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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2017-18)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2018-19)**

FIFTIETH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2018/Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

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(2018-19)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 08.03.2018

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 08.03.2018



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2018/Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2017-18)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
7. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
8. Smt. K. Maragatham
9. Shri Kariya Munda
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Dr. Udit Raj
12. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy
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. Shri Munvvar Saleem Chaudhary
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

* Prof. A. Seetaram Naik changed his nomination w.e.f. 03.11.2017.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Fiftieth Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2018-19' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) which were laid on the Table of the House on 6th February, 2018. 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 21st February, 2018. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 7th March, 2018.

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 (2018-19).

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;

07 March, 2018

16 Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS

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

REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The objective of the Department is to empower the socially, educationally and economically marginalized sections of the society including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Senior Citizens, Victims of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Transgender Persons, Beggars, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).

1.2 The Department through its programmes and Schemes strives to build an inclusive society wherein members of the target groups are provided adequate support for their growth and development. The estimated population size of some of the target groups, as per 2011 census, is Scheduled Castes 20.14 crore (16.6 per cent), Senior Citizens 10.36 crore (8.56 per cent), Victims of Substance Abuse, around 1 per cent of the population (though authentic data is not available) is believed to be victims of substance abuse.

1.3 The policies and programmes of the Department aim towards:

- (i) Educational and economic development along with the social empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), Transgender Persons and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs);
- (ii) Support to Senior Citizens by way of their maintenance, welfare, security, health care, productive and independent living;

(iii) Prevention and treatment of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse;

CHAPTER II

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 2018-19 are given under Demand No. 89. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 06.02.2018. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the last three years under Plan and Non Plan Expenditure along with the Budget Estimates for 2018-19 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	2015-16	6467.00	5911.78	5698.53	96.4%
	2016-17	6500.00	6501.33	6467.07	99.5%
	2017-18	6836.20	6836.46	5180.54 (As on 14.02.2018)	75.0% (As on 14.02.2018)
Schemes	2018-19	7161.42	--	--	--
Non-Plan	2015-16	57.82	57.67	54.69	96.58%
	2016-17	65.95	68.06	64.59	94.83%
	2017-18	71.80	71.54	56.60 (As on 31.01.2018)	76.01%

(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	2018-19	78.26	--	--	--

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 introduced a new system of "Schemes and Non-schemes items" for providing budget and finalization of RE.

2.3 As is evident from the above statement, the Department had been able to utilize almost more than 95 per cent of its entire allocation in the last three years, which is credible. 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 have utilized 75 per cent of the total allocation of 2017-18, till 14th February, 2018, which is again a good thing and the Committee commend the Department for this .

2.4 Following data was furnished by the Department for Proposed Outlay and Approved Annual Outlay for 2017-18 and 2018-19:

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment					
Proposed Outlay & Approved Annual Outlay 2017-18 and 2018-19					
(Rs. in crore)					
Sl. No.	Division	Proposed Outlay 2017-18	Approved Annual Outlay 2017-18	Proposed Outlay 2018-19	Approved Annual Outlay 2018-19
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Scheduled Castes Development	8780.20	5418.91	8637.71	5562.58

2.	Other Backward Classes	1294.50	1237.30	2047.00	1745.00
3.	Social Defence	162.02	140.49	203.17	292.16
4.	Miscellaneous (Media + Secretariat + Research)	118.99	111.30	139.68	150.26
	Grant Total	10355.71	6908.00	11027.56	7750.00

2.5 The Department has formulated the Annual Plan proposal for the year 2018-19 as per the directions given by the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure). The Department submitted its requirement of Rs 11027.56 crore to the Ministry of Finance but got only Rs 7750.00 crore for the year 2018-19. The Department has informed that this has led to a squeeze in the proposed outlay of some Schemes.

2.6 When enquired regarding 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 is pending arrears to the tune of approximately Rs. 8600.00 crore and other schemes of social defence which focuses primarily on, *inter-alia*, drug abuse prevention and welfare of senior citizens".

2.7 When the Department was enquired about the reasons for enhanced allocation sought by the Department in the year 2018-19, it was submitted that "enhanced allocation was sought by the Department, as there are pending arrears of approximately Rs. 8600.00 crore under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SCs by the end of financial year 2017-18. "

2.8 When asked about the action taken by the Department to clear huge pending arrears under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SCs, the Secretary of the Department deposited before the Committee as follows:

"Our note for providing for the arrears and also certain other reforms under the scheme is before the Cabinet. That is why, for the year 2018-19, we requested for about Rs. 11,000 crore to provide for the arrears which were to be paid. So, assuming that the fund would come and also once the Cabinet approves, automatically the fund would come. So, therefore, under post-metric scholarship for SCs, in 2018-19, the allocation is Rs. 3,000 crore. We hope that the Cabinet will take it up and once the Cabinet approves, the additional amount would come in".

2.9 The Secretary further added that arrears are right now to the tune of Rs. 5,983 crore. So, we do hope that once the Cabinet approves, then, the Finance Ministry should either give the entire amount for the year 2018-19 or in two years, we will leave it to them and they will give. But with Cabinet approval, we hope to get the funding.

2.10 It was further informed by the Department that "the actual expenditure of Department as on 14-02-2018 is Rs 5180.54 crore (Schemes) against RE 2017-18 of Rs 6908.00 crore". When the Department was asked to justify the under-utilisation of funds in 2017-18 it was stated that "the under-utilization of funds has been mainly under the North-East Head of some schemes. This has been due to the fact that vide a decision of Government of India in October 1996, all the Ministries/Departments have been making a lump sum 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. When asked about the action taken in this regard it was submitted that the Department have 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. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region vide their Office Memorandum No.11012/6/2017-Office of Economic Adviser dated 28th November, 2017 has intimated that they have no objection

with respect to the exemption sought from earmarking of 10 per cent of the Budget provision under the scheme for Backward Classes, as long as Department of Social Justice and Empowerment adheres to 10 per cent Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) expenditure in North Eastern Region (NER). "

2.11 On the issue regarding the steps taken by the Department to deal with this issue, it was stated that "efforts have been made for full utilization of funds by NE States in 2017-18. The issue regarding providing the pending UCs for release of grant was discussed during the Regional Conferences/Meetings held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment/Hon'ble State Minister (SJ&E) in Chandigarh, Ahmadabad, Ranchi, Delhi and Chennai with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States Governments/Union Territory Administrations during the year 2017-18. Regular meetings and interactions with State Government Officials are being held for timely submission of proposals".

2.12 There were some schemes where there is very less or 'nil' utilisation of budgetary allocation such as Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojana - Boys Hostels (SCs), Self Employment Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers, Upgradation of Merit of SC students, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojna, etc. When the Department was enquired about the reasons for such trend in last few years it was replied that "the reasons for less or 'nil' expenditure in the above-mentioned Schemes are given as under:-

(i) Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojana - Boys Hostels (SCs)

- Non receipt of complete and timely proposals from the implementing agencies.

- Sharing of construction cost by the Central and State Governments i.e 50 per cent by Central 50 per cent State Government on matching share basis .Similarly, admissibility of only 45 per cent Central assistance to the State Universities/Institutions
- (ii) Upgradation of Merit of SC students,
- Non receipt of complete and timely proposals from the State Governments.
 - Under utilization of number of slots allotted by the State Governments.
- (iii) Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers.
- The scheme is being implemented by NSKFDC who has an unspent balance from the funds released to it earlier. Therefore, no funds have been released to NSKFDC in 2017-18.
- (iv) Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

An amount of Rs 16.00 crore was allocated for the scheme which was drawn from Senior Citizen Welfare Funds. The full amount was released to ALIMCO for implementing scheme in the States and full amount has been utilized.

2.13 The Department furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and AE incurred on all the Schemes under the three Divisions from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18 along with BE for the year 2018-19:

Annexure-I											
BE,RE and Expenditure of 2015-16, 2016-17-, 2017-18 & B.E 2018-19.											
(Rs in crore)											
Sl. No.	Programme s/Scheme.	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19
		BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	R.E	Exp.As on 31.01.18.	B.E.
1	2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Scheduled Castes Development Bureau											
1	Post Matric Scholarship for SCs	1599.00	2216.05	2213.88	2791.00	2820.70	2798.77	3347.99	3347.99	2506.96	3000.00
2	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Weaker Sections including SCs & OBCs	12.24	12.24	6.83	25.00	2.00	1.50	25.00	25.00	18.26	30.00
3	Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana	200.00	200.00	195.82	90.00	50.00	62.68	40.00	40.00	30.35	70.00
4	Implementatio n of PCR Act 1955 and PoA Act, 1989	90.75	120.75	118.98	150.00	228.49	222.56	300.00	305.17	294.38	403.72
5	Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna - Girls Hostels	50.00	45.00	45.69	40.00	30.00	30.10	150.00	150.00	39.93	155.45
6	Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojna - Boys Hostels	25.00	5.00	3.28	5.00	5.00	4.90	5.00	5.00	3.54	5.00
7	Assistnace to VO's Working for SCs.	51.00	51.00	49.96	50.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	25.53	50.00
8	Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards.	10.00	2.50	2.42	2.00	1.00	1.88	2.70	2.70	0.35	5.00
9	State Scheduled Caste Development Corporation - Equity support	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.81	20.00
10	Up gradation of Merit of SC Students	4.00	4.00	2.75	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.01

11	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	100.00	100.00	100.00	139.00	138.00	138.00	128.21	128.21	128.21	137.39
12	Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)	1107.44	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00	797.92	800.00	800.00	649.56	1000.00
13	Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial (new Scheme)	10.00	10.00	10.00	16.99	16.99	16.99	62.00	62.00	59.86	5.00
14	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation	1.00	125.55	63.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Center.	48.00	0.01	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	40.00	40.00	37.14	15.00
16	National Safaikaramchar is Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	44.83	5.00	30.00
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
18	National Fellowship for SCs NF).	209.55	209.55	200.55	200.00	200.00	196.00	230.00	230.00	200.00	300.00
19	Self Employment Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	470.19	10.01	0.00	10.00	1.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	20.00
20	National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	6.12	16.12	16.12	15.00	15.00	14.02	15.00	15.00	0.21	15.00
21	Top Class Education for SCs	21.42	31.42	29.76	21.00	31.00	28.83	35.00	35.00	23.02	35.00
22	Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
23	Research Study and Publication.	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)	842.55	550.00	524.65	550.00	510.00	507.47	50.00	50.00	35.97	125.00

25	Credi guarantee Fund for Scheduled Castes	98.24	0.01	0.01	10.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
26	Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes.	102.00	0.01	0.01	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	0.00	140.00
	Total: SCD Bureau	5128.50	4579.22	4454.47	5128.99	5131.19	5103.63	5418.91	5418.91	4079.09	5562.58
Social Defence											
1	National Institute for Social Defence	4.73	16.73	16.42	22.00	21.00	20.75	22.24	22.50	20.34	15.15
2	Scheme for prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drug) Abuse	20.15	36.15	36.15	35.00	46.00	47.00	46.00	46.00	30.32	50.00
3	Assistance to voluntary organizations for General Grant in Aid in the field of social defence.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4	Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP	55.00	27.57	27.57	37.00	37.00	52.99	46.00	46.00	23.87	60.00
5	Scheme of Assistance for Establishme nt of OAHs for Indigent Senior Citizens	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	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National level	0.01	2.01	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	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)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

9	Setting up of a National Commission for Senior Citizens	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Creation of National Trust for the Aged	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Implementation of the National Policy on Senior Citizens	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	0.01	2.01	0.00	3.00	6.00	6.00	15.24	22.22	12.97	7.00
13	Scheme for transgender persons.	1.56	0.01	0.00	15.00	0.01	0.00	4.00	0.02	0.00	1.00
14	National Policy on Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	155.50
15	Rashtriya Vyoshri Yojna	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
16	Scheme of Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars (IPRB)	0.01	3.01	0.00	10.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.50
Total Social Defence Bureau		84.52	90.54	84.17	125.01	114.02	129.74	140.49	140.75	90.50	292.16
Backward Classes Development Bureau											
1	National Backward Class Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC)	112.00	112.00	112.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.00	100.00
2	Pre-matric Scholarship to OBC students	150.00	135.90	120.79	142.00	142.00	129.14	142.00	142.00	92.86	232.00

3	Grant in aid to Vol.Orgns working for BCs	6.12	5.12	5.02	4.00	9.00	8.99	10.00	10.00	10.00	30.00
4	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	45.00	41.30	40.29	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	34.92	50.00
5	Post-Matric Scholarship for BCs	885.00	885.00	821.75	885.00	885.00	875.81	885.00	885.00	640.93	1100.00
6	Scheme for Educational and Economical Development of DNTs	5.00	4.50	4.50	5.00	4.50	4.50	6.00	6.00	3.01	10.00
7	Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for OBCs and EBCs:	6.66	1.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	2.90	4.30	4.30	3.69	10.00
8	Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs:	9.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	15.12	15.12	10.00	10.00	9.00	103.00
9	National Fellowship for OBCs & EBCs	6.20	18.30	18.30	27.00	27.00	27.00	40.00	40.00	10.00	110.00
	Total: Backward Classes Bureau	1225.48	1213.12	1133.65	1215.00	1225.62	1203.46	1237.30	1237.30	864.41	1745.00
	Miscellaneous										
1	Information & Mass Education Cell	23.50	23.50	22.19	30.00	30.00	29.78	33.00	37.00	30.49	65.00
2	Research Study Publication & Training	1.00	1.00	0.68	1.00	0.50	0.46	6.50	2.50	0.56	5.00
	Total: Miscellaneous	28.50	28.50	25.23	31.00	30.50	30.24	39.50	39.50	31.05	70.00
	Grand Total	6467.00	5911.38	5697.52	6500.00	6501.33	6467.07	6836.20	6836.46	5065.05	7669.74

2.14 The Committee clap the Department for utilisation of fund upto 99.5 per cent of the total Budget for the year 2016-17. However, the Committee note that during 2017-18 under-utilisation of allocated funds has been mainly under the North-East Head of some Schemes. There is 10 per cent mandatory allocation for Schemes and as there is low demand by some of these States, this allocated amount for NE States was not fully utilised. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Department in pursuing the Ministry of Development of North-East Region (DoNER) to relax 10 per cent mandatory allocation to 5 per cent. Taking note of the fact that Ministry of DoNER have no objection regarding exemption sought by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee desire that the Department should go extra miles and pursue Ministry of DoNER vigorously to relax this 10 per cent mandatory allocation to 5 per cent for SCs in North East Region in the next financial year positively. This would help utilisation of these funds on the other Schemes of the Department.

2.15 The Committee further note that besides under utilisation of funds by NE States, pending UCs regarding almost all the major educational and financial schemes of the Department is a major reason for the unreleased grants which results in under-utilisation of allocated funds. The Committee are fed up with the same excuses and explanations of the Department year after year. The Committee find that in the last 4 years no infallible steps have been taken to resolve the issues that lead to shortfall in expenditure. The Committee wonder if the existing mechanism is not yielding any positive results why the Department is not resorting to other measures to deal with defaulter States/UTs. As there is already

very nominal utilization of funds in the schemes of the Department in NER, the Committee desire the Department to at least take this matter seriously and pursue these States to send UCs in time so that funds could be released in time.

2.16 The Committee find that there are pending arrears to the tune of approximately Rs. 8600 crore under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes out of which Rs. 5983 crore are still pending with the Department in 2017-18. The Committee note that the Department has no choice but to move to the Cabinet for extra funds. The Committee are satisfied with the efforts of the Department to clear these arrears. The Committee are of the considered view that though Ministry of Finance have agreed to clear the pending arrears yet the Department must pursue this matter seriously so that remaining arrears are cleared once for all.

CHAPTER III

SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

I. Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards.

3.1 This scheme was started in 1977-78. The objective is to provide financial assistance to the children of the parents traditionally engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards like scavengers of dry latrines, tanners, flayers, sweepers, rag-pickers and sweepers having traditional links with scavenging and those engaged in cleaning of manholes or open drains. This is a centrally sponsored scheme, which is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which receive 100 per cent central assistance from the Government of India for the total expenditure under the scheme, over and above their respective committed liability.

3.2 Salient features of this schemes are as follows:

- Assistance under the scheme consists of two components, viz. (i) monthly scholarship (for 10 months) and (ii) annual ad-hoc grant (to cover incidental expenses like stationery, uniform, etc.)
- There is no income ceiling or caste restriction for eligibility
- There are special provisions for students amongst target group with disabilities.
- The scheme is implemented through State Governments.

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide Gazette notification number 428 dated 16.02.2017 has notified aadhar as identity document under Section 7 of Aadhar Act, 2016 for all scholarship schemes including this one.

3.3 Rates of scholarship under this scheme are as follows:

Sl. No.	Component of Scheme	Rates									
1.	Monthly Scholarship	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Class</td> <td>Day Scholars</td> <td>Hostellers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I-II</td> <td>110</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>III-X</td> <td>110</td> <td>700</td> </tr> </table>	Class	Day Scholars	Hostellers	I-II	110	-	III-X	110	700
Class	Day Scholars	Hostellers									
I-II	110	-									
III-X	110	700									
2.	Annual Ad-hoc Grant (Rs. per annum)	Day Scholars - Rs. 750 Hostellers-Rs. 1000									
3.	Funding Pattern	100% of State Expenditure over and above their committed liability									

3.4 The Department furnished the following figures showing BE, RE and AE of last 3 years and BE for 2018-19 for above mentioned Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2015-16	10.00	2.50	2.42
2016-17	2.00	1.00	1.88
2017-18	2.70	2.70	0.35 (As on 31.01.2018)
2018-19	5.00	--	--

3.5 When asked the reasons for such low allocation of funds as RE under this scheme (Rs. 1.00 crore) during 2016-17, the Department stated that "the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards is a centrally sponsored scheme and demand driven. Based on the demand received from States /UTs, the Department releases the central assistance over and above their committed liability. Most of the States informed that the expenditure

under this scheme is within their committed liability and accordingly no central assistance is required. Keeping in view the proposals received from the States/UTs, allocation has been made under the scheme".

3.6 The Department further stated that the States/UTs have not taken a pro-active role in identifying eligible beneficiaries. This has also resulted in poor demand under the scheme.

3.7 The Department attributed 'receipt of less number of proposals from States/UTs and expenditure falling within the committed liability of the States/UTs' as reasons for shortfall in expenditure time and again.

3.8 When enquired about the measures adopted by the Department to overcome these problems it was replied that "as per instructions of Ministry of Finance, all the schemes are required to be appraised/approved by the competent authority for continuation and revision of the scheme guidelines, if required beyond 12th Plan Period. Accordingly, the proposal for revision of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards is also in process. The proposal under consideration has *inter-alia* made National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation as a coordinating agency for monitoring and better implementation of the scheme in the States/UTs. The rates of maintenance allowance are also proposed to be revised for day scholars".

3.9 The Department furnished the following statement of beneficiaries, State-wise, for the last 3 years and the current financial year till 31.01.2018 under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards:-

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No	Name of State/UT	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18
		CA released	Number of Beneficiaries	CA released	Number of Beneficiaries	CA released	Number of Beneficiaries	CA released
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	5.22	4049	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Bihar	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Chhattisgarh	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Delhi	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Goa	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	0.00	00	177.34	333629	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Haryana	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pr.	28.85	1929	32.45	2124	0.00	0.00	35.07
10	J & K	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Kerala	0.35	1362	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Maharashtra	0.00	00	0.00	00	170.00*	94295	0.00
16	Mizoram	12.34	275	16.71	355	18.17	440	00
17	Odisha	0.53	1572	7.20	1135	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Pondicherry	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Punjab	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Rajasthan	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Sikkim	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Tamil Nadu	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Tripura	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Uttarakhand	0.00	00	7.90	1450	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	West Bengal	42.63	5086	0.00	00	0.00	00	0.00
	Total	89.92	14273	241.6	338693	188.17	94735	35.07

* release to Maharashtra was made towards arrear of 2014-15.

3.10 Regarding utilisation of very less amount of allocated funds in 2017-18 till 31.01.2018, it was stated by the Department that "during the year 2017-18, the complete proposal was received only from the State of Himachal Pradesh and accordingly due central assistance of Rs. 35 lakh was released to the State".

3.11 Keeping in view the low rates of scholarship, when the Department was enquired regarding revision of this scholarship scheme, the Department stated that "the revision

of this scheme is under process and keeping in view the rates revised and consequently revised demand received from States/UTs, budget allocation will be sought".

3.12 While justifying its demand for Rs. 5.00 crore as BE in 2018-19, the Department stated that "the revision of the scheme is under process which *inter-alia* includes higher rates of maintenance allowance and expected demand based on better implementation through National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). Therefore, higher demand has been projected for the year 2018-19".

3.13 The Committee note that the 'Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards' aims to provide financial assistance to the children of the parents traditionally engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards like scavengers of dry latrines, tanners, flayers, sweepers, rag-pickers and sweepers having traditional links with scavenging and those engaged in cleaning of manholes or open drains. The Committee are constrained to find that for such a crucial scheme, there is very less budgetary allocation during the last few years. The Committee observe that this is because the States are not showing interest in identifying the eligible candidates and subsequently sending the proposals for demand of funds to execute the Scheme over and above their committed liability. As the RE under this Scheme is extremely low and the States are not sending proposals, the Committee urge the Department to pursue the States/UTs to implement this Scheme more effectively by creating more awareness about this Scheme specially in rural areas so that more number of candidates are selected to avail scholarship under this scheme.

3.14 The Committee find that the children who are eligible under this Scheme but are not identified by the State Governments will not be able to avail the scholarship from any other Educational Scheme of the Department also as there is no other Scheme at the primary level for SC students other than Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students studying in Class IX and X which is a Scheme for secondary level education. The Committee, therefore, feel that the proper and effective implementation of this Scheme is imperative as this is the

only Scheme which can educationally empower the children of marginalized and downtrodden section of our society. As the States are not very keen in implementing this Scheme, is it not possible for the Department to give the publicity to this Scheme through electronic Media, Newspapers (including vernacular press) and invite applications on Ministry's website or on portal of this Scheme, so that the Department can directly give Scholarship to these children. The Committee desire the Department to explore this route/avenue.

3.15 The Committee further observe that the proposal for revision of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards for better implementation through National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is also in process. The Committee desire that the revision may be done at the earliest and the Committee be informed of the same.

II. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC Students for Higher Studies Abroad

3.16 National Overseas Scholarship is meant to provide assistance to selected Scheduled Caste, Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes, landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisans' students for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and PhD programmes abroad in specified fields of study.

3.17 The Scheme provides for tuition fees charged by institutions as per actual, monthly maintenance allowance, passage visa fee and insurance premium, annual contingency allowance, incidental journey allowance. Only two children of the same parents/guardian are eligible to get benefit under the Scheme. The second child of the same parents/guardian will be considered only if the slots are still available for that year. The prospective awardees should not be more than 35 years of age.

3.18 The total number of awards to be given each year is 100 and 30 per cent of the awards have been earmarked for women candidates. 83 unfilled slots from previous two years have also been carried forward to the selection year 2017-18. Financial assistance under the Scheme is provided for a maximum period of 4 years for Ph.D and 3 years for Master's programme. The total family income of the candidate from all the sources of the employed candidate and his/her parents/guardian should not be more than Rs.6 lakh per annum. The candidate is required to obtain appropriate student visa for the country where one intends to study. The Government does not render any help to the candidate in obtaining visa. The Scheme has been revised with effect from selection year 2014-15 and the number of fresh slots each year has been increased from 60 to 100. The selection process has also been rationalized.

3.19 Fields of Study:

- Engineering and Management
- Pure Sciences and Applied Sciences
- Agricultural Sciences and Medicine
- International Commerce, Accounting Finance
- Humanities, Social Science and Fine Arts

3.20 The current rates of allowances admissible under National Overseas Scholarship

Scheme are summarized below: (Annual Report pg. 52 para 4.4.5.2)

Current Rates for National Overseas Scholarship (With Effect from selection year 2013-14)		
Item	Amount admissible in UK (in GBP)	Amount admissible in US and other countries (in US \$)
A. Allowance/Tax/Fee etc.		
Annual Maintenance Allowance	9900	15400
Annual Contingency Allowance	1100	1500
Incidental Journey Allowance and Equipment Allowance	Equivalent to US \$20	
Poll Tax	Actual amount	
VISA Fee	Actual VISA fee in Indian Rupee	
Tuition Fee and Medical Insurance Premium	Actual as charged	
Local Travel	Second or coach class fare	

3.21 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 3 years and BE for 2018-19 for above mentioned Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2015-16	6.12	16.12	16.12
2016-17	15.00	15.00	14.02
2017-18	15.00	15.00	0.21 (As on 31.01.2018)
2018-19	15.00	--	--

3.22 On being asked about the reasons for nearly no utilisation of the allocated funds i.e. Rs. 0.21 crore out of Rs. 15 crore in the year 2017-18. The Department replied that "under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for SC candidates, admissible/due scholarship funds in the form of Tuition Fees/ Maintenance allowances, contingency allowances, etc. are directly paid to University/ NOS awardees concerned respectively by the Indian missions abroad on the advice of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The expenditure so incurred during 2017-18 could not be booked by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and hence there was low/no utilization of funds as shown above. However, efforts are being made by the Department to pursue MEA to book the expenditure under relevant head. It is pertinent to mention here that low utilization does not impact the regular release of Maintenance Allowance/other allowances to the Students abroad and reimbursement of fees to the Universities/Institutes directly by the Indian Missions abroad. The low utilization has arisen from accounting issues which has been taken up with the MEA".

3.23 The Department forwarded the following statement for State-Wise beneficiaries under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC Candidates for the last three years

and current year 2017-18:-

SI. No.	STATE	State Wise Beneficiaries			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 *
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	5	3	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0
3	Assam	1	2	1	0
4	Bihar	1	0	2	0
5	Chhatisgarh	1	0	4	0
6	Delhi	5	4	4	3
7	Gujarat	3	0	4	0
8	Haryana	0	0	1	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	0	0
10	Jammu & kashmir	0	0	1	0
11	Jharkhand	1	0	2	0
12	Karnataka	3	3	3	6
13	Kerala	1	1	4	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	4	1	5	3
15	Maharashtra	14	16	53	40
16	Manipur	0	0	0	1
17	Orissa	2	1	0	0
18	Punjab	1	4	2	3
19	Rajasthan	0	1	1	0
20	Tamil Nadu	2	4	5	3
21	Telangana	2	1	2	2
22	Tripura	2	0	1	0
23	Uttar Pradesh	6	6	8	6
24	Uttrakhand	2	0	0	0
25	West Bengal	5	1	1	1
	TOTAL	59	50	108	72

(*) As on 12th February, 2018.

3.24 The Committee note that National Overseas Scholarship Scheme run by the Department for Scheduled Caste Students is one of its kind which provides assistance to selected Scheduled Caste, Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes, landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisans' students for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and PhD programmes abroad in specified fields of study. The Committee are constrained to note that there is nearly no utilisation of allocated funds in 2017-18 i.e. only Rs. 21 lakh have been utilised out of Rs. 15 crore till 31.01.2018. Considering the fact that Ministry of External Affairs is also involved while disbursing funds to the beneficiaries as admissible/due scholarship funds in the form of Tuition Fees/Maintenance allowances, contingency allowances, etc. the Committee desire the Department to resolve the accounting issues within Ministry of External Affairs at the earliest and pursue them to book the expenditure under relevant head as soon as possible so that the funds do not remain unutilised. The Committee also desire to know what would be the implications and complications, if the Department implements the entire Scheme from start to giving Scholarship directly to our Embassies/High Commissions abroad instead of routing the Scheme through MEA. If there are not many hurdles the Committee desire the Department to take the entire Scheme in its hand so to obviate any such glitches.

III **Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**

3.25 The 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.

3.26 The Scheme was revised in November 2014 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.
- Loans upto Rs. 15.00 lakh at concessional rate of interest to the manual scavenger/dependent.
- Credit linked back end capital subsidy upto Rs. 3,25,000 to the manual scavenger/dependent.
- Skill Development Training upto two years with stipend of Rs. 3000 per month to the manual scavenger/dependent.

3.27 The above scheme is implemented through National Safai Karamacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). The SRMS has been extended upto 2019-20. In addition to the existing rehabilitation benefits mentioned above, the following benefits would be provided to the target group from 2017-18 onwards:

- (i) Health camps to sensitize the target group on health and other aspects.

- (ii) Awareness camps for sewage/septic workers to create awareness on the use of safety equipment and devices.
- (iii) Small duration training courses on behavioral skill development.

3.28 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 5 years and BE for 2018-19 for Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SRMS):

(Rs. in crore)

	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	5.00	0.00(As on 31.01.2018)
2018-19	20.00	--	--

3.29 When the Department was asked that how will they justify two contradictory statement that they are steering and coordinating the survey of manual scavengers in 3546 towns and there is 'nil' utilization of funds, the Department replied "Census-2011 reported existence of 26,06,278 insanitary latrines in the country, of which 7,94,390 were serviced manually. After the release of Census-2011 data of insanitary latrines, a decision was taken to carry out survey of manual scavengers in 3546 statutory cities/towns where the Census-2011 had pointed out existence of insanitary latrines (out of 4041 Statutory cites/towns in the country 495 did not have insanitary latrines). It was decided to restrict the survey only to Statutory towns as the data regarding manual scavengers in rural areas was being captured under the Socio Economic and Caste Census (Rural) by the Ministry of Rural Development. All the States and Union Territories were requested in February, 2013 to carry out the survey of manual

scavengers in the Statutory Towns as per the guidelines circulated to them. While the survey was in progress, Parliament had enacted “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), in September, 2013, which came into effect from 06.12.2013. This Act mandates survey of manual scavengers by the Chief Executive Officers of Municipalities, Corporations and Gram Panchayats in areas under their jurisdiction. Therefore, the survey in statutory towns which was taken up prior to the enactment of MS Act, 2013 was not pursued.

3.30 13 States have reported identification of 13639 manual scavengers upto 31.01.2018. Out of 13369, 12771 have been provided onetime cash assistance of Rs.40,000/- proposals for skill development training to 13587 manual scavengers and their dependents and capital subsidy to 809 beneficiaries who have availed bank loans have been sanctioned from the corpus funds available with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)

State-wise details of identified Manual Scavengers are given below:

S. No.	State	Identified Manual Scavengers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78
2.	Assam	154
3.	Bihar	137
4.	Chhattisgarh	3
5.	Karnataka	732
6.	Madhya Pradesh	36
7.	Odisha	237
8.	Punjab	91
9.	Rajasthan	338
10.	Tamil Nadu	363
11.	Uttar Pradesh	11229
12.	Uttarakhand	137
13.	West Bengal	104
Total		13639

3.31 The Department further informed that "Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation have reported conversion of 2,68,807 insanitary latrines into sanitary latrines under Swachh Bharat Mission. A Task Force has been constituted for undertaking a National Survey of manual scavengers to identify all those persons who were cleaning such insanitary latrines before their demolition. This survey is scheduled to be completed by 30.04.2018".

3.32 The Committee note that the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a vital Scheme for economic and social upliftment of the manual scavengers with the objective of identifying and rehabilitating manual scavengers and their dependents throughout the country. The Committee note that the scheme entirely depends on survey of manual scavengers throughout the country who can be rehabilitated under this Scheme. The Committee find that Census-2011 reported existence of 26,06,278 insanitary latrines in the country, of which 7,94,390 were serviced manually. After the release of Census-2011 data of insanitary latrines, a decision was taken to carry out survey of manual scavengers in 3546 statutory cities/towns where the Census-2011 had pointed out existence of insanitary latrines. While the survey was in progress, Parliament had enacted “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), in September, 2013, after which the ongoing survey in the States/UTs was not pursued further and hence desired results could not come. The Committee are dismayed to find that 12737 manual scavengers were identified till January 2017 and this year, till 17.01.2018, a total of 13639 manual scavengers have been identified throughout the country that means only 902 manual scavengers have been identified this year which is a very poor performance by the States. As the Department has constituted a task force to undertake National Survey on Manual Scavengers and there is still an existence of manual scavengers, the Committee desire the Department to take this matter seriously, give it topmost priority and identify more and more manual scavengers at least at par with the findings of Census 2011 data of insanitary latrines which was more than 26 lakh.

3.33 The Committer wonder how this Scheme is running without spending a single penny from the budgetary allocation. The Committee observe that NSKFDC is the nodal agency which is funding 'Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)' and now, as informed by the Department, NSKFDC will be funding another Scheme 'Pre Matric Scheme for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards'. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the performance of the NSKFDC as the Corporation has utilized merely Rs. 5.00 crore out of the allocated Budget of Rs. 44.83 crore till 31.01.2018 . The Committee fail to understand that the BE for 2018-19 has also been reduced to Rs. 30 crore by the Department. As this Scheme is meant for the economic and social upliftment of the manual scavengers who are most educationally and economically backward and downtrodden section of our civil society, the Committee urge the Department to seriously take up this Scheme and request the Ministry of Finance to raise the allocation under the head of NSKFDC so that the funds are sufficient for both the Schemes. The Committee also desire that the monitoring, evaluation study on the working of NSKFDC should be done at the earliest so that the Schemes run by the Corporation could be implemented properly with the desired results.

IV. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs

3.34 The Scheme has been launched on 16.1.2015. The Scheme would be implemented by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited. It is a Social Sector Initiative to be implemented nationally in order to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes population in the country. "Entrepreneurship" relates to entrepreneurs managing businesses which are oriented towards innovation and growth Technologies. The spirit of the above mentioned fund is to support those entrepreneurs who will create wealth and value for society and at the same time promoting profitable business.

3.35 Eligibility Criteria:

(a). The projects/units being set up in manufacturing and services sector ensuring asset creation out of the funds deployed in the unit shall be considered.

(b). While selecting the SC entrepreneurs, women SC entrepreneurs would be preferred.

(c). Companies having at least 60 per cent stake holdings by Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs for the past 12 months with management control or a new company provided that the new company is a successor entity of a proprietary firm or Partnership Firm or One Person Company (OPC) or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) of any other establishment incorporated under any law in force, with sound business model which has been in operation for over 12 months, and the predecessor entity had at least 60 per cent shareholding of the Scheduled Castes promoters with management control.

(d). Documentary proofs of being SC will have to be submitted by the entrepreneurs at the time of submitting the proposals.

(e). The SC promoters of Investee Company will not dilute their stake below 60 per cent in the company till the exit under the scheme. However, in the event of any conversion of quasi-equity instrument under the scheme, strategic investments, buyouts etc, which result into dilution of stake of SC Entrepreneur, a prior written approval from Asset Management Company (AMC) would be required;

3.36 Nature of Financial Assistance

- (a) Equity/Optionally/Compulsorily convertible preference shares (maximum up to 25 per cent of the corpus);
- (b) Equity linked debt instruments such as Compulsorily convertible debentures; Optionally convertible debentures; Non-Convertible debentures, etc.

3.37 Funding Pattern

The investment under the fund will be categorized as follows:

- (i) Financial assistance upto Rs. 5 Crore—Investment under this category shall be funded maximum upto 75 per cent of the project cost and the balance 25 per cent of the project cost will be funded by the promoters;
- (ii) Financial assistance above Rs. 5 Crore—Investment under this category shall be funded maximum upto 50 per cent of the project cost. At least 25 per cent of the project cost has to be financed by bank/other institutions. Balance 25 per cent of the project cost will be funded by the promoters. The proposals forwarded by Banks or other financial institutions with sanction of 25 per cent of the total project shall be considered. In this

case, the projects shall have to be compulsorily appraised by the Banks or other financial institutions.

3.38 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 3 years and BE for 2018-19 for above mentioned Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2015-16	102.00	0.01	0.01
2016-17	40.00	40.00	40.00
2017-18	40.00	40.00	0.00 (As on 31.01.2018)
2018-19	140.00	--	--

3.39 When the Department was asked to comment on the under-utilisation under this scheme in previous years and 'nil' expenditure during 2017-18, the Department stated that "the scheme was launched during the fourth quarter of 2014-15 and thereafter, an amount of Rs 200 crore was released to the IFCI which could not be fully utilized during the year 2014-15. Since, the Scheme was in the initial stage and the IFCI could not spend the allocated funds, the BE of Rs.102.00 crore was reduced to Rs. 0.01 crore during 2015-16. The Budget Allocation for 2017-18 was not released upto 31.01.2018 due to non-receipt of Utilization Certificate of funds released earlier. However, efforts are being made to release the total allocated funds of 2017-18 during the current financial year".

3.40 On being asked to justify the reasons for enhanced demands for grants from Rs. 40 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 140 crore in 2018-19, the Department stated that "efforts are being made to fully utilize the Budget Allocations for the year 2017-18. Moreover, the

guidelines of the scheme have been revised recently and the rates of interest for financial assistance have been reduced from 10 per cent to 8 per cent and 7.75 per cent in case of women and/or disabled entrepreneurs. The minimum limit of the financial assistance has also been reduced from 50 lakh to 20 lakh. It has been anticipated that due to lower interest rate and other entrepreneur friendly measures taken recently, the number of beneficiary will increase and therefore, demand for funds will also increase substantially. Considering all the above, Rs.140.00 crore has been earmarked for the financial year 2018-19."

3.41 As on date, under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes, IFCI has sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 239.12 crore and Rs.163.92 crore to 63 and 50 beneficiaries respectively since launch of the scheme.

3.42 The Committee note that Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs is the only Scheme to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes, and to increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs so as to motivate them for further growth in the society. Since introduction of the Scheme in 2014-15, the allocation for this Scheme is on wane. In 2015-16, the BE of Rs.102.00 crore was reduced to Rs. 0.01 crore because Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited, the implementation agency of this Scheme, could not spent the allocated funds. Since then very less amount has been allocated under this Scheme every year and there is 'nil' utilisation in 2017-18. Taking note of the fact that this scheme is entirely a new approach by the Department in the field of promotion of entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes which is a laudable step for their economic development, the Committee recommend the Department to set up a strong and effective mechanism to ensure that the allocated funds are utilised in full. The Committee also desire the Department to take measures for creating awareness about this Scheme through print and electronic media so that more people are benefitted and the funds do not go unutilised. The Committee are also of the opinion that as the Department has enhanced the BE to Rs. 140 crore in 2018-19 and there is a visible trend of non/less utilisation of funds, serious efforts should be made to ensure optimum utilisation of funds under this Scheme in 2018-19.

CHAPTER IV

BACKWARD CLASSES DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

I. Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Classes (EBC) Students

4.1 This is a 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme being implemented through the State Governments and Union Territories w.e.f. 2014-15. The objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Economically Backward Classes (EBC) students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage in the Government institutions only. The income ceiling of parents/guardians for eligibility is Rs.1.00 lakh per annum (including self-income, if employed).

4.2 The rates under different Post-Matric Courses range between Rs. 750 per month and Rs. 260 per month for hostellers. For the day scholars the range is Rs. 350 to Rs.

160. Scholarship also include study tour charges at the rate of Rs. 900 per annum (subject to actual expenditure), thesis typing and printing charges at the rate of Rs. 1000 (maximum), Book allowance for correspondence course at the rate of Rs. 900 per annum and Reader charges for blind students in the range between Rs. 90 per month to Rs. 175 per month Scholarships shall not be awarded for Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) Course and other aviation linked courses.

4.3 The Scheme is a "Funds-Limited" Scheme. The funds will be released to the States on first-come first-serve basis, subject to a maximum amount to be worked out every year based on total budget made available that year, under the scheme.

4.4 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 3 years and BE for 2018-19 for above mentioned Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE	Physical Achievement
2015-16	9.50	10.00	10.00	2.72 lakh (Provisional)
2016-17	10.00	15.12	15.12	1.82 lakh (Provisional)
2017-18	10.00	10.00	9.00 (As on 31.01.2018)	25000 (estimated)
2018-19	103.00 (There is an increase of 903% from the allocation of 2017-18)			

4.5 When the Department was asked to explain the reasons for drastically enhancing their demands for allocation under this scheme from Rs. 10 crore in 2017-18 to Rs.

103.00 crore as BE in 2018-19, the Department forwarded the following information:

"For the year 2017-18 RE is Rs. 10.00 crore whereas the demand of the States/UTs under the scheme is around Rs. 86.51 crore. The details of the demand and expenditure of Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs for the last year and the current year are given as under:--

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl. No.	State	2016-17				2017-18			
		Demand from the State	BE	RE	Funds Released	Demand from the State	BE	RE	Funds Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	86989.00	1000.00	1512.00	364.87	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	154.05
2	Bihar	-			-	-			
3	Chandigarh	20.00			20.00	25.00			
4	Gujarat	-			-	3170.45			
5	Himachal Pradesh	2429.02			50.74	2149.26			
6	J & K	435.69			92.92	146.80			
7	Kerala	2671.00			248.04				
8	Manipur	-							200.00
9	Odisha	2.05			2.05	25.95			25.95
10	Rajasthan	707.84			509.07				
11	Sikkim	249.45			91.50	249.45			100.00
12	Uttarakhand	5802.06			74.31	1706.57			
13	Tripura	112.78			58.5	171.1			
Total		99418.89	1000.00	1512.00	1512.00	8644.58	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00

4.6 The Committee note that Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Classes (EBC) Students is meant for educational upliftment of EBCs. The Committee are dismayed to find that allocation under the Scheme is less than the demand from the States i.e. Rs. 10 crore have been allocated as RE under this Scheme in 2017-18 whereas the demand of the States/UTs is around Rs. 86 crore. The same thing happened in 2016-17. The Committee find that this is a crucial Scheme for educationally uplift the EBCs and bring them into the mainstream and the States/UTs are also showing interest and selecting candidates under this Scheme and putting forth demand for funds to the Department. The Committee are happy to note that the Budget allocation of Rs. 103 crore under the Scheme for the year 2018-19 has been enhanced of 903 per cent from the allocation of 2017-18. The Committee expect that the enhanced funds will be utilized fully. As the Scheme has been launched in the year 2014-15 and welfare of EBCs also comes within the mandate of the Department, the Committee urge upon the Department to request Ministry of Finance to allocate more funds under the Division of Other Backward Classes so that the Department could implement various Schemes meant for OBCs/EBCs effectively and Schemes can also be funded adequately.

II Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls

4.7 The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education. The Scheme of Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls has been revised w.e.f. 2017-18. The important provisions under the scheme after the revision are as follows:

- (i) The cost per hostel seat in different areas are as follows:-
 - a. North Eastern Region - Rs.3.50 lakh per seat
 - b. Himalayan Regions - Rs.3.25 lakh per seat
 - c. Rest of country - Rs.3.00 lakh per seat (Or as per the schedule of the rates for the concerned State Government, whichever is lower)
- (ii) The cost of construction of hostels for Boys has to be shared between the Centre and the State in 60:40 ratio.
- (iii) There will be 90 per cent central assistance to State Governments in case of Girls Hostels and 10 per cent of cost will be borne by the State Governments.
- (iv) In case of Union Territories, the Central Assistance shall be 100 per cent and for North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), it shall be 90 per cent.

- (v) For Central Universities/Institutes, the share will be 90 per cent by Central Government and 10 per cent by the Central University/Institute for both Boys and Girls Hostels.
- (vi) The construction work of the Hostel has to be completed within eighteen months from award of work order or two years from the release of first installment of Central assistance, whichever is earlier.
- (vii) In no case the time will be extended beyond 2 years. Any cost escalation due to delay in project will be borne by the State/Institute.
- (viii) Proposals for integrated hostel in which required number of seats for OBCs are reserved shall ordinarily be considered under the scheme.
- (ix) Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls in an Adarsh Village selected under the "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)", can be taken up provided land is available and the selected village is located in the catchment area of the existing educational institutions.
- (x) (a) There will be a one-time non recurring grant of Rs.2500/- per seat for providing furniture/equipment to the hostels constructed under the Scheme.

(b) All the State Governments can also send proposals for purchase of furniture/equipment under this Scheme, for their own new Hostels (built through the State Government's funds) for which an amount of Rs.2,500/- per seat for 100 seats only will be granted only once for a newly constructed Hostel, subject to availability of funds.

4.8 Students whose Castes are included in the Central/State/UT list of Backward Classes and who do not belong to the creamy layer will be eligible for allotment of seats in the hostel. Further, at least 5 per cent of the total seats should be reserved for students with disabilities.

4.9 The State Governments/UT Administrations, which submit proposals for construction of three or more hostels in a year, have to propose a Girls' hostel to the extent of at least one-third of the hostels proposed by them.

4.10 The Department furnished the following figures regarding BE, RE and AE of last 3 years and BE for 2018-19 for above mentioned Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2015-16	45.00	41.30	40.29
2016-17	40.00	40.00	40.00
2017-18	40.00	40.00	34.92 (As on 31.01.2018)
2018-19	50.00	--	--

4.11 Physical and financial achievements during the last three years under the scheme for construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls:

Year	Budget Allocation (Rs. in crore)		Achievement		
	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	No. of hostels	No. of seats	Financial (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	45.00	30.22	19	2950	30.22
2015-16	45.00	41.30	26	2800	40.29
2016-17	40.00	40.00	21	2719	40.00
2017-18	40.00	40.00	05	400	34.35* (upto 31.12.2017)

4.12 It was found by the Committee that the only criterion which the Department was following while sanctioning of funds to the States was the 'land on which the hostels were to be made', should be in the name of the Department of Social Welfare of that State.

4.13 The Committee find that according to the Annual Report of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment of the year 2015-16, the hostels which were sanctioned funds by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in the year 2013-14 in the State of Chhattisgarh are:

- (i) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Ambikapur
- (ii) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Korba
- (iii) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Kaker
- (iv) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Jagadalpur
- (v) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Balak Chhatravas, Bijapur
- (vi) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Bairamgarh-Bijapur
- (vii) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Balak Chhatravas, Durg
- (viii) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Jagadalpur
- (ix) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Kanya Chhatravas, Rajnandgaon
- (x) Pre Matric Pichhara Varg Balak Chhatravas, Bijapur

4.14 The Committee observed that the majority of places/areas where the above mentioned hostels have been sanctioned in Chhattisgarh are either located in total tribal belt or naxal affected areas and have no OBC population.

4.15 When the Department was asked about the reasons for building these hostels in these regions, it was informed by one of the officials of the Department of Social Justice

and Empowerment during the course of evidence that when the proposal for a hostel is received from the States/UTs, 60 per cent seats are for OBCs and 40 per cent are reserved for SC/ST students.

4.16 The Committee are shocked to observe that under the Scheme of Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls, the hostels in the State of Chhattisgarh have been sanctioned/constructed in those areas where there is 'nil' OBC population and these areas are replete with tribals or naxals. The objective of this Scheme is to provide hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education. Why the Department did not ensure on its own whether the population of OBC exists there or not, is beyond Committee's comprehension. The Committee are further informed by the Secretary of the Department that the grants for construction of the hostels are given to States/UTs only after checking that the land on which the hostels are to be built should belong to the Department of Social Welfare of that State. Considering the fact that the proposals for the Hostels forwarded by the States are for at least 60 per cent for OBC candidates and 40 per cent for SC/ST candidates, the Committee urge upon the Department to first verify the fact that this criterion is followed diligently and a sizeable number of OBC candidates reside there to avail this facility, before granting the funds for construction of hostels otherwise the very purpose of the Scheme is defeated.

CHAPTER V

SOCIAL DEFENCE

I Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Old Persons (IPOP)

5.1 Under the scheme, financial assistance, as per cost norms/eligibility, is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations (through Registered Societies), Registered Non-Governmental/Voluntary Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, local bodies etc. for running and maintenance of the projects/programmes which have been integrated as IPOP for improving the quality of life of Senior Citizens by providing basic amenities like food, shelter, medical care, etc.

5.2 The Working Group on Social Welfare, constituted by the then Planning Commission (Now NITI Aayog) for formulation of XII Five Year plan (2012-17), has made recommendations for undertaking the following new Schemes/ Programmes:-

- (1) Awareness Generation for the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
- (2) Setting up of a National Commission for Senior Citizens.
- (3) Creation of a National Trust for the Aged.
- (4) Setting up of Helpline and Counseling Centers for Senior Citizens at District level.
- (5) Setting up of Helpline and Counseling Centers for Senior Citizens at National level.
- (6) Implementation of National Policy on Senior Citizens.

5.3 As per the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, four plan schemes as mentioned below, have been merged with the relevant components/ programmes of the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons:-

- (1) Awareness Generation for the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
- (2) Setting up of Helpline and Counseling Centers for Senior Citizens at District level.
- (3) Setting up of Helpline and Counseling Centers for Senior Citizens at National level.
- (4) Implementation of National Policy on Senior Citizens.

5.4 Following two proposals were dropped, as per the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee:-

- (i) Setting up of a National Commission for Senior Citizens
- (ii) Creation of a National Trust for the Aged

5.5 Details of BE, RE and AE for the last three years for IPOP as one scheme was forwarded by the Department as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	AE
2014-15	50.00	25.00	14.99
2015-16	55.00	27.97	27.57
2016-17	37.00	37.00	36.99
2017-18	46.00	46.00	25.76 (as on 12.02.2018)
2018-19	60.00	-	-

5.6 On being asked to provide details of total budget allocated in Umbrella Scheme and scheme-wise allocation of all the schemes under IPOP and AE of each scheme separately for the last three years and current year, the Department furnished the following statement:

Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and Expenditure (Exp.) of 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 & BE of 2018-19											
S. No.	Programmes/ Schemes	(Rupees in crore)									
		2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19
		BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp. (as on 31.1.18)	BE
1	Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP	55.00	27.57	27.57	37.00	37.00	52.99 *	46.00	46.00	23.87	60.00
2	Awareness Generation for Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at National Level	0.01	2.01	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Setting up of Helpline for Senior Citizens at District Level (in 120 Districts @ Rs. 15 lakh per District)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Setting up of a National Commission for Senior Citizens	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Creation of National Trust for the Aged	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Implementation of the National Policy for Senior Citizens	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

*includes Rs. 16 crore given to ALIMCO for Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)

5.7 It was further submitted by the Department that meager funds were allocated to the above-said schemes during 2015-16 and no allocation have been made thereafter for the above-said schemes.

5.8 Further, the Department informed that "since four components of XII Plan schemes have been merged with the existing programmes of the Scheme of IPOP and two schemes have been dropped, in view of the recommendations of the SFC, separate allocation of funds to the scheme have been discontinued from the FY 2016-17. Moreover, funds allocation to the Schemes, except the scheme of IPOP, were meager/nominal for 2014-15 and 2015-16".

5.9 When the Department was asked to furnish the reasons for under-utilisation of funds under this scheme every year since 2013-14, the Department put forth the following reasons:

- (1) The Ministry introduced online processing of proposals from the FY 2014-15. Due to transition phase the expenditure during 2013-14 and 2014-15 was less.
- (2) Receipt of inadequate proposals from the State/UT Governments due to introduction of online portal.
- (3) Receipt of project proposals from the State/UT Governments at the fag end of the Financial Year, i.e. in the last quarter.
- (4) Expenditure has significantly increased from the FY 2015-16 in view of clearance of proposals for 2014-15 and 2015-16 as well as due to revised cost norms".

5.10 The Committee found that there is only one scheme which is functional for the welfare of Senior Citizens i.e. "Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP" and it has very low budgetary allocation at RE stage - Rs. 27.97 crore in 2015-16, Rs. 37.00 crore in 2016-17 and Rs. 46.00 crore in 2017-18. When it was asked that this being the

only scheme which seems to be functional under IPOP, why there is very less budgetary allocation for this scheme, the Department commented that "the cost norms under the IPOP Scheme were very low and therefore they were revised upwards upto 110 per cent w.e.f. 01.04.2015 the cost norms have again been revised upwards upto 103 per cent, which shall be applicable w.e.f. 01.04.2018. As regards enhancement of budget of IPOP Scheme, it is submitted that Budget allocation of the Scheme of IPOP for 2018-19 is Rs. 60 crore, which is 30 per cent higher than the Budget allocation of the Scheme (Rs. 46 crore) for 2017-18".

5.11 While furnishing information regarding IPOP, the Department informed about another Scheme seen by them for the welfare of Senior Citizens which is funded from the allocated funds under the head of IPOP. It was informed that "another Scheme namely 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)' has been launched w.e.f. 01.04.2017 with an objective to provide senior citizens belonging to BPL category who suffering from age related disabilities/infirmitities, to provide such physical aids and assisted living devices, i.e. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/ quad-pods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures, spectacles, which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. The Scheme is being implemented through Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. An amount of Rs. 16 crore had been released to ALIMCO under this Scheme during 2016-17.

5.12 The Committee note that Integrated Programme for Old Persons (IPOP) is a significant Scheme which deals with improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities through providing financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the project cost to the Government/Non-Governmental Organizations/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies etc. for running and maintaining Old Age Homes, Daycare Centres and Mobile Medicare Units. The Committee are constrained to observe the details of the funds allocated and utilised under various programmes of this Scheme. The Committee find that there are seven Schemes integrated as one Scheme for Senior Citizens and there is no expenditure in six Schemes in the last three years except for 'Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP'. The Committee fail to understand that when there is expenditure in only one Scheme of IPOP for the last three years what are other Schemes meant for without any allocation or expenditure. The Committee recommend that if several schemes, integrated as one Scheme, are not being implemented properly and if there is only one Scheme under IPOP in which funds could be utilised then the Department should consider disintegration of IPOP and allot funds under separate heads and then utilise them effectively.

5.13 The Committee further find that a sizeable amount of the funds allocated under the Scheme of 'Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP' is being utilised for Rashtriya Vayoshree Scheme. The Committee feel that as 'Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP' under which there is remarkable allocation as well as utilisation of funds *vis-a-vis* other Schemes of IPOP, the funds allocated under this Scheme should not be diverted to or used for another Scheme. The

Committee desire that when the Department has created a separate head for Rashtriya Vayoshree Scheme it should separately allocate funds for this Scheme.

NEW DELHI;

07 March, 2018

16 Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

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

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2017-18) HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
21ST FEBRUARY, 2018**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1615 hrs. in Committee Room No. '2',
First Floor, Block A, Parliament House Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
3. Shri Jhina Hikaka
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Kariya Munda
7. Sh Asaduddin Owaisi
8. Sh. Ch Malla Reddy
9. Smt. Satabdi Roy

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Ahamed Hassan
11. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
12. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
13. Smt. Chhaya Verma
14. 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.	Ms. T.C.A. Kalyani	JS &FA
3.	Shri Surendra Singh	Joint Secretary
4.	Shri B.L. Meena	Joint Secretary
5.	Smt. Aindri Anurag	Joint Secretary
6.	Smt. Manisha Sen Sarma	Economic Advisor
7.	Shri Shyam Kapoor	CMD, NSFDC
8.	Shri K. Narayan	CMD, (NBCFDC & NSKFC)

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 (2018-19) 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 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 (2018-19) of the Department are as follows:-

- (i) Action Plan of the Department to achieve the target of full utilization of the allocated funds provided to the Department under Plan head for 2018-19 .
- (ii) Strategy adopted to deal with the perennial problem of late receipt of utilization certificates by the Department from State Governments/ Implementing Agencies.
- (iii) Strategy adopted by the Department to clear the huge pending arrears in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes.
- (iv) Remedial measures for late and incomplete proposals pertaining to the educational and other welfare schemes of the Department.
- (v) Non-utilization of funds in the Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) in the last few years.
- (vi) Failure of States/UTs to identify Manual Scavengers and hence less number of proposals received in the Scheme of 'Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards'.
- (vii) Reasons for less utilization of allocated funds under the National Overseas Scholarship scheme.
- (viii) Shortfall in expenditure under the Scheme of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes.
- (ix) Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls in the areas where there is no/low OBC population.
- (x) Trends of utilization of funds under various Schemes of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP).

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 TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7th MARCH, 2018

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

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
9. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
10. Prof. Sadhu Singh
11. Smt. Mamata Thakur
12. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
15. Smt. Chhaya Verma
16. Shri Ramkumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

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

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

(i) Fiftieth Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

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

(iii) **** **** ****

(iv) **** **** ****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, 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 in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

**** Not related with the Report.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No. 1	Para 2	Observations/Recommendations 3
1.	2.14	<p>The Committee clap the Department for utilisation of fund upto 99.5 per cent of the total Budget for the year 2016-17. However, the Committee note that during 2017-18 under-utilisation of allocated funds has been mainly under the North-East Head of some Schemes. There is 10 per cent mandatory allocation for Schemes and as there is low demand by some of these States, this allocated amount for NE States was not fully utilised. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Department in pursuing the Ministry of Development of North-East Region (DoNER) to relax 10 per cent mandatory allocation to 5 per cent. Taking note of the fact that Ministry of DoNER have no objection regarding exemption sought by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee desire that the Department should go extra miles and pursue Ministry of DoNER vigorously to relax this 10 per cent mandatory allocation to 5 per cent for SCs in North East Region in the next financial year positively. This would help utilisation of these funds on the other Schemes of the Department.</p>
2.	2.15	<p>The Committee further note that besides under utilisation of funds by NE States, pending UCs regarding almost all the major educational and financial schemes of the Department is a major reason for the unreleased grants which results in under-utilisation of allocated funds. The Committee are fed up with the same excuses and explanations of the Department year after year. The Committee find that in the last 4 years no infallible steps have been taken to resolve the issues that lead to shortfall in expenditure. The Committee wonder if the existing mechanism is not yielding any positive results why the Department is not resorting to other measures to deal with defaulter States/UTs. As there is already very nominal utilization of funds in the schemes of the Department in NER, the Committee desire the Department to at least take this matter seriously and pursue these States to send UCs in time so that funds could be released in time.</p>
3.	2.16	<p>The Committee find that there are pending arrears to the tune of approximately Rs. 8600 crore under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes out of which Rs. 5983 crore are still pending with the Department in 2017-18. The Committee note that the Department has no choice but to move to the Cabinet for extra funds. The Committee are satisfied with the efforts of the Department to clear these arrears. The Committee are of the considered view that though Ministry of Finance have agreed to</p>

		clear the pending arrears yet the Department must pursue this matter seriously so that remaining arrears are cleared once for all.
4.	3.13	The Committee note that the 'Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards' aims to provide financial assistance to the children of the parents traditionally engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards like scavengers of dry latrines, tanners, flayers, sweepers, rag-pickers and sweepers having traditional links with scavenging and those engaged in cleaning of manholes or open drains. The Committee are constrained to find that for such a crucial scheme, there is very less budgetary allocation during the last few years. The Committee observe that this is because the States are not showing interest in identifying the eligible candidates and subsequently sending the proposals for demand of funds to execute the Scheme over and above their committed liability. As the RE under this Scheme is extremely low and the States are not sending proposals, the Committee urge the Department to pursue the States/UTs to implement this Scheme more effectively by creating more awareness about this Scheme specially in rural areas so that more number of candidates are selected to avail scholarship under this scheme.
5.	3.14	The Committee find that the children who are eligible under this Scheme but are not identified by the State Governments will not be able to avail the scholarship from any other Educational Scheme of the Department also as there is no other Scheme at the primary level for SC students other than Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students studying in Class IX and X which is a Scheme for secondary level education. The Committee, therefore, feel that the proper and effective implementation of this Scheme is imperative as this is the only Scheme which can educationally empower the children of marginalized and downtrodden section of our society. As the States are not very keen in implementing this Scheme, is it not possible for the Department to give the publicity to this Scheme through electronic Media, Newspapers (including vernacular press) and invite applications on Ministry's website or on portal of this Scheme, so that the Department can directly give Scholarship to these children. The Committee desire the Department to explore this route/avenue.
6.	3.15	The Committee further observe that the proposal for revision of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards for better implementation through National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is also in

		process. The Committee desire that the revision may be done at the earliest and the Committee be informed of the same.
7.	3.24	The Committee note that National Overseas Scholarship Scheme run by the Department for Scheduled Caste Students is one of its kind which provides assistance to selected Scheduled Caste, Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes, landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisans' students for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and PhD programmes abroad in specified fields of study. The Committee are constrained to note that there is nearly no utilisation of allocated funds in 2017-18 i.e. only Rs. 21 lakh have been utilised out of Rs. 15 crore till 31.01.2018. Considering the fact that Ministry of External Affairs is also involved while disbursing funds to the beneficiaries as admissible/due scholarship funds in the form of Tuition Fees/Maintenance allowances, contingency allowances, etc. the Committee desire the Department to resolve the accounting issues within Ministry of External Affairs at the earliest and pursue them to book the expenditure under relevant head as soon as possible so that the funds do not remain unutilised. The Committee also desire to know what would be the implications and complications, if the Department implements the entire Scheme from start to giving Scholarship directly to our Embassies/High Commissions abroad instead of routing the Scheme through MEA. If there are not many hurdles the Committee desire the Department to take the entire Scheme in its hand so to obviate any such glitches.
8.	3.32	The Committee note that the Self Employment Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is a vital Scheme for economic and social upliftment of the manual scavengers with the objective of identifying and rehabilitating manual scavengers and their dependents throughout the country. The Committee note that the scheme entirely depends on survey of manual scavengers throughout the country who can be rehabilitated under this Scheme. The Committee find that Census-2011 reported existence of 26,06,278 insanitary latrines in the country, of which 7,94,390 were serviced manually. After the release of Census-2011 data of insanitary latrines, a decision was taken to carry out survey of manual scavengers in 3546 statutory cities/towns where the Census-2011 had pointed out existence of insanitary latrines. While the survey was in progress, Parliament had enacted "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), in September, 2013, after which the ongoing survey in the States/UTs was not pursued further and hence desired results could not come. The Committee are dismayed to find that 12737 manual scavengers were identified till January 2017 and this year, till 17.01.2018, a total of 13639 manual scavengers have been identified throughout the country that means only 902 manual

		scavengers have been identified this year which is a very poor performance by the States. As the Department has constituted a task force to undertake National Survey on Manual Scavengers and there is still an existence of manual scavengers, the Committee desire the Department to take this matter seriously, give it topmost priority and identify more and more manual scavengers at least at par with the findings of Census 2011 data of insanitary latrines which was more than 26 lakh.
9.	3.33	The Committee wonder how this Scheme is running without spending a single penny from the budgetary allocation. The Committee observe that NSKFDC is the nodal agency which is funding 'Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)' and now, as informed by the Department, NSKFDC will be funding another Scheme 'Pre Matric Scheme for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards'. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the performance of the NSKFDC as the Corporation has utilized merely Rs. 5.00 crore out of the allocated Budget of Rs. 44.83 crore till 31.01.2018 . The Committee fail to understand that the BE for 2018-19 has also been reduced to Rs. 30 crore by the Department. As this Scheme is meant for the economic and social upliftment of the manual scavengers who are most educationally and economically backward and downtrodden section of our civil society, the Committee urge the Department to seriously take up this Scheme and request the Ministry of Finance to raise the allocation under the head of NSKFDC so that the funds are sufficient for both the Schemes. The Committee also desire that the monitoring, evaluation study on the working of NSKFDC should be done at the earliest so that the Schemes run by the Corporation could be implemented properly with the desired results.
10.	3.42	The Committee note that Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs is the only Scheme to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes, and to increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs so as to motivate them for further growth in the society. Since introduction of the Scheme in 2014-15, the allocation for this Scheme is on wane. In 2015-16, the BE of Rs.102.00 crore was reduced to Rs. 0.01 crore because Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited, the implementation agency of this Scheme, could not spent the allocated funds. Since then very less amount has been allocated under this Scheme every year and there is 'nil' utilisation in 2017-18. Taking note of the fact that this scheme is entirely a new approach by the Department in the field of promotion of entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes which is a laudable step for their economic development, the Committee recommend the Department to set up a strong and effective mechanism to ensure that the allocated funds are utilised in full. The Committee

		<p>also desire the Department to take measures for creating awareness about this Scheme through print and electronic media so that more people are benefitted and the funds do not go unutilised. The Committee are also of the opinion that as the Department has enhanced the BE to Rs. 140 crore in 2018-19 and there is a visible trend of non/less utilisation of funds, serious efforts should be made to ensure optimum utilisation of funds under this Scheme in 2018-19.</p>
11.	4.6	<p>The Committee note that Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Classes (EBC) Students is meant for educational upliftment of EBCs. The Committee are dismayed to find that allocation under the Scheme is less than the demand from the States i.e. Rs. 10 crore have been allocated as RE under this Scheme in 2017-18 whereas the demand of the States/UTs is around Rs. 86 crore. The same thing happened in 2016-17. The Committee find that this is a crucial Scheme for educationally uplift the EBCs and bring them into the mainstream and the States/UTs are also showing interest and selecting candidates under this Scheme and putting forth demand for funds to the Department. The Committee are happy to note that the Budget allocation of Rs. 103 crore under the Scheme for the year 2018-19 has been enhanced of 903 per cent from the allocation of 2017-18. The Committee expect that the enhanced funds will be utilized fully. As the Scheme has been launched in the year 2014-15 and welfare of EBCs also comes within the mandate of the Department, the Committee urge upon the Department to request Ministry of Finance to allocate more funds under the Division of Other Backward Classes so that the Department could implement various Schemes meant for OBCs/EBCs effectively and Schemes can also be funded adequately.</p>
12.	4.16	<p>The Committee are shocked to observe that under the Scheme of Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls, the hostels in the State of Chhattisgarh have been sanctioned/constructed in those areas where there is 'nil' OBC population and these areas are replete with tribals or naxals. The objective of this Scheme is to provide hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education. Why the Department did not ensure on its own whether the population of OBC exists there or not, is beyond Committee's comprehension. The Committee are further informed by the Secretary of the Department that the grants for construction of the hostels are given to States/UTs only after checking that the land on which the hostels are to be built should belong to the Department of Social Welfare of that State. Considering the fact that the proposals for the Hostels forwarded by the States are for at least 60 per cent for OBC candidates and 40 per cent for SC/ST candidates, the</p>

		<p>Committee urge upon the Department to first verify the fact that this criterion is followed diligently and a sizeable number of OBC candidates reside there to avail this facility, before granting the funds for construction of hostels otherwise the very purpose of the Scheme is defeated.</p>
13.	5.12	<p>The Committee note that Integrated Programme for Old Persons (IPOP) is a significant Scheme which deals with improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities through providing financial assistance upto 90 per cent of the project cost to the Government/Non-Governmental Organizations/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies etc. for running and maintaining Old Age Homes, Daycare Centres and Mobile Medicare Units. The Committee are constrained to observe the details of the funds allocated and utilised under various programmes of this Scheme. The Committee find that there are seven Schemes integrated as one Scheme for Senior Citizens and there is no expenditure in six Schemes in the last three years except for 'Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP'. The Committee fail to understand that when there is expenditure in only one Scheme of IPOP for the last three years what are other Schemes meant for without any allocation or expenditure. The Committee recommend that if several schemes, integrated as one Scheme, are not being implemented properly and if there is only one Scheme under IPOP in which funds could be utilised then the Department should consider disintegration of IPOP and allot funds under separate heads and then utilise them effectively.</p>
14.	5.13	<p>The Committee further find that a sizeable amount of the funds allocated under the Scheme of 'Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP' is being utilised for Rashtriya Vayoshree Scheme. The Committee feel that as 'Assistance to NGOs under the Scheme of IPOP' under which there is remarkable allocation as well as utilisation of funds <i>vis-a-vis</i> other Schemes of IPOP, the funds allocated under this Scheme should not be diverted to or used for another Scheme. The Committee desire that when the Department has created a separate head for Rashtriya Vayoshree Scheme it should separately allocate funds for this Scheme.</p>