons for non payment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	Andhra Pradesh	78	0	53	25	Bank Details not received
2	Assam*	191	0	0	191	Data not uploaded and bank details not yet received
3	Bihar	137	6	131	0	
4	Chhattisgarh	3	0	3	0	
5	Karnataka	737	2	239	496	Data of 428 MS in rural areas recently uploaded. Matter for providing details being pursued with State.
6	Madhya Pradesh	36	0	36	0	
7	Odisha	237	3	221	13	Mismatch in names and account details
8	Punjab	91	1	87	3	Mismatch in names and account details

9	Rajasthan	322	4	307	11	Mismatch in names and account details
10	Tamil Nadu	363	0	255	108	Bank details not received
11	Uttar Pradesh	10301	1	10001	299	Mismatch in names and account details/ Bank details not received
12	Uttarakhand	137	2	135	0	
13	West Bengal	104	9	95	0	
	Total	12737	28	11563	1146	

*Data yet to be uploaded

4.13 When asked regarding the steps taken to know the reasons from the States who have not sent the status report of the number of beneficiaries, the Department replied "16 States and Union Territory namely Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar & Haveli, Daman Diu, Lakshadweep, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry had sent a nil Report. The remaining States/UTs have not submitted reports of survey. This issue is monitored with the States/UTs through quarterly progress reports, correspondence with the States Government, and review meetings. Most of the States had informed that in the absence of household-wise details of insanitary latrines, proper survey for identification of manual scavengers could not be carried out. In this connection, the office of RGI was requested to provide household-wise details of insanitary latrines to facilitate identification of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers by the local authorities in States/UTs. RGI has informed that under the confidentiality clause of the Census Act, 1948 household data cannot be released/provided. However, RGI provided the village level data of insanitary latrines which was sent to the States and Union Territories to facilitate proper survey of manual scavengers.

4.14 Further in the procedure of identifying manual scavengers, the Ministry of Rural Development released the data of Socio-Economic Caste Census-2011 (SECC-2011) in rural areas on 03.7.2015. As per the data released on the website of Socio Economic Caste Census-2011 there were 1,82,505 manual scavengers in rural areas on the above date. No data relating to SECC-2011 in urban areas has been released. As the SECC-2011 data is based on the self declaration made by the households, the States and UTs were provided the household-wise SECC data of manual scavengers in rural areas to verify and upload the final list of identified manual scavengers on the website www.mssurvey.nic.in. However, there had been no response from the States/UTs in this regard. It is observed that the data of SECC-2011 is revised from time to time and as per the latest data available on the website there are 168066 self declared manual scavengers in rural areas. As per the MS Act, 2013 only the manual scavengers identified and listed as per the provisions of the Act are eligible for the rehabilitation benefits specified in the Act. Therefore, SECC data of manual scavengers needs to be authenticated by the States/UTs. The Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment has also taken this issue with the Chief Ministers *vide* letters dated 16.12.2013, 04.07.2014, 13.01.2015, 06.02.2015 and 29.03.2016.

4.15 Regarding measures taken to overcome the obstacles responsible for undue delays in payment of One Time Cash Assistance, the Department stated that "as on date, 12737 manual scavengers have been identified. In 2015-16, 8627 manual scavengers had been identified and paid One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA). In 2016-17, 1532 manual scavengers have been identified and paid OTCA. 1146 identified manual scavengers are yet to provide One Time Cash Assistance. The following

measures have been taken by the Department to expedite payment to the identified manual scavengers :

- National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), implementing agency for SRMS, has requested the Nodal Agencies and the concerned State Governments to provide the correct bank account details of Manual Scavengers so that the OTCA could be transferred directly in the respective accounts of eligible beneficiaries.
- Regular follow-up with the concerned Nodal Agencies/State Governments for submission of documents of remaining Manual Scavengers for releasing One Time Cash Assistance.
- Awareness camps are being organized by NSKFDC at various locations of concerned Districts during which the documents for releasing the One Time Cash Assistance are obtained.
- Individual letters are being sent to the mailing addresses of the identified Manual Scavengers requesting them to forward the bank details for one time cash assistance directly to NSKFDC by email/post.

4.16 The Committee note that the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a vital Scheme for the economic and social upliftment of the manual scavengers with the objective of identifying and rehabilitating manual scavengers and their dependents in the country. The Committee find that according to the Registrar General of India (RGI), Census 2011 data, there are about 26 lakh insanitary latrines in 34 States/UTs in the country, which suggests existence of sizeable number of manual scavengers. While on the other hand, survey of manual scavengers indicates that only 4482 manual scavengers were identified till 2015 and a total of 12737 manual scavengers have been identified till 31.01.2017. The Committee are disappointed to note this slow progress in the identification of manual scavengers by the States/UTs even after repeated recommendations by the Committee in this regard. During 2015-16, 12226 manual scavengers were identified and there is no sizeable increase this year also. The Committee feel that if House-listing and Housing Census 2011 reported 26 lakh insanitary latrines then 12737 is too less a number to service the given number of insanitary latrines. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department to impress upon the State Governments to carry out a fresh survey of the manual scavengers more seriously and in a time bound manner to identify more scavengers as without identification, this Scheme for their welfare is meaningless. Depending upon the identification of additional manual scavengers, the fund requirement may be worked out and allocation under RE be increased by the Department.

4.17 The Committee are surprised to note that even after identification of manual scavengers, the data has not been completely uploaded on the website by the

States/UTs, which is a mandatory part of the procedure for release of onetime cash assistance by the Department and due to which, there is no demand for funds by some States and there is too meagre allocation under RE for the last two years under this Scheme. The Committee are dismayed to note that due to failure in uploading the details on the website even after identifying 737 manual scavengers in Karnataka, 496 persons and 108 out of 363 identified in Tamil Nadu are yet to be paid onetime cash assistance. Similarly, in other States also, there are 1146 manual scavengers out of 12737, who are identified but yet to be paid. Considering the fact that rehabilitation benefits have not been provided to the manual scavengers due to non-receipt of proposals or due to uploading of incomplete proposals by the States, the Committee urge upon the Department to pursue the States to take this matter seriously and check all the details about the candidates thoroughly before uploading the same on the website of the Department. The Committee also desire the Department to give directions to the States that if a manual scavenger has been identified, the States/UTs should immediately upload his/her correct and complete details on the website of the Department. As the Scheme is meant for most disadvantaged section of the society, the Committee also desire that the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, the implementing agency of the Scheme, should play pro-active role in proper and effective implementation of the Scheme.

II. SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHEDULED CASTES SUB PLAN (SCA TO SCSP)

4.18 The Central Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan was introduced in March 1980. The main objective of this Scheme is to give a thrust to family oriented Schemes of economic development of Scheduled Castes below the poverty line.

4.19 Under this Scheme, 100 per cent grant is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).

4.20 Central assistance under the Scheme is released to States/UTs on the basis of the following criteria:

(i)	SC Population of the States/UTs	40%
(ii)	Relative backwardness of the States/UTs	10%
(iii)	Percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by Composite economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line.	25%
(iv)	Percentage of SCP to the Annual Plan as compared to SC population percentage of the States/UTs	25%

Salient features of the Scheme:-

- Funds under the Scheme are provided as an additive to States/UTs implementing SCSP
- Main thrust is on economic development of SC population in order to bring them above poverty line through self employment or training

- Amount of subsidy admissible under the Scheme is 50 per cent of the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/ per beneficiary
- At least 10 per cent of SCA to SCSP funds released to States/UTs to be utilized for skill development programmes
- Upto 10 per cent of the total release to State/UT can be utilized for infrastructure development in villages having 50 per cent or more SC population
- At least 15 per cent of the SCA to be utilized by States/UTs for SC women.

4.21 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 4 years and BE for 2017-18 for SCA to SCSP:

(Rs. in crores)

	BE	RE	AE
2013-14	1051	800	790.25
2014-15	1060	700	700
2015-16	1107.44	800	800
2016-17	800	800	599.68 (upto Dec.,2016)
2017-18	800	--	--

4.22 When the Department was asked that they have utilized almost 100 per cent of the RE every year since 2013-14 but still the amount in BE has been decreased from Rs. 1107.44 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 800 crore in 2016-17, the Department replied that it as “the total Budget allocation of the Ministry was reduced substantially by NITI Aayog/Ministry of Finance and accordingly, the allocated budget distributed proportionately showed lower allocation under the Scheme”.

4.23 When the Department was further asked to explain the steps taken by the Department to ensure full utilization of the allocated amount of Rs.800 crore in the current year, it was replied that “so far an amount of Rs 680.00 crores (up to 20-02-2017) has been utilized under the Scheme based on actual release and utilization certificates received from States/UTs which is about 85 per cent of the total allocation. In order to ensure full utilization of the allocated amount, regular meeting with the States/UTs are being conducted for obtaining of utilization certificates. Last such meeting was held on 20th February, 2017”.

4.24 When again asked about the possibility of diversion of funds under this Scheme, the Department replied that “there is no possibility of diversion of funds under the Scheme as the allocated amount under the Scheme is fully utilized for the gap-filling requirement of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) of States/UTs”.

4.25 When enquired on what basis it can say that there is no diversion of funds under this Scheme, it was informed that “the States/UTs are directed from time to time for utilization of funds as per the extant guidelines of the Scheme. The subsequent installments to States/UTs are released only after receipt of Utilization Certificates. The States/UTs are required to give audited expenditure accounts of the State Corporations for the amount given to Corporations by State Government from SCA to SCSP”.

4.26 The Department furnished the following statement providing States/UTs wise details of number of beneficiaries under the Scheme for the last three years as under:

Number of beneficiaries assisted under Composite Development Scheme for Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan during the last three years

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
1	A.P.	8155	75702	76426
2	Assam	16201	19056	7490
3	Bihar	139580	NR	79749
4	Chattisgarh	250505	272847	9826
5	Gujarat	8704	9299	8047
6	Haryana	81509	79239	7089
7	H.P.	49127	82133	NR
8	J&K	NR	437567	3946
9	Jharkhand	4035	3042	10895
10	Karnataka	693532	NR	69969
11	Kerala	10580	8542	11530
12	M.P.	14552273	11877074	4601
13	Maharashtra	57338	NR	9512
14	Manipur	1534	NR	563
15	Odisha	15005	14793	13681
16	Punjab	342403	477787	5623
17	Rajasthan	32363	28631	26475
18	Sikkim	370	92	837
19	Tamil Nadu	34272	33194	3007
20	Telangana*		19658	45983
21	Tripura	73766	79317	11459
22	U.P.	NR	57169	40058
23	Uttrakhand	2603	1489	1771
24	West Bengal	72683	73664	77490
25	Chandigarh	149	187	339
	Total	16446687	13650482	526366

***Telangana
newly created
State**

4.27 Further the Department elaborated on the components of the Scheme and stated that "as per the Union Budget 2017-18 documents, the nomenclature of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan has been changed to Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes. The Budget Allocation under the welfare of Scheduled Caste in the year 2017-18 has increased to Rs 52369.22 crores from Rs 38832.63 crores in the year 2016-17 which is 34.84 per cent increase as compared to last year. Cabinet Secretariat has issued the revised Allocation of Business Rules wherein the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been entrusted the task of monitoring the Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes as per the formats developed by the NITI Aayog. Incidentally, the Statement for allocation for welfare of Scheduled Castes mentions specific Schemes under which targeted expenditure can happen".

4.28 When the Department was asked about the impact on the implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP as plan and Non-Plan budgeting has been done away with and in statement no. 10 of Expenditure Profile (Budget Documents) of the Financial Year 2017-18 also, it is very clearly written about the Special Component Plan as 'Allocation for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes', the Department stated that "there will be no impact on the implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP. The funds will be released by the Centre and utilized by States/UTs as per the extant guidelines of the Scheme SCA to SCSP".

4.29 When the Department was asked about any evaluation study to ascertain number of families who have come above the poverty line after taking assistance under this Scheme, the Department stated that "the data pertaining to the families who have crossed poverty line is not available. Based upon the evaluation study on SCA to SCSP

by the erstwhile Planning Commission (2013), it has been observed that the Scheme has benefitted the SC beneficiaries in raising their level of income".

4.30 The Committee note that the Central Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) is a significant Scheme for economic and social upliftment of Scheduled Castes below the poverty line, which provides 100 per cent grant to the States/UTs as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The Committee find that though the amount allocated under this Scheme was utilized fully by the Department in the previous years, yet the amount in BE was reduced from Rs.1107.44 crore in 2015-16 to Rs.800 crore in 2016-17. Considering the fact that this reduction in the budgetary allocation was due to the reduced allocation by Niti Aayog/Ministry of Finance, the Committee are of the considered view that the Department should take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance seriously and convince them not to reduce it further as the performance of the Department is commendable under this Scheme.

4.31 The Committee are constrained to note that non-receipt of Utilization Certificates from the States/UTs is a major factor for under-utilization of funds under this Scheme and this is a perennial problem too. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to start pursuing the States during the second/third quarter of the financial year to send complete proposals as well as Utilization Certificates at least by the end of third quarter of the financial year so that funds could be released in time and full utilization of the allocated amount could be ensured.

4.32 The Committee note that Department has ensured that there is no possibility of diversion of funds under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP without any strong and effective mechanism to monitor the same at the States/UTs level. The Committee apprehend that as the heading of the Special Component Plan has been changed to "Allocation for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes" and the Plan and Non Plan Budgeting has come to an end, there are more possibilities of diversion of funds under this Scheme for other purposes. The Committee, therefore, emphasize that the Department should set up a robust and effective mechanism to monitor the release of funds under SCA to SCSP by the States as diversion of funds has been reported in some States in the past.

4.33 The Committee find that under Composite Development Scheme for SCA to SCSP, the number of beneficiaries in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, etc. have been constantly decreasing. The Department owes an explanation for the same. The Committee further note that in some States, the number of beneficiaries have not been reported as in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh in 2013-14, Bihar, Karnataka and Manipur in 2014-15 and Himachal Pradesh in 2015-16. As this information is three years old, the Committee would like to know the reasons from the Department for not pursuing the States to send this information to them as it has not conducted any other survey to ascertain number of

persons/families coming above poverty line after taking assistance under this Scheme and this is the only criterion on the basis of which the progress of this Scheme can be assessed.

E. BACKWARD CLASSES DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

I. PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP 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 This Scheme is a funds-limited Scheme. 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 per cent Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments over and above their committed liability while in case of UTs 100 per cent central assistance is provided. However, North-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 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 4 years and BE for 2017-18 for Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC Students:

(Rs. in crores)

	BE	RE	AE
2013-14	150	123.00	115.86
2014-15	150	116.63	109.56
2015-16	150	135.90	120.79
2016-17	142	142	69.25
2017-18	142	--	--

5.4 When asked that the Department has utilized only Rs.69.25 crore out of Rs.142 crore, whether they will be able to spend the rest of the allocated amount in the remaining financial year 2016-17, the Department replied that "as on 20.02.2017, an amount of Rs. 111.31 crore out of Rs. 142.00 crore, has been released (78.39%) under the Scheme. Remaining amount of Rs. 30.69 crore (Rs.142.00 cr-Rs. 111.31 cr) will be released to those States whose demand is more than the Notional Allocation. The details are as under:

- a) Funds Released as on 20.02.2017 = Rs. 111.31 crore
- b) Remaining amount = Rs. 142.00-Rs. 111.31 crore = Rs. 30.69 crore
- c) Out of remaining amount, Rs. 12.86 crore is for North Eastern States which have no more demands.

5.5 After deduction of NE amount, rest amount is Rs. 17.83 crore for which complete proposals and UCs are pending. The amount will be released on receipt of proposals and UCs or to the States from where the demand is more than Notional Allocation".

5.6 Responding to a query about adopting a strategy to tackle this perennial problem of obtaining UCs from NE States as receipt of incomplete proposals and pending Utilization Certificates from NE States as the reason for shortfall in expenditure and surrendering of the unutilized amount, the Department stated that "to address the issues, a meeting was held in Guwahati with Hon'ble Chief Minister and Chief Secretary by the officers of this Ministry headed by Secretary, SJE. Subsequently, on receipt of proposal and UC, Rs.58.93 lakh has been released to State of Assam. The matter is being consistently followed up with the M/o DONER to relax the 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent in respect of some Schemes implemented by BC Division. So far as non-receipt of UCs from the State Govts. are concerned, the

respective States have to submit the UCs for further consideration of the release as per rules".

5.7 The Department forwarded the following statement with details of number of beneficiaries for the year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 as under:

Details of Beneficiaries under the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students during the last three years and the current year					
			Beneficiaries in lakh		
S.No.	States/ UTs	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.24	0.46	0.72	No. of beneficiaries are provided by the States/UTs with the proposals for subsequent year.
2	Bihar	120.00	40.39	\$	
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	\$	0.00	
4	Goa	0.04	0.08	0.07	
5	Gujarat	1.26	1.20	1.09	
6	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.15	0.00	0.00	
8	Jammu & Kashmir	0.52	0.00	0.46	
9	Jharkhand	0.00	0.10	8.90	
10	Karnataka	1.61	5.70	10.86	
11	Kerala	7.46	3.81	1.67	
12	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	
13	Maharashtra	0.00	3.74	2.05	
14	Odisha	1.44	1.02	0.87	
15	Punjab	0.00	1.76	7.68	
16	Rajasthan	4.19	4.24	4.56	
17	Tamil Nadu	2.47	3.17	0.49	
18	Telangana	0.00	\$	0.00	
19	Uttar Pradesh	6.64	1.31	0.58	
20	Uttarakhand	0.44	1.55	0.00	
21	West Bengal	1.83	3.02	3.52	
22	Assam	0.00	0.36	0.00	
23	Manipur	0.00	\$	0.00	
24	Sikkim	0.01	0.00	0.02	
25	Tripura	0.71	0.70	0.71	
26	Andaman Nicobar Island	0.04	0.00	0.00	

27	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.01
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Daman & Diu	0.01	0.01	0.00
30	Delhi	0.05	0.06	\$
31	Puducherry	0.00	0.13	\$
	Total	148.87	72.81	44.26
	\$ Awaited			

5.8 On being enquired about the raising the amount of scholarship to the students under this Scheme, the Secretary of the Department deposed before the Committee as under:

"...Pre Matric Education is now free except those who go to the private schools. In all government schools, education, food, uniform, textbook, everything is free. So, the amount that we provide as a maintenance amount is largely an incentive for the child to continue to be in the school."

The Secretary also candidly admitted that:

"We would certainly love to increase this amount; we want to increase this amount; but we cannot do so because we are limited by our budget".

5.9 The Committee note that the Backward Class Division of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has the responsibility of empowering the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) through its 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 find 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 and low to be used as a maintenance amount and incentive for a child to continue to be in the school. The Committee are equally disappointed to note that despite Committee's recommendation in the Demands for Grants of previous financial year, the Department has not taken any step to revise the scholarship amount. The Committee are of the considered opinion that since the rates of scholarship have not been revised since inception of the Scheme in 1998-99, the Department should pursue the Ministry of Finance in this matter and increase the budgetary allocation immediately to revise the present rates of scholarships.

5.10 The Committee are dismayed to find nil beneficiaries continuously during the last three years in some States, namely Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and poor performance in almost all UTs and North Eastern States under the Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC Students. The Committee would like to be apprised with the reasons for the same and the corrective measures taken by the Department in this matter. The Committee would also like to be informed of the latest information pertaining to number of beneficiaries during 2016-17 under this Scheme.

5.11 The Committee further note that there is under-utilization of funds continuously under this Scheme. The reason for this has been attributed to the mandatory allocation to the North Eastern States by the Department, which remains unutilized every year. This sums up to Rs.12.86 crore during 2016-17 and there is no demand from the North Eastern States which means that this amount will remain unutilized and will be surrendered by the Department. The Committee are perturbed to find that receipt of incomplete proposals and pending Utilization Certificates from North Eastern States leads to the problem of under-utilization of funds. Taking note of the fact that the rates of scholarships are already very low under this Scheme and the Department is continuously surrendering the funds under this Scheme, the Committee exhort the Department to again take up the matter with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern States to relax the 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent in respect of other Schemes of BC Division. The Committee would like to be informed about the action taken in this regard at the earliest.

NEW DELHI;

16 March, 2017

25 Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

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

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-17) HELD ON MONDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 2017

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1400 hrs. in Committee Room '53', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Jhina Hikaka
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Kariya Munda
7. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
8. Dr. Udit Raj
9. Smt. Satabdi Roy
10. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
11. Smt. Mamata Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

12. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
13. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
15. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
16. Smt. Chhaya Verma
17. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. 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. G. Latha Krishna Rao	Secretary
2.	Shri Arun Kumar	Special Secretary
3.	Smt. Ghazala Meenai	Joint Secretary
4.	Shri B.L. Meena	Joint Secretary
5.	Ms. T.C.A. Kalyani	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor
6.	Smt. Aindri Anurag	Joint Secretary
7.	Smt. Manisha Sensarma	Economic Advisor
8.	Shri Shyam Kapoor	CMD, NSFDC
9.	Shri K. Narayan	Managing Director, NSKFDC and NBCFDC

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives 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 (2017-18) pertaining to their Department. Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee on the subject about overall performance of the Department, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure

incurred, physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with the help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Department are as follows:-

- (i) Shortfall in over all expenditure of the allocated funds provided to the Department under Plan head for 2016-17 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) Shortage of funds and accumulation of arrears with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment pertaining to the educational schemes particularly Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students.
- (v) Remedial measures for late and incomplete proposals pertaining to the educational and other welfare schemes of the Department.
- (vi) New schemes and initiatives for the welfare of SC girl students and senior citizens.
- (vii) Non-utilization of funds in the Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) in the last few years.
- (viii) Work done by the States/UTs for identification, liberation and rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.
- (ix) Diversion of funds under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan by the State Governments.

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson then directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat at the earliest for early finalization of the Report.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the 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 has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 16th MARCH, 2017

The Committee met from 1025 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Jhina Hikaka
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
10. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
11. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
12. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
13. Smt. Chhaya Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
4. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3
10-11	2.16	<p>The Committee observe that during 2014-15, out of total budget allocation (RE) of Rs.5400.00 crore, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment utilized Rs.5352.32 crore, which constitutes 99.12 per cent of RE. Similarly, during 2015-16, the Department utilized Rs.5693.56 crore out of Rs.5911.78 crore (RE) constituting 96.3 per cent. During 2016-17 also, the Department utilized Rs.5469.52 crore (84.12 per cent) out of Rs.6501.33 crore upto December, 2016. The Committee find that this under-utilization has been mainly due to lack of expenditure in the North East States. The Committee are dismayed to note that despite continuous attempts by the Department, the North East States do not send the Utilization Certificates within time so that the funds may be released in time. Due to their failure in sending the UCs to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, their share of funds are being surrendered every year. Therefore, the Committee exhort the Department to take up the matter with the State Governments of North East and pursue them to release the State's share of money in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and provide UCs to the Department within the stipulated time so that the funds allocated for the NE States do not remain unutilized. The Committee feel that if the 10 per cent mandatory allocation for NE States could not be utilized year after year and surrendered repeatedly, there is need for urgent review of these provisions. The Committee desire that if there is low demand by some of the NE States due to which the mandatory allocation cannot be spent there, the Department should again take up the matter with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and request them to consider relax this 10 per cent mandatory allocation so that this amount could be utilized in other Schemes where there are huge arrears or which require revision, such as Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs.</p>
11-12	2.17	<p>The Committee note that against the demand of Rs.10355.71 crore submitted by the Department for the year 2017-18, the Ministry of Finance have given only Rs.6908.00 crore. In the year 2016-17 too, the Department received Rs.6565.95 crore against the demand of Rs.10642.67 crore due to which, Department's important Schemes, such as 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students' and 'Schemes of Social Defence' which include drug abuse prevention and 'Welfare of Senior Citizens' have been adversely affected. More so, the arrears of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme keep surging year after year and the</p>

		<p>Department is not in a position to do much in this direction due to paucity of funds. The Committee also note that though the Department has repeatedly taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance yet it has not yielded any results. The Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment informed the Committee that accumulated arrears of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme at the end of the financial year 2016-17 would be more than Rs.8000 crore <i>vis-à-vis</i> Rs.6908.00 crore annual budget of the Department for the year 2017-18. The Committee are of the firm view that education is the glue that makes the society cohesive and helps in the formation of its paradigms. More so, the urge for higher education among students from Scheduled Castes has let them cement positions in the society, thereby helping them in looking for newer avenues of social mobility. Serving as the biggest leveler of the society since 1944, the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students presently eases the path of education of about 50 lakh students and enabling them to become a part of the mainstream society. This being a flagship Scheme of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee are distressed to note that this vital Scheme is badly affected by and is suffering from the resource crunch and the Department is almost in a helpless position as the Ministry of Finance are not providing any additional funds for clearing the accumulated arrears.</p>
12	2.18	<p>The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment may again take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance by telling them about the importance of the Scheme and persuade for onetime special package for clearing the huge arrears of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and also apprising them to what extent SC students are suffering and their career is at stake due to non-payment of scholarship to them. The Committee also urge the Department to review this Scheme in such a manner so that this problem of accumulated arrears does not occur.</p>
14	3.3	<p>The Committee are happy to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated two new programmes, one for the welfare of senior citizens belonging to BPL category, namely Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and also Smart Card for Senior Citizens having their health details and another Scheme, namely, Vidyashree Scheme - Residential School for SC girls. The Committee urge the Department to allocate sufficient funds for these Schemes and implement them effectively with due diligence. As there is already crunch of funds for implementing other significant Schemes run by the Department, the Committee wish to know how the Department would manage to create</p>

		separate funds for these Schemes and what will be the efficacious monitoring mechanism in place for these Schemes.
31	4.16	<p>The Committee note that the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a vital Scheme for the economic and social upliftment of the manual scavengers with the objective of identifying and rehabilitating manual scavengers and their dependents in the country. The Committee find that according to the Registrar General of India (RGI), Census 2011 data, there are about 26 lakh insanitary latrines in 34 States/UTs in the country, which suggests existence of sizeable number of manual scavengers. While on the other hand, survey of manual scavengers indicates that only 4482 manual scavengers were identified till 2015 and a total of 12737 manual scavengers have been identified till 31.01.2017. The Committee are disappointed to note this slow progress in the identification of manual scavengers by the States/UTs even after repeated recommendations by the Committee in this regard. During 2015-16, 12226 manual scavengers were identified and there is no sizeable increase this year also. The Committee feel that if House-listing and Housing Census 2011 reported 26 lakh insanitary latrines then 12737 is too less a number to service the given number of insanitary latrines. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department to impress upon the State Governments to carry out a fresh survey of the manual scavengers more seriously and in a time bound manner to identify more scavengers as without identification, this Scheme for their welfare is meaningless. Depending upon the identification of additional manual scavengers, the fund requirement may be worked out and allocation under RE be increased by the Department.</p>
31-32	4.17	<p>The Committee are surprised to note that even after identification of manual scavengers, the data has not been completely uploaded on the website by the States/UTs, which is a mandatory part of the procedure for release of onetime cash assistance by the Department and due to which, there is no demand for funds by some States and there is too meagre allocation under RE for the last two years under this Scheme. The Committee are dismayed to note that due to failure in uploading the details on the website even after identifying 737 manual scavengers in Karnataka, 496 persons and 108 out of 363 identified in Tamil Nadu are yet to be paid onetime cash assistance. Similarly, in other States also, there are 1146 manual scavengers out of 12737, who are identified but yet to be paid. Considering the fact that rehabilitation benefits have not been provided to the manual scavengers due to non-receipt of proposals or due to uploading</p>

		<p>of incomplete proposals by the States, the Committee urge upon the Department to pursue the States to take this matter seriously and check all the details about the candidates thoroughly before uploading the same on the website of the Department. The Committee also desire the Department to give directions to the States that if a manual scavenger has been identified, the States/UTs should immediately upload his/her correct and complete details on the website of the Department. As the Scheme is meant for most disadvantaged section of the society, the Committee also desire that the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, the implementing agency of the Scheme, should play pro-active role in proper and effective implementation of the Scheme.</p>
39	4.30	<p>The Committee note that the Central Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) is a significant Scheme for economic and social upliftment of Scheduled Castes below the poverty line, which provides 100 per cent grant to the States/UTs as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The Committee find that though the amount allocated under this Scheme was utilized fully by the Department in the previous years, yet the amount in BE was reduced from Rs.1107.44 crore in 2015-16 to Rs.800 crore in 2016-17. Considering the fact that this reduction in the budgetary allocation was due to the reduced allocation by Niti Aayog/Ministry of Finance, the Committee are of the considered view that the Department should take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance seriously and convince them not to reduce it further as the performance of the Department is commendable under this Scheme.</p>
39	4.31	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that non-receipt of Utilization Certificates from the States/UTs is a major factor for under-utilization of funds under this Scheme and this is a perennial problem too. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to start pursuing the States during the second/third quarter of the financial year to send complete proposals as well as Utilization Certificates at least by the end of third quarter of the financial year so that funds could be released in time and full utilization of the allocated amount could be ensured.</p>
40	4.32	<p>The Committee note that Department has ensured that there is no possibility of diversion of funds under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP without any strong and effective mechanism to monitor the same at the States/UTs level. The Committee apprehend that as the heading of the Special Component Plan has been changed to "Allocation for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes" and the Plan</p>

		and Non Plan Budgeting has come to an end, there are more possibilities of diversion of funds under this Scheme for other purposes. The Committee, therefore, emphasize that the Department should set up a robust and effective mechanism to monitor the release of funds under SCA to SCSP by the States as diversion of funds has been reported in some States in the past.
40-41	4.33	The Committee find that under Composite Development Scheme for SCA to SCSP, the number of beneficiaries in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, etc. have been constantly decreasing. The Department owes an explanation for the same. The Committee further note that in some States, the number of beneficiaries have not been reported as in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh in 2013-14, Bihar, Karnataka and Manipur in 2014-15 and Himachal Pradesh in 2015-16. As this information is three years old, the Committee would like to know the reasons from the Department for not pursuing the States to send this information to them as it has not conducted any other survey to ascertain number of persons/families coming above poverty line after taking assistance under this Scheme and this is the only criterion on the basis of which the progress of this Scheme can be assessed.
46	5.9	The Committee note that the Backward Class Division of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has the responsibility of empowering the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) through its 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>i.e.</i> , below double poverty line among the OBCs under the Scheme. The Committee are shocked to find 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 and low to be used as a maintenance amount and incentive for a child to continue to be in the school. The Committee are equally disappointed to note that despite Committee's recommendation in the Demands for Grants of previous financial year, the Department has not taken any step to revise the scholarship amount. The Committee are of the considered opinion that since the rates of scholarship have not been revised since inception of the Scheme in 1998-99, the Department should pursue the Ministry of Finance in this matter and increase the budgetary allocation immediately to revise the present rates of scholarships.
46	5.10	The Committee are dismayed to find nil beneficiaries continuously during the last three years in some States, namely

		<p>Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and poor performance in almost all UTs and North Eastern States under the Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC Students. The Committee would like to be apprised with the reasons for the same and the corrective measures taken by the Department in this matter. The Committee would also like to be informed of the latest information pertaining to number of beneficiaries during 2016-17 under this Scheme.</p>
47	5.11	<p>The Committee further note that there is under-utilization of funds continuously under this Scheme. The reason for this has been attributed to the mandatory allocation to the North Eastern States by the Department, which remains unutilized every year. This sums up to Rs.12.86 crore during 2016-17 and there is no demand from the North Eastern States which means that this amount will remain unutilized and will be surrendered by the Department. The Committee are perturbed to find that receipt of incomplete proposals and pending Utilization Certificates from North Eastern States leads to the problem of under-utilization of funds. Taking note of the fact that the rates of scholarships are already very low under this Scheme and the Department is continuously surrendering the funds under this Scheme, the Committee exhort the Department to again take up the matter with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern States to relax the 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent in respect of other Schemes of BC Division. The Committee would like to be informed about the action taken in this regard at the earliest.</p>