

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)****(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)****MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT****(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT)**

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

**FORTY-FOURTH REPORT****LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI****August, 2017/Shravana, 1939 (Saka)**

# **FORTY-FOURTH REPORT**

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

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

### **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

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

**Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.08.2017**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.08.2017**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**August, 2017/Shravana, 1939 (Saka)**

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

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON**

**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 Azmeera Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
12. Dr. Udit Raj
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
14. Kunwar Bhartendra 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#

**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

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\* 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 to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Forty-fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on 'Demands for Grants - 2017-18' relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Thirty-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix.

4. For facility of reference observations/recommendations/comments of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

01 August, 2017  
10 Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on  
Social Justice and  
Empowerment

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

1.1 The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in the Thirty-sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2017-18)" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

1.2 The Thirty-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2017. It contained 13 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

**Paragraph Nos. 2.16, 4.17, 4.30, 4.31, 4.32, 5.9 and 5.11**

**(Total 7 - Chapter II)**

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

**NIL**

**(Chapter III)**

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration:

**Paragraph Nos. 3.3 and 5.10.**

**(Total 2 - Chapter IV)**

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

**Paragraph Nos. 2.17, 2.18, 4.16 and 4.33.**

**(Total 4 - Chapter V)**

**1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken**

**notes in respect of the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report for which interim reply has been given by the Government may be furnished at the earliest and in any case not later than three months after the presentation of this Report.**

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

**A. Relaxation of 10 per cent mandatory allocation to Ministry of DoNER by them and reduce it to 5 per cent**

**(Recommendation Para 2.16)**

1.5 The Committee observed 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 found that this under-utilization has been mainly due to lack of expenditure in the North East States. The Committee were 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 exhorted 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 felt 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 desired 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.6 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:-

"This Department consistently follows up the matter of pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) and timely submission of the proposals with the North Eastern States. However, in view of observations/recommendations of the Committee, a letter is once again being sent to State Governments/ UT Administrations of North Eastern States i.e Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura that have OBC beneficiaries regarding providing pending UCs and to release funds in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Apart from above, this issue will also be pursued vigorously with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the above States/UTs in the conference held in the current year 2017-18.

As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, the issue regarding relaxation of 10 per cent mandatory allocation was taken up by Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) to Minister, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) vide d.o. letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2016 and subsequent reminder from Secretary (SJ&E) to Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) vide d.o. letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. A subsequent reminder dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 has also been sent to Ministry of DoNER requesting them to consider relaxing 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent in respect of Schemes for welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)."

**1.7 The Committee observe that in order to meet the huge arrears accumulated with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and to utilize the unutilized amount in other Schemes, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been pursuing Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to consider relaxing 10 per cent mandatory allocation to Ministry of DoNER and reduce it to 5 per cent so that the remaining amount after relaxation could be used for other Schemes for the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The Committee are satisfied with the action taken by the Department in the matter. The Committee would, however, like to be apprised of the response of the Ministry of DoNER in this regard.**

## **B. Details of the Vidyashree Scheme - Residential School for SC girls.**

### **Recommendation (Para 3.3)**

1.8 The Committee were happy to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have 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 urged 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 wished 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.9 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:-

"The Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Central Government. It is funded from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund (SCWF) established *vide* Notification dated 18.03.2016. The corpus of the Fund comprise of the credit balance in any of the accounts under the following Schemes, remaining unclaimed for a period of 7 years from the date of declaration as an inoperative account and transferred to the Fund by the respective institution holding the accounts:-

- (a) Small savings and other savings schemes of the Central Government with Post Offices and Banks,
- (b) Accounts of Public Provident Funds under the Public Provident Fund Scheme, 1968 maintained by the Institutions concerned; and
- (c) Such other amounts in any Accounts or Schemes as may be prescribed.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the Nodal Ministry for the administration of the SCWF through an Inter-Ministerial Committee

chaired by Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. During the financial year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 5889 Crore was transferred to the corpus of the SCWF. Out of the interest accruing on this corpus, an amount of Rs.16 Crore was released to this Ministry in March, 2016, based on our demand for the year 2016–17. This amount has been released to ALIMCO which is the sole Implementing Agency of the RVY. The National launch of the Scheme was held in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in the first distribution camp held on 1st April, 2017 and the second distribution camp was held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on 8th April, 2017. As such, there appears to be no financial constraints for this Scheme.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as the nodal Ministry will monitor the Scheme. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, after one year of its implementation, will evaluate the programme. The procedural formalities such as *proforma* and procedure of application, sourcing, procurement and distribution will be laid down by the implementing Agency i.e. ALIMO, as may be suitable depending also upon the local conditions. The Central Government and ALIMCO shall be eligible to set up project

Monitoring units. Project Monitoring Units (PMU) shall be sent up in the Ministry and ALIMCO within the allocated Budget and coterminous with the Scheme, as a temporary measure.

After distribution of the assisted living devices, a sample check to the extent of 10% of the beneficiaries shall be made by the ALIMCO/implementing agencies.

Secretary (SJ&E) took a meeting on 13.02.2017 regarding 'Aadhar based Smart Cards for senior citizens', which was attended by the senior officers of the Ministry, National Informatics Center (NIC) and UIDAI. It was decided that SFC Note be prepared for the Scheme. A follow-up meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare, UIDAI, NIC, Finance and related Central Ministries/Departments was envisaged before preparation of the SFC Note. However, the follow-up meeting could not be convened due to unforeseen exigencies. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is exploring the possibility of shortlisting an Agency through National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI).

**1.10 The Committee having noted that the Department have initiated two new Schemes namely Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and Smart Card for Senior Citizens having their health details and Vidyashree Scheme- Residential School for SC girls. As these Schemes were to take off in the current financial year and the Department had already reported crunch of the funds for smooth functioning of other Schemes, the Committee had desired to know that from where the Department would arrange separate funds to start these Schemes along with their monitoring mechanisms. The Committee are disappointed to note that Department have furnished the details of only one Scheme i.e. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and remained silent on providing the details of the Vidyashree Scheme. The Committee would like to know the reasons for the same as well as the details of the Scheme along with the monitoring mechanism for this Scheme.**

**C. Non - Reporting of the beneficiaries by some States under Composite Development Scheme for SCA to SCSP for the last four years.**

**Recommendation (Para 4.33)**

1.11 The Committee found 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 noted 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 desired 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.

**Reply of the Government**

1.12 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:-

"The statement of the Committee is not correct to say that this Department is not pursuing the States/UTs to send the information related to number of beneficiaries assisted. In this regard, It is to inform that this Department consistently follows up the States/UTs to send the number of beneficiaries assisted, pending UCs and timely submission of the proposals for release of Central Assistance.

In compliance of the recommendation/observation of the Committee, the State Governments/Union Territory Administration are being urged to conduct the survey to ascertain number of persons/families cross the above poverty line after taking assistance under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP.

Apart from above, this issue will also be pursued vigorously with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States/UTs during the current year 2017-18."

**1.13 The Committee observe that despite consistently following up the States/UTs by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, there is huge pendency in furnishing Utilization Certificates and timely submission of the proposals by the States/UTs for release of Central Assistance under the Composite Development Scheme for SCA to SCSP. The Committee further note that in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee, the Department have also urged the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to conduct a survey to ascertain number of persons/families crossed the poverty line after taking assistance under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP. The Committee are of the considered view that to assess the performance of the Scheme and for further release of funds for the Scheme, it is essential to know the number of beneficiaries every year. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should adhere to more stringent mechanism to direct States/UTs to send information regarding number of beneficiaries. The Committee reiterate that the Department should again direct the States/UTs to send UCs in the given time, otherwise no further funds would be released to them. The Committee further desire that the Department should urge upon the States/UTs to expedite this survey and send its findings to the Committee.**

**D. Reporting of nil beneficiaries during last three years in some States under Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC students.**

**(Recommendation, Para 5.10)**

1.14 The Committee were 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 desired to be apprised with the reasons for the same and the corrective measures taken by the Department in this matter. The Committee also wished to be informed of the latest information pertaining to number of beneficiaries during 2016-17 under this Scheme.

**Reply of the Government**

1.15 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:-

"The Committee has observed that there are nil beneficiaries in the States of 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 OBCs. The reason for nil number of beneficiaries in some of the states is due to non-utilization of funds released to them, non-submission of Utilization Certificates and non-implementation of the Scheme in their respective States/UTs. All the States/UTs are requested from time to time to submit the proposal and Utilization Certificates within stipulated time. The number of beneficiaries during the year 2016-17 under this Scheme has still not been reported by the States Governments/UTs Administration. Generally, the information on number of beneficiaries is received from States/UTs alongwith the proposal for the next financial year."



**1.16 The Committee are dismayed to find that on one hand the amount of scholarship is too meager to fulfill the requirement of students at Pre Matric level while on the other hand, non-implementation of the Scheme is being reported by the Department. The Committee are of the considered view that if non-implementation of this Scheme is the biggest reason behind nil beneficiaries in most of the States, the Department should set up a stringent monitoring mechanism for this scheme in every State where funds have been released by them. The Committee desire that Department should take this Scheme seriously and impress upon the States/UTs to implement this Scheme properly as well as send UCs in time so that funds are released in time and utilized for the purpose meant for.**

**E. Under utilization of funds under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs**

**(Recommendation, Para 5.11)**

1.17 The Committee further noted 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 were 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 exhorted 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.

**Reply of the Government**

1.18 The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in their reply have stated:-

"The details of notional allocation and funds released to North East States which have OBC beneficiaries (Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura) during 2016-17 are given as under:-

(Rs. In lakhs)

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Notional Allocation</b>	<b>Funds released</b>	<b>Funds unutilized</b>
<b>1.</b>	Assam	1228	58.93	1169.07
<b>2.</b>	Manipur	106	0.00	106.00

<b>3.</b>	Sikkim	24	12.60	11.40
<b>4.</b>	Tripura	142	142.00	0.00
	Total	1500	213.53	1286.47

In view of observations/recommendations of the Committee, relaxation of 10 per cent mandatory allocation was taken up by Hon,ble Minister (SJ&E) to Minister, Ministry of DoNER vide d.o. letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2016 and subsequent reminder from Secretary (SJ&E) to Secretary, Ministry of DoNER vide d.o. letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. A subsequent reminder dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 has also been sent to Ministry of DoNER requesting them to consider relaxing 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent in respect of Schemes for welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)."

**1.19 The Committee note that in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment took up the matter with the Ministry of DoNER requesting them to consider relaxing 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 per cent in respect of Schemes for welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The Committee are satisfied with this move of the Department and would like to be apprised of the outcome of the same.**

## CHAPTER II

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### (Recommendation, Para 2.16)

2.1 The Committee observed 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 found that this under-utilization has been mainly due to lack of expenditure in the North East States. The Committee were 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 exhorted 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 felt 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 desired 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 This Department consistently follows up the matter of pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) and timely submission of the proposals with the North Eastern States. However, in view of observations/recommendations of the Committee, a letter is once again being sent to State Governments/ UT Administrations of North Eastern States i.e Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura that have OBC beneficiaries regarding providing pending UCs and to release funds in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Apart from above, this issue will also be pursued vigorously with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the above States/UTs in the conference held in the current year 2017-18.

As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, the issue regarding relaxation of 10% mandatory allocation was taken up by Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) to Minister, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) vide D.O. letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2016 and subsequent reminder from Secretary (SJ&E) to Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) vide D.O. letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. A subsequent reminder dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 has also been sent to Ministry of DoNER requesting them to consider relaxing 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 percent in respect of Schemes for welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.7 of Chapter I of the Report.)

**(Recommendation, Para 4.17)**

2.3 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.

**Reply of the Government**

2.4 In order to ensure that the benefit of rehabilitation reaches only the eligible identified manual scavenger, the amount of one-time cash payment of Rs.40, 000/-is

released directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Therefore, the following details are obtained from the State Government in respect of the identified manual scavengers for providing the rehabilitation benefits under the scheme of manual scavengers:

- (i) Uploading of the details of identified manual scavengers on the website [www.mssurvey.nic.in](http://www.mssurvey.nic.in).
- (ii) Bank account details alongwith the copy of the passbook.
- (iii) Mobile number of beneficiary if any.
- (iv) Photo identity of the beneficiary such as Aadhar Card/Voter Identity Card.

State--wise details of reasons and action taken for the pending cases of rehabilitation benefits to the identified manual scavengers are given in the Annexure.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

**(Recommendation, Para 4.30)**

2.5 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 The recommendation/observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. In this regard, a draft EFC note for revision of the scheme of SCA to SCSP has been moved to Integrated Finance Division for higher allocation and the same has been concurred. The draft EFC Note is being circulated to Ministries/ Departments for their comments.

Apart from above, this issue will also be pursued vigorously with the Secretary, Department of Expenditure at time of decision of the Revised Estimate (R.E) for the 2017-18 and allocation for the year 2018-19.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

### **(Recommendation, Para 4.31)**

2.7 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 The recommendation/observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. The State Governments/ Union Territory Administration are being requested to send the 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 for the full utilization of the allocated amount. During the year 2016-17, Rs.798.00 crore has been released to States/UTs out of total allocation of Rs.800.00 that is 99.75% of the total allocation.

Apart from above, this issue will also be pursued vigorously with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States/UTs during the current year 2017-18.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

**(Recommendation, Para 4.32)**

2.9 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.

**Reply of the Government**

2.10 The recommendation/observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. In compliance with the recommendation of the Committee, this Department has made efforts to streamline the existing mechanism of funds utilization. The details are given as under:--

To make the existing mechanism most stringent in order to avoid reduction at RE stage, the department takes the issues of getting the proposals from State

Governments at the beginning of the financial year itself. In some schemes, the State Governments are also intimated about the Notional Allocation of funds with the request to send the proposals within a stipulated/ prescribed time. The Department has also been pursuing proactively with the State Governments/UTs for getting proposals in time by following means:-

- i) The State Governments/UTs Administrations have been urged to send adequate number of project proposals for release of Central Assistance at the earliest and submit correct utilization certificate. This issue will also be vigorously pursued/discussed with the States/UTs Administrations held in the current year 2017-18.
- ii) Regular Video conferences are conducted with the State Governments/UT Administrations.
- iii) Nodal officers have been appointed in the Ministry having State specific responsibilities for conducting parallel review/inspection/meeting with State Officials regarding implementation of the scheme, as and when required.
- iv) The Minister (SJ&E) takes review meetings of States/UTs to take stock of progress made by the implementing agencies and the constraints faced therein.
- v) Performance of the schemes/programmes is being monitored through quarterly/Annual progress reports submitted by States/UTs. Further, the Department also makes evaluation of the schemes.

An online monitoring framework is being put in place to monitor the appropriate Utilization and physical progress of all schemes under the “Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste” which includes SCA to SCSP funds also.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

### **(Recommendation, Para 5.9)**

2.11 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, this Department had taken up these issues with Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for revising the rates of scholarship under the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs. In response to this, although Ministry of Finance had not opposed the proposal, but has left the matter with the discretion of Ministry without committing any enhanced resources. Accordingly, the prevailing rates and the income ceiling

are being continued. However, the Ministry has again moved the proposal for revision of rates of scholarship under the Scheme within the budgetary allocation.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

**(Recommendation, Para 5.11)**

2.13 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.

## Reply of the Government

2.14 The details of notional allocation and funds released to North East States which have OBC beneficiaries (Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura) during 2016-17 are given as under:---

(Rs. In lakhs)

SI.No.	States	Notional Allocation	Funds released	Funds unutilized
1.	Assam	1228	58.93	1169.07
2.	Manipur	106	0.00	106.00
3.	Sikkim	24	12.60	11.40
4.	Tripura	142	142.00	0.00
	Total	1500	213.53	1286.47

In view of observations/recommendations of the Committee, relaxation of 10% mandatory allocation was taken up by Hon,ble Minister (SJ&E) to Minister, Ministry of DoNER vide d.o. letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2016 and subsequent reminder from Secretary (SJ&E) to Secretary, Ministry of DoNER vide d.o. letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. A subsequent reminder dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 has also been sent to Ministry of DoNER requesting them to consider relaxing 10 per cent mandatory allocation and reduce it to 5 percent in respect of Schemes for welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 1.19 of Chapter I of the Report.)

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

**NIL**

## CHAPTER IV

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

#### (Recommendation, Para 3.3)

4.1 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.

#### Reply of the Government

4.2 The Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Central Government. It is funded from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund (SCWF) established *vide* Notification dated 18.03.2016. The corpus of the Fund comprise of the credit balance in any of the accounts under the following Schemes, remaining unclaimed for a period of 7 years from the date of declaration as an inoperative account and transferred to the Fund by the respective institution holding the accounts:-

- (a) Small savings and other savings schemes of the Central Government with Post Offices and Banks,



- (b) Accounts of Public Provident Funds under the Public Provident Fund Scheme, 1968 maintained by the Institutions concerned; and
- (c) Such other amounts in any Accounts or Schemes as may be prescribed.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the Nodal Ministry for the administration of the SCWF through an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. During the financial year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 5889 Crore was transferred to the corpus of the SCWF. Out of the interest accruing on this corpus, an amount of Rs.16 Crore was released to this Ministry in March, 2016, based on our demand for the year 2016–17. This amount has been released to ALIMCO which is the sole Implementing Agency of the RVY. The National launch of the Scheme was held in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in the first distribution camp held on 1st April, 2017 and the second distribution camp was held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on 8th April, 2017. As such, there appears to be no financial constraints for this Scheme.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as the nodal Ministry will monitor the Scheme. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, after one year of its implementation, will evaluate the programme. The procedural formalities such as proforma and procedure of application, sourcing, procurement and distribution will be laid down by the implementing Agency i.e. ALIMCO, as may be suitable depending also upon the local conditions. The Central Government and ALIMCO shall be eligible to set up project Monitoring units. Project Monitoring Units (PMU) shall be set up in the Ministry and ALIMCO within the allocated Budget and coterminous with the Scheme, as a temporary measure.

After distribution of the assisted living devices, a sample check to the extent of 10% of the beneficiaries shall be made by the ALIMCO)/implementing agencies.

Secretary (SJ&E) took a meeting on 13.02.2017 regarding 'Aadhar based Smart Cards for senior citizens', which was attended by the senior officers of the Ministry, National Informatics Center (NIC) and UIDAI. It was decided that SFC Note be prepared for the Scheme. A follow-up meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare, UIDAI, NIC, Finance and related Central Ministries/Departments was envisaged before preparation of the SFC Note. However, the follow-up meeting could not be convened due to unforeseen exigencies. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is exploring the possibility of shortlisting an Agency through National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS).

#### Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 1.10 of Chapter I of the Report.)

#### **(Recommendation, Para 5.10)**

4.3 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.

## **Reply of the Government**

4.4 The Committee has observed that there are nil beneficiaries in the States of 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 OBCs. The reason for nil number of beneficiaries in some of the states is due to non-utilization of funds released to them, non-submission of Utilization Certificates and non-implementation of the Scheme in their respective States/UTs. All the States/UTs are requested from time to time to submit the proposal and Utilization Certificates within stipulated time. The number of beneficiaries during the year 2016-17 under this Scheme has still not been reported by the States Governments/UTs Administration. Generally, the information on number of beneficiaries is received from States/UTs alongwith the proposal for the next financial year

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

## **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.16 of Chapter I of the Report.)

## CHAPTER V

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

#### (Recommendation, Para 2.17)

5.1 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, the issue relating to enhancement of additional allocation of Rs 8,000.00 crore under the Post- Matric Scholarship scheme was taken up by Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice Empowerment to Finance Minister vide d.o. letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 as well as Prime Minister of India vide d.o. letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 for clearing the accumulated arrears. In spite of these efforts, the Ministry Finance, Department of Expenditure, the allocation of this scheme for the year 2017-18 has been made only Rs 3347.99 crore that is 19.96 per cent higher than the allocation of Rs 2791.00 of the last year 2016-17. This issue will also be vigorously pursued with the Secretary, Department of Expenditure at the time of decision of the Revised Estimate (R.E) for the 2017-18 and allocation for the year 2018-19 so that arrears of the scheme could not be accumulated.

### **(Recommendation Para 2.18)**

5.3 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 one time 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 In compliance with the recommendation/observation of the Committee, the absolute necessity of clearing the huge pending arrears for the benefit of the poor Scheduled Caste (SC) students was taken up several times by Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) with Hon'ble Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India vide d.o. letters dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 and dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 for additional allocation of an amount Rs 8,000.00 crore for clearing the arrears of the past years of the Scheme.

As regard review of the scheme, the scheme is under revision, a draft EFC Note was circulated to Central Ministries/ Departments on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 and the comments of the Ministries/ Departments have been received. The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has been requested to intimate the date and time to hold the EFC meeting. The response from Ministry of Finance is still awaited.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

### **(Recommendation Para 4.16)**

5.5 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. 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.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.6 As per the recommendation/observation of the Committee, it is mentioned that the fact that of the number of manual scavengers identified by the States and Union Territories is not commensurate with the number of insanitary latrines reported in the houselisting and household Census-2011 data released by the Registrar General of India has been brought to the notice of the Chief Ministers of the State Governments/ Union Territories by Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide D.O. letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The Chief Ministers of the States/UTs have been urged to conduct the survey of manual scavengers carried out based on the number of insanitary latrines in the State. Village level Census-2011 data of insanitary latrines and household-wise Socio Economic and Caste Census-2011 data of manual scavengers in rural areas released by the Ministry of Rural

Development has been made available to the States vide D.O. letters dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 and dated 7<sup>th</sup> July,2015 to facilitate proper survey of manual scavengers.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

**(Recommendation Para 4.33)**

5.7 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.

**Reply of the Government**

5.8 The statement of the Committee is not correct to say that this Department is not pursuing the States/UTs to send the information related to number of beneficiaries assisted. In this regard, It is to inform that this Department consistently follows up the States/UTs to the send the number of beneficiaries assisted, pending UCs and timely submission of the proposals for release of Central Assistance.

In compliance of the recommendation/observation of the Committee, the State Governments/Union Territory Administration are being urged to conduct the survey



to ascertain number of persons/families cross the above poverty line after taking assistance under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP.

Apart from above, this issue will also be pursued vigorously with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States/UTs during the current year 2017-18.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-2/2017-Budget dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

#### Comments of the Committee

(Please see para 1.13 of Chapter I of the Report.)

**NEW DELHI;**  
**01 August, 2017**  

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**10 Shravana, 1939 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2017**

The Committee met from 1000 hrs. to 1045 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, First Floor, Block-B, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
3. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
4. Smt. Mamata Thakur

**RAJYA SABHA**

5. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
6. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
7. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
8. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
9. Smt. Chhaya Verma
10. Shri Ramkumar Verma

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri A.K. 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) Forty-fourth Report on action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report on "Demands for Grants-2017-18" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment);

(ii) \*\*\*\*                                     \*\*\*\*                                     \*\*\*\*                                     \*\*\*\*

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(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 modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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\* *Matter not related to this Report.*

## APPENDIX

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2017-18) OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	13	
II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Paragraph Nos. 2.16, 4.17, 4.30, 4.31, 4.32, 5.9 and 5.11)	7	53.85
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: NIL	0	0
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration: (Paragraph Nos. 3.3 and 5.10)	2	15.38
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: (Paragraph Nos. 2.17, 2.18, 4.16 and 4.33)	4	30.77