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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2019 - 20)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs

THIRTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

September, 2020/Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

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Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 10.09.2020

Presented to Lok Sabha on _____

Laid in Rajya Sabha on _____



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

September, 2020/Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
6. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
7. Shri Y. Devendrappa
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
14. Shri Vijay Kumar
15. Shri Akshaibar Lal
16. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
- #18. Shri Prince Raj
19. Shri Arjun Singh
20. Smt. Supriya Sule
21. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
- *23. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
- *26. Shri Biswajit Daimary
- *27. Shri Ashok Gasti
- *28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri P. L. Punia
- *30. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 09.12.2019.

* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 22.07.2020.

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
3. Smt. Madhu Bhutani - Deputy Secretariat
4. Smt. Shashi Bisht - Assistant Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Thirteenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 2019. The Ministry of Minority Affairs have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 24th February, 2020. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 6th August, 2020.

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

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

NEW DELHI;
6 August, 2020
15 Shravana, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 2019-20 pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

1.2 The Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 12.12.2019. It contained 8 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :
Paragraph Nos. 3.23, 4.17, 5.23 and 5.24.

(Total : 4, Chapter II)

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government :
Paragraph No. - Nil

(Total : Nil, Chapter-III)

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration:
Paragraph Nos. - 2.14, 3.22 and 5.25.

(Total : 3, Chapter-IV)

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature:
Paragraph Nos. 3.24.

(Total :1, Chapter- V)

1.3 The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of this Report.

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

A. Utilization of Funds under various Schemes

Recommendation (Sl. No.1 Para 2.14)

1.5 The Committee had observed that out of the total budgetary allocation of ₹ 4700.00 crore during the year 2018-19 the actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry was only ₹3853.00 crore (81.98%). They were sad to note that Funds amounting to ₹851.62 crore, which could not be utilized, were ultimately surrendered by the Ministry during the year 2018-19. From the break up of Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure in respect of all Schemes/components, the Committee had observed under utilization of funds in most of the important schemes regarding education & skill development. Further the Committee were not convinced by the routine reasons cited by the Ministry which *inter alia* included receipt of less than expected proposals from States/UTs/Central Waqf Council, lower number of beneficiaries under Post-Matric/Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes, unspent balances with Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), less receipt of demand from University Grant Commission (UGC), less receipt of proposals from Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) under Schemes for Free Coaching, Hamari Dharohar and Nai Manzil as well as non-signing of Memoranda of Understanding with PIAs of Skill Development scheme due to imposition of Election Code of Conduct.

The Committee had also observed that in 2019-20, the expenditure incurred by the Ministry for different schemes till 31.10.2019 was only 27% and the remaining amount of 73% was to be utilized by 31st March, 2020. From the Ministry's future expenditure plan in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of the year 2019-20, the Committee were unhappy to note that for quarter ending by 31.12.2019, out of ₹1880 crore proposed, only ₹ 454 crore was spent till 31.10.2019 and ₹1436 crore were left for utilization in two months upto 31.12.2019. The Committee were thus inclined to conclude that this trend was bound to impact the efficient & qualitative utilization of funds for different schemes. Since the major reasons cited by the Ministry were procedural matters, the Committee had recommended an action plan with clear targets devised for every scheme and strict guidelines to States to follow the same. The Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry needs to play a proactive role in implementation of their schemes. The accountability of States/UTs should also be defined and fixed. In addition, the States/UTs need to popularize various schemes amongst the target population in Minority Concentration Areas and develop a foolproof mechanism to take more and more people in the ambit of various schemes.

1.6 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their action taken note have stated as under:

SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION

“The Scholarship Section implements five schemes for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities viz. Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme, Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) and Padho Pardesh. The details of expenditures made under these schemes during 2019-20 are as under:

(In ₹ Crore)

Name of scheme	Budget Estimates 2019-20	Expenditure made till date*	Balance till date*	%age of BE expended
Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme	1220.30	379.05	841.25	31.06%
Post-matric Scholarship Scheme	496.01	89.06	406.95	17.96%
Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme	366.43	65.75	300.68	17.94%
Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)	155.00	100.00	55.00	64.52%
Padho Pardesh	30.00	9.00	21.00	33.34%

* as on 31.01.2020

The expenditure on Scholarship Schemes has been less up to January, 2020 as the architecture of the Schemes is such that maximum disbursement takes place in the last quarter of the fiscal year. Admission in many courses continues upto July-August and therefore registration of applications for Scholarships under the 3 Schemes, on the National Scholarship Portal started only on 15.07.2019, under the guidance of DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and continued upto 15.11.2019. The institute level (L-1) verification was extended upto 10.12.2019 and the State Nodal Officer/ District Nodal Officer level (L-2) verification upto 17.01.2020. As such, payment against fresh scholarships have not been made so far as the Merit list, as per State/Community-wise quota, is yet to be prepared. Even though the renewal scholarships are being disbursed, the expenditure has been less because payment for fresh scholarships has not been made so far. Further, over the past few years, it is observed that although the disbursement process picks up in the third quarter, more than half of the total disbursements occur in the last quarter of the financial year. It is, therefore, stated that 90-95% of the budget allocation for scholarships for the financial year 2019-20 shall be disbursed by 31.03.2020, and the budget provided will be utilised.

As regards Padho Pardesh scheme, it is observed that the demand for interest-subsidy has so far been less than expected, which has led to less expenditure. It is, however, expected that the demand for interest subsidy may pick up during the fourth quarter, and budget provided for the Scheme would be utilised.

FREE COACHING

Free Coaching and Allied Scheme is due for its revision for its continuation beyond 2019-20. Impact study and Evaluation of scheme is also proposed to be conducted through a third agency for making the scheme more effective. For Evaluation of the scheme RFP has already been floated and bids have been invited. The recommendations of the Committee will also be taken into consideration during revision of the scheme.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKARAM

During the current financial year with concerted efforts the Ministry as on 31.1.2020, has approved projects to the tune of ₹ 2447.47 crore with Central Share of ₹ 1605.14 crore and released central share to the tune of ₹ 973.75 crore which also includes releases to Andaman & Nicobar Island administration through Letter of Authorisation.

To ensure optimum utilization of funds under various schemes, a proposal has been sent to Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for relaxation of expenditure ceilings of 15% during January to February 2020 and 10% during March, 2020, expenditure ceilings in the last quarter as well as increase in the MEP and QEP. Further, a proposal has been sent to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs for inclusion in the 2nd Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for seeking additional funds under the schemes viz. Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (₹10.00 crore), Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (₹118.86 crore) and Investment in National Minority

Development and Finance Corporation (₹ 60.00 crore) with a view to utilize the Savings available under various schemes during 2019-20 and ensure optimum utilization of funds during the current financial year.”

1.7 The Committee, in their original report, had made a strong exception to routine and stereotyped reasons furnished by the Ministry for less utilisation of budgetary allocations under its various schemes. While the Committee understand that since the National Scholarship Portal started in July 2019, the Ministry could have faced teething troubles in migrating to the new system and hence the amount under Scholarship Scheme was to be disbursed by March, 2020, however the other Schemes are stated to be underperforming too with the result that now the Scheme of free coaching is slated to be revised after evaluation. The Committee are dismayed to note that the Ministry have still not spelt out any plan to boost demand under these schemes as well as arresting the trend of disjointed expenditure and resultant underutilization of funds. Merely requesting the Ministry of Finance to relax expenditure ceilings in various quarters and seeking additional funds during supplementary Demand for Grants are just the procedural steps to continue funding for the Schemes. The Committee had desired that the Ministry need to play a better role hence, they are anguished to find that the Ministry has simply evaded a reply on their recommendation that an action plan with clear targets for every schemes and strict guidelines be prescribed to the States, along with defining the accountability of States towards implementation of the Schemes. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

The Committee are also worried to note that an important educational scheme, namely “Padho Pardesh” has failed to generate expected demand for interest subsidy. The Ministry have not stated if this is due to the scheme not being given adequate publicity among the target groups or not being attractive enough to enthuse the target group. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to identify and analyse the reasons first and take corrective measures .

B. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2 Para 3.22)

1.8 The Committee had noted that since inception of PMJVK, not a single project was approved in eight States/UTs i.e. Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, J&K, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh during the year 2018-19 and none of the projects were sanctioned in the States/UTs of Haryana, Jharkhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands even after sanctioning of sufficient funds.

The Committee had further noted that the Budget Estimate for Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram for the year 2019-20 was ₹1470.00 crore but the actual expenditure till 31.10.2019 was only ₹469.22 crore (31.92%). The Committee had, therefore, recommended better coordination between State Governments and Block and Districts level Committees for efficient monitoring of projects under PMJVK as well as close monitoring by the Empowerment Committee in the Ministry since pending UCs of ₹3737.91 crore and unspent balance of ₹4858.10 crore had been reported upto 30.10.2019, which was disquieting.

1.9 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“It is informed that some of the States/UTs indicated by the Committee i.e, Goa, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have been included in the PMJVK scheme for the first time in May, 2018 due to the change in criteria for identification of Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) made by the Ministry. The identification of MCAs have been done on the basis of Census, 2011 data. Nevertheless, during the year 2019-20, the Ministry has regularly pursued with all the States/UTs covered under PMJVK, including the newly added States/UTs, for submission of proposals for their respective identified MCAs. This was followed by a meeting by the Secretary (MA) with the Principal Secretaries of the States/UTs at Vigyan Bhavan on 17.07.2019 wherein the participants were informed about the PMJVK scheme in detail and were requested to submit proposals which would have impact in the Minority Concentration Areas such as new schools, hostels, residential schools, colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics, Working Women Hostels, Health related projects, Skill Development projects, Common Service Centres etc.

The Ministry also followed up with the concerned States/UTs through regular correspondences and telephonic contacts. Ministry in the recent past also conducted review meetings under the Chairmanship of Secretary(MA) at Indore and Mumbai where the State Government officers were requested to submit proposals for their respective MCAs.

Due to the concerted efforts put in by the Ministry, during the current financial year as on 31.1.2020, projects to the tune of ₹ 2447.47 crore with Central Share of ₹1605.14 crore have been approved and Central Share to the tune of ₹ 973.75 crore has been released. The projects approved by the Ministry during 2019-20 also include proposals received from the States of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland which States have

submitted proposals for the first time under the PMJVK scheme. In addition, a number of projects have been approved in the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 2019-20. The Ministry has also received project proposals from the State of Goa and UT of Puducherry.

Further, during the period upto 31.12.2019, Ministry received Utilization Certificates of 1st instalment of Central Share to the tune of ₹238.93 crore from States/UTs and released subsequent instalments of Central Share. As on 31.12.2019, the amount of pending UCs and unspent balances have come down to ₹3351.51 crore and ₹4471.69 crore respectively as compared to the figures conveyed by the Ministry earlier as on 31.10.2019.”

1.10 The Committee are not satisfied with the efforts being made by the Ministry to boost the performance of such an important and comprehensive scheme like PMJVK which aims at overall development of Minority Concentrated Areas (MCAs) and bring about qualitative change in the lives of Minority population of these areas. It is stated by the Ministry that the States of Goa, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and UT of Puducherry were included in the Scheme for the first time in May, 2018, and that they have regularly pursued with all the States/UTs covered under PMJVK including the newly added States/UTs for submission of proposals for their respective identified Minority Concentration Areas with the result that some projects from these were received and approved. The Committee note that amount of ₹ 973.75 crore out of the identified central share of ₹ 1605.14 crore has been released. They would like to be apprised of project wise and State wise progress of all the projects in 2019-20 and 2020-21 till date.

The Committee note with concern the complacent attitude of the Ministry with regard to pending UCs and unspent balances under PMJVK. Out of the pending UCs of ₹ 3737.91 crore, the Ministry could manage to get UCs of ₹ 238.93 crore only during the period 31.10.2019 to 31.12.2019. The amount of unspent balance coming down to ₹ 4471.69 crore from ₹ 4858.10 crore as on 31.12.2019 cannot be considered a substantial progress. Keeping in view the enormity of pending UCs and the unspent balances, the Committee, impress upon the Ministry to get tangible results.

C. Swachh Bharat Mission

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4 Para 3.24)

1.11 Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd October, 2014. The Committee had noted with concern that the Empowered Committee in the Ministry had sanctioned only 2990 toilets in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) including Schools (i.e.1870 toilets) in the last five years w.e.f October 2014 to September, 2019. The fund sanctioned for this purpose as Central Share was ₹ 7214.96 lakh including ₹ 3370.92 lakh sanctioned for construction of 1870 toilets in schools. While appreciating the initiative taken by the Ministry, the Committee had desired that they should pursue with the States/UTs and their agencies to submit the status of the actually functional toilets with water supply in the MCAs and ensure that funds earmarked for the purpose were utilized judiciously. The Committee had further desired to be apprised of the progress achieved along with a State-wise list of schools and names of identified MCAs for which the funds were sanctioned.

1.12 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“Since, 2014-15 and upto 31.12.2019, the Ministry has sanctioned projects related to construction of 3109 units of Toilets under PMJVK scheme (including toilets in schools, educational institutions, community toilets etc) having Central Share of ₹7294.80 lakh. As the projects are implemented by the States/UTs, the information desired by the Committee has been called for from the concerned States/UTs. Information from some of the States/UTs has been received. As per reports furnished by the States/UTs and received in routine through Quarterly Progress Report, 716 units of Toilets have been completed and construction work in 524 units are in progress. 35 units of Toilets have been dropped by the States due to administrative reasons (Uttar Pradesh-25 units & Maharashtra-10 units). The Ministry is pursuing with the States for submission of updated status of the projects. The status of all 3109 units of Toilets would be furnished to the Committee after obtaining the same from the concerned States/UTs.

The observation of the Committee to regularly pursue with the States/UTs for submission of status of functional toilets with water supply and for ensuring judicial utilization of funds has been noted for compliance.”

1.13 The Ministry have furnished to the Committee the updated information of 1275 units of toilets out of 3109 sanctioned projects related to the construction of toilets under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) as on 31.12.2019. The Ministry has compiled this information from Quarterly Progress Reports furnished by the States/UTs which indicates that construction of 716 units of toilets have been completed, construction of 524 units are in progress and 35 units have been dropped due to administrative reasons. The Committee find that the Ministry do pursue with the States/UTs for submission of updated status of the projects and are compiling the information through routine quarterly progress reports. The Committee desire the Ministry to develop a window under the scheme in their website and direct the States/UTs to upload the status of the projects in real-time on the website. In Committee's view, this will not only reduce Ministry's dependence on obtaining routine progress reports furnished by States/UTs and cut the delay but will also strengthen the monitoring mechanism of the Ministry to evaluate the progress in each State/UT along with the expenditure on the projects in real time. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the status of remaining 1834 units of toilets under PMJVK.

D. Scholarship Schemes for Minority Students

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8 Para 5.25)

1.14 The Committee had noted that during the financial year 2019-20, the actual expenditure incurred till 31.10.2019 under Pre-matric scholarship scheme was ₹ 101.02 crore (8.36%) against B.E of ₹1220.30, Post-matric scholarship scheme - ₹ 49.30 crore (9.94%) against B.E of ₹496.01 crore and under Merit-cum-Means scholarship scheme ₹ 64.61 crore (17.63%) against BE of ₹366.43 crore, respectively . The Committee were disappointed that even though the third quarter of the current fiscal was about to close, the Ministry had spent only 8.36%, 9.94% and 17.63% under three scholarship schemes respectively. The Committee were of the view that if a large portion of allocation remained unspent till last quarter then in the haste of achieving expenditure targets, the scrutiny and examination of proposals will get compromised. They, therefore, impressed upon the Ministry to strive for a balanced utilization of funds in all the four quarters of a financial year.

Reply of the Government

1.15 The Ministry of Minority Affairs in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

The expenditure on Scholarship Schemes has been less up to January, 2020 as the architecture of the Schemes is such that maximum disbursement takes place in the last quarter of the fiscal year. Admission in many courses continues upto July-August and therefore registration of applications for Scholarships under the 3 Schemes, on the National Scholarship Portal started only on 15.07.2019, under the guidance of DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and continued upto 15.11.2019. The institute level (L-1) verification was extended upto 10.12.2019 and the State Nodal Officer/ District Nodal Officer level (L-2) verification upto 17.01.2020. As such, payment against fresh scholarships have not been made so far as the Merit list, as per State/Community-wise quota, is yet to be prepared. Even though, the renewal scholarships are being disbursed, the expenditure has been less as payment for fresh scholarships is yet to start. Further, over the past few years, it is observed that although the disbursement process picks up in the third quarter, more than half of the total disbursements occur in the fourth (last) quarter. It is, therefore, stated that 90-95% of the budgetary allocation for scholarships during 2019-20, shall be disbursed by 31.03.2020, and budget provided will be utilised.

1.16 The Committee note that the Ministry have attributed the trend of disjointed and unequal spread of expenditure under its three scholarship schemes to the structure of the schemes and the procedural time-lines leading to 90-95% of expenditure in the last quarter of the financial year. The Committee are not inclined to accept the explanation of the Ministry and would like to impress upon the fact that when this pattern is prevalent over the past few years, the Ministry should have brought modifications in the structure of the scholarship scheme to correct the imbalance in the expenditure trend. As the delay in disbursing scholarship is likely to be prevented to some extent with the launch of National Scholarship portal, the Committee would desire the Ministry to find ways to cajole the State Governments to prepare merit lists as soon as the results are declared and provide it online to the Ministry for considering the grant of fresh scholarships. With Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupting the academic sessions, it, perhaps, is not likely to pick up this year. However, the Ministry must try to make up for the lost time as soon as the normal functioning resumes.

CHAPTER – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Recommendation (Para 3.23)

2.1 The Committee note with concern about inadequate monitoring of projects and units sanctioned during the year 2019-20 under PMJVK such as Residential Schools-33, New Schools-98, Hostels-74, ITIs-04, Skill Centres-04, Common Service Centres-104, Unani Medical College-01, Health Related Projects-223 and Toilets-58. As the thrust areas of the scheme is education, health and skill development for which provision for allocation of at least 80% of the resources has been made, therefore, the Committee desire that Ministry should be focussing on regular review of the implementation of sanctioned projects with State/UT administrations as well as monitoring the utilization of funds by States/district concerned diligently. As education of minorities is one of the major components of PMJVK, the Ministry should give due weightage to the suggestions received for opening of schools/colleges/specific medical colleges (Unani) etc. from Public representations belonging to MCAs.

Reply of the Government

2.2 A robust mechanism for monitoring of projects sanctioned under the PMJVK has been provided in the scheme. Besides the normal chain of monitoring through the Block Level Committee, District Level Committee and State Level Committee, the Ministry also continuously reviews the progress of construction and commissioning of the sanctioned projects. Such reviews are conducted during the Empowered Committee meetings with the State authorities, through written communications to the State Governments/UT Administrations, through Conferences/ Meetings/ Discussions with the States/UT Administrations, visits by officers from the Ministry to States/UTs etc. The monitoring mechanism has been further strengthened by inclusion of geo-tagging, DISHA dashboard and constitution of a Screening Committee at the Ministry level.

In the current financial year i.e. 2019-20, the Ministry has convened 08 meetings of the Empowered Committee on PMJVK. In these meetings, the status of projects sanctioned under PMJVK/erstwhile MsDP were also reviewed. The first meeting of the Empowered Committee in the current financial year was held on 17.07.2019 under the Chairmanship of Secretary(MA) at Vigyan Bhawan wherein department heads of all

participating States/UTs were invited and status of the projects in their States/UTs were reviewed.

Recently, two meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Secretary(MA) at Indore and Mumbai to review the status of progress of projects sanctioned for MCAs of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

As regards according priority to the projects related to education sector, as per the guidelines on PMJVK, the Ministry accords priority to projects related to education, skill and health related projects. Out of the sanctioned projects having Central Share of ₹ 1605.14 crore, the value of projects relating to education sector is ₹1151.98 crore.

As regards giving weightage to the suggestions of Public representatives of MCAs is concerned, it is informed that all Members of Parliament and all Members of Legislative Assembly representing the concerned district are included as members in the District Level Committee (DLC) for Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme. Further, one Member of Parliament from the Rajya Sabha representing the State is nominated by the Central Govt. in the DLC. Upto two Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and one Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha representing the State are nominated by the Central Govt. and two Members of the Legislative Assembly are nominated by the State Government in the State Level Committee on PM's New 15 Point Programme, which Committee also recommend proposals under the PMJVK for consideration of the Empowered Committee.

The recommendation of the Committee for giving weightage to the suggestions received for opening of schools/colleges/specific medical colleges (Unani) etc. from public representatives belonging to MCAs is noted.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th February, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 4.17)

2.3 The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Ministry to stem the decline of Parsi population in India. The Committee would like to suggest that apart from these measures, the Government must undertake a comprehensive programme of mass contact within the Parsi community to sensitize and persuade them to change their present thinking of getting married late and have single or no child because these are slowly and gradually driving the community towards extinction. As a large portion of the Parsi population is concentrated in only two States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, it should not pose much problem to meet either the prominent persons of the community or address the community as a whole. For this, the help of religious and community leaders of Parsis can be sought. In view of the fact that the Parsi community is an educated and

progressive community, the Committee hope that such measures would receive a positive response and hence desire the Ministry to take proactive measures in this direction. The Committee further desire that fresh census of Parsi population may be conducted separately. They would also await the data on medical assistance to the community which the Ministry would obtain from the PIA.

Reply of the Government

JIYO PARSI

2.4 Considerable efforts have already been made by the Parzor Foundation, the implementing agency, towards trying to sensitize and persuade the community to change their present thinking of getting married late and having single or no child under the Advocacy component of JiyoParsi Scheme. Interactions are held with Parsi gatherings at community functions such as the Annual Days of different Anjumans across India, events of great significance in the community, like Sanjan Day, Holiday Programme for the Youth (HPY) etc.

Help of prominent Bollywood celebrities are also taken from time to time. Three films have been made to reach out to wide audiences and sensitize them about the declining numbers and the need to reverse this trend by marrying early and having two children. The last film made by Parzor starred the famous Bollywood actor, a Parsi himself, Shri Boman Irani.

However, the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Committee regarding need for mass contact with the community to sensitize and persuade the Parsis to change their present thinking of marrying late and having no or single child, have been noted to give more focus on advocacy of Parsi Community.

Regarding conducting of fresh Census of the Parsi population separately, it is submitted that matter will be taken up with Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India during 2021 Census. Parzore Foundation will also be requested to ensure that Parsis are sensitized to cooperate with the Census official and also help familiarize the enumerators with data about the Parsi community which may help them to obtain accurate result.

Further, year-wise, number of families assisted under the component of the Medical Assistance along with expenditure incurred since inception of this scheme is given below:

Financial Year	No. of Families assisted under Medical Component	Amount of medical assistance (in ₹)
2013-14	NIL	NIL
2014-15	17	2,04,118
2015-16	50	89,55,301
2016-17	40	57,20,936
2017-18	45	93,85,008
2018-19	88	193,72,046
2019-20	88 (upto 7 th Feb 2020)	2,21,37,288

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th February, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 5.23)

2.5 The Committee observe that 30% of scholarship slots are earmarked for girl students but as adequate girl students are not coming forward, the unutilized slots are being allotted to boy students. The Committee are disappointed to note that in the last three years the percentage of scholarships sanctioned to girl students is less than 40% meaning thereby that more than 60% unutilized slots are being diverted towards boy applicants. In Committee's view, this imbalance needs to be corrected. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to undertake a comprehensive campaign to sensitize and persuade the parents of minority community to send their girls to schools and avail the benefits of scholarship schemes meant for them.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The observations of the Committee have been examined and it is stated that during the years 2014-15 to 2018-19, a total of 3,20,43,323 Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means scholarships were awarded to students belonging to six notified minorities. Out of this 1,67,59,888 were awarded to Girl students, which is 52.30 %. The recommendation of the Committee to undertake a comprehensive campaign to sensitize and persuade the parents of minority communities to send their girls to schools and avail the benefits of scholarship schemes is noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th February, 2020)

Recommendation (Para 5.24)

2.7 The Committee feel that the rates of scholarships provided under the three scholarship schemes i.e. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means are very low. In Committee's view, the purpose of scholarship schemes is to educationally empower the students coming from economically backward segment of minority communities. It is therefore essential that the amount given as scholarship be made reasonable to meet their educational expenses. The Ministry have assured the Committee that while seeking approval from the Cabinet for continuation of these Scholarship Schemes beyond 2019-20, concurrent to the 15th Finance Commission Cycle, the recommendation of the Committee for enhancing the budgetary allocation as well as the quantum of Scholarship will be considered. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the amount to be given as scholarship under all these schemes must be commensurate to the cost of living and revised time to time to offset the pressure of inflation. They desire to be apprised of the progress on the matter.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The recommendation of the Committee, for revision of the rates of scholarships provided under the three scholarship schemes i.e. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means from time to time, has been noted and shall be taken up with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance at the time of approval of these schemes for continuation beyond 2019-20.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th February, 2020)

CHAPTER – III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government

-NIL-

CHAPTER – IV

Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration

Recommendation (Sl. No.1 Para 2.14)

4.1 The Committee observe that out of the total budgetary allocation of ₹ 4700.00 crore during the year 2018-19 the actual expenditure incurred by the Ministry was only ₹3853.00 crore (81.98%). They are sad to note that Funds amounting to ₹851.62 crore, which could not be utilized, were ultimately surrendered by the Ministry during the year 2018-19. From the break up of Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure in respect of all Schemes/components, the Committee observe that there has been under utilization of funds in most of the important schemes regarding education & skill development. The Committee are not convinced by the routine reasons cited by the Ministry which are receipt of lesser than expected proposals from States/UTs/Central Waqf Council, lower number of beneficiaries under Post-Matric/Merit-cum-Means scholarship schemes, unspent balances with Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), less receipt of demand from University Grant Commission (UGC), less receipt of proposals from PIAs under Free Coaching, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Manzil, non-signing of Memoranda of Understanding with Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of Skill Development scheme due to imposition of Election Code of Conduct, among others.

The Committee observe that in 2019-20, the expenditure incurred by the Ministry for different schemes has only been 27% till 31.10.2019 and the remaining amount of 73% is to be utilized in the remaining four months. While the Ministry furnished their future expenditure plan in its 1st, 2nd 3rd and 4th quarters of this fiscal, the Committee are unhappy to note that for quarter ending 31.12.2019, out of ₹1880 crore proposed, only ₹454 crore was spent till 31.10.2019 which meant that ₹ 1436 crore were left for utilization in two months upto 31.12.2019. It is not difficult to predict the trend in the fourth quarter from this pace. From this, the Committee are inclined to conclude that this trend is bound to impact the efficient & qualitative utilization of funds for different schemes. Since the major reasons cited by the Ministry are procedural matters, the Committee recommend that an action plan with clear targets need to be devised by the Ministry for every scheme and strict

guidelines given to States to follow the same. This would result in regularisation of procedures and more efficient utilization of funds. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry needs to play a proactive role in implementation of their schemes. The accountability of States/UTs is also to be defined and fixed. In addition, the States/UTs need to popularize various schemes amongst the target population in Minority Concentration Areas and develop a foolproof mechanism to take more and more people in the ambit of various schemes.

Reply of the Government

SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION

4.2 The Scholarship Section implements five schemes for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities viz. Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme, Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) and Padho Pardesh. The details of expenditures made under these schemes during 2019-20 are as under:

(in ₹ Crore)

Name of scheme	Budget Estimates 2019-20	Expenditure made till date*	Balance till date*	%age of BE expended
Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme	1220.30	379.05	841.25	31.06%
Post-matric Scholarship Scheme	496.01	89.06	406.95	17.96%
Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme	366.43	65.75	300.68	17.94%
Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)	155.00	100.00	55.00	64.52%
Padho Pardesh	30.00	9.00	21.00	33.34%

*as on 31.01.2020

The expenditure on Scholarship Schemes has been less up to January, 2020 as the architecture of the Schemes is such that maximum disbursement takes place in the last quarter of the fiscal year. Admission in many courses continues upto July-August and therefore registration of applications for Scholarships under the 3 Schemes, on the National Scholarship Portal started only on 15.07.2019, under the guidance of DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and continued upto 15.11.2019. The institute level (L-1) verification was extended upto 10.12.2019 and the State Nodal Officer/ District Nodal Officer level (L-2) verification upto 17.01.2020. As such, payment against fresh scholarships have not been made so far as the Merit list, as per State/Community-wise quota, is yet to be prepared. Even though the renewal

scholarships are being disbursed, the expenditure has been less because payment for fresh scholarships has not been made so far. Further, over the past few years, it is observed that although the disbursement process picks up in the third quarter, more than half of the total disbursements occur in the last quarter of the financial year. It is, therefore, stated that 90-95% of the budget allocation for scholarships for the financial year 2019-20 shall be disbursed by 31.03.2020, and the budget provided will be utilised.

As regards Padho Pardesh scheme, it is observed that the demand for interest-subsidy has so far been less than expected, which has led to less expenditure. It is, however, expected that the demand for interest subsidy may pick up during the fourth quarter, and budget provided for the Scheme would be utilised.

FREE COACHING

Free Coaching and Allied Scheme is due for its revision for its continuation beyond 2019-20. Impact study and Evaluation of scheme is also proposed to be conducted through a third agency for making the scheme more effective. For Evaluation of the scheme RFP has already been floated and bids have been invited. The recommendations of the Committee will also be taken into consideration during revision of the scheme.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKARAM

During the current financial year with concerted efforts the Ministry as on 31.1.2020, has approved projects to the tune of ₹2447.47 crore with Central Share of ₹ 1605.14 crore and released central share to the tune of ₹ 973.75 crore which also includes releases to Andaman & Nicobar Island administration through Letter of Authorization.

As regards remaining schemes of the Ministry concerted efforts are being made to ensure optimum utilization of funds under various schemes. A proposal has been sent to Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for relaxation of expenditure ceilings of 15% during Jan to Feb 2020 and 10% during March, 2020, expenditure ceilings in the last quarter as well as increase in the MEP and QEP. Further, a proposal has been sent to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs for inclusion in the 2nd Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for seeking additional funds under the schemes Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (₹10.00 crore), Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram

(₹118.86 crore) and Investment in National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (₹ 60.00 crore) with a view to utilize the Savings available under various schemes during 2019-20 and ensure optimum utilization of funds during the current financial year.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th Feb, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para 3.22)

4.3 The Committee are concerned to note that since inception of PMJVK, not a single project is approved in eight States like Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, J&K, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh during the year 2018-19 and none of the projects were sanctioned in the States/UTs of Haryana, Jharkhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands even after sanctioning of sufficient funds.

The Committee note that the Budget Estimate for Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram for the year 2019-20 is ₹1470.00 crore. The actual expenditure till 31.10.2019 is ₹ 469.22 crore (31.92%). Hence the Committee recommend better coordination between State Government, Block and Districts level Committees for efficient monitoring of projects under PMJVK as well as close monitoring by the Empowerment Committee in the Ministry since pending UCs of ₹ 3737.91 crore and unspent balance of ₹4858.10 crore have been reported upto 30.10.2019, which is disquieting.

Reply of the Government

4.4 It is informed that some of the States/UTs indicated by the Committee i.e, Goa, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have been included in the PMJVK scheme for the first time in May, 2018 due to the change in criteria for identification of Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) made by the Ministry. The identification of MCAs have been done on the basis of Census, 2011 data. Nevertheless, during the year 2019-20, the Ministry has regularly pursued with all the States/UTs covered under PMJVK, including the newly added States/UTs, for submission of proposals for their respective identified MCAs. This was followed by a meeting by the Secretary (MA) with the Principal Secretaries of the States/UTs at

Vigyan Bhavan on 17.07.2019 wherein the participants were informed about the PMJVK scheme in detail and were requested to submit proposals which would have impact in the Minority Concentration Areas such as new schools, hostels, residential schools, colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics, Working Women Hostels, Health related projects, Skill Development projects, Common Service Centres etc.

The Ministry also followed up with the concerned States/UTs through regular correspondences and telephonic contacts. Ministry in the recent past also conducted review meetings under the Chairmanship of Secretary(MA) at Indore and Mumbai where the State Govt. officers were requested to submit proposals for their respective MCAs.

Due to the concerted efforts put in by the Ministry, during the current financial year as on 31.1.2020, projects to the tune of ₹2447.47 crore with Central Share of ₹ 1605.14 crore have been approved and Central Share to the tune of ₹973.75 crore has been released. The projects approved by the Ministry during 2019-20 also include proposals received from the States of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland which States have submitted proposals for the first time under the PMJVK scheme. In addition, a number of projects have been approved in the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 2019-20. The Ministry has also received project proposals from the State of Goa and UT of Puduchery.

Further, during the period upto 31.12.2019, Ministry received Utilization Certificates of 1st instalment of Central Share to the tune of ₹238.93 crore from States/UTs and released subsequent instalments of Central Share. As on 31.12.2019, the amount of pending UCs and unspent balances have come down to ₹3351.51 crore and ₹ 4471.69 crore respectively as compared to the figures conveyed by the Ministry earlier as on 31.10.2019.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th Feb, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para 5.25)

4.5 The Committee further note that during the current financial year 2019-20, the actual expenditure incurred till 31.10.2019 under Pre-matric scholarship was ₹ 101.02 crore (8.36%) against B.E of ₹ 1220.30, Post-matric scholarship - ₹ 49.30 crore (9.94%) against B.E of ₹ 496.01 crore and under Merit-cum-Means scholarship scheme ₹ 64.61 crore (17.63%) against BE of ₹ 366.43 crore respectively . The Committee are very disappointed that even though the third quarter of the current fiscal is about to close, the Ministry had spent only 8.36%, 9.94% and 17.63% under all three scholarship schemes respectively. The Committee are of the view that if a large portion of allocation remains unspent till last quarter then in the haste of achieving expenditure targets, the scrutiny and examination of proposals will get compromised. They, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to strive for a balanced utilization of funds in all the four quarters of a financial year.

Reply of the Government

4.6 The expenditure on Scholarship Schemes has been less up to January, 2020 as the architecture of the Schemes is such that maximum disbursement takes place in the last quarter of the fiscal year. Admission in many courses continues upto July-August and therefore registration of applications for Scholarships under the 3 Schemes, on the National Scholarship Portal started only on 15.07.2019, under the guidance of DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat and continued upto 15.11.2019. The institute level (L-1) verification was extended upto 10.12.2019 and the State Nodal Officer/ District Nodal Officer level (L-2) verification upto 17.01.2020. As such, payment against fresh scholarships have not been made so far as the Merit list, as per State/Community-wise quota, is yet to be prepared. Even though, the renewal scholarships are being disbursed, the expenditure has been less as payment for fresh scholarships is yet to start. Further, over the past few years, it is observed that although the disbursement process picks up in the third quarter, more than half of the total disbursements occur in the fourth (last) quarter. It is, therefore, stated that 90-95% of the budgetary allocation for scholarships during 2019-20, shall be disbursed by 31.03.2020, and budget provided will be utilised.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th Feb, 2020)

Comments of Committee

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter – I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

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

Recommendation (Para 3.24)

5.1 Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd October, 2014. The Committee note with concern that the Empowered Committee in the Ministry has sanctioned only 2990 toilets in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) including Schools (i.e.1870 toilets) in the last five years w.e.f October 2014 to September, 2019. The fund sanctioned for this purpose as Central Share was ₹ 7214.96 lakh including ₹ 3370.92 lakh sanctioned for construction of 1870 toilets in schools. While appreciating the initiative taken by the Ministry, the Committee desire that they should pursue with the States/UTs and their agencies to submit the status of the actually functional toilets with water supply in the MCAs and ensure that funds earmarked for the purpose are fully and judiciously utilized. The Committee further desire to be apprised of the progress achieved along with a State-wise list of schools and names of identified MCAs for which the funds are sanctioned.

Reply of the Government

5.2 Since, 2014-15 and upto 31.12.2019, the Ministry has sanctioned projects related to construction of 3109 units of Toilets under PMJVK scheme (including toilets in schools, educational institutions, community toilets etc) having Central Share of ₹7294.80 lakhs. As the projects are implemented by the States/UTs, the information desired by the Committee has been called for from the concerned States/UTs. Information from some of the States/UTs has been received. As per reports furnished by the States/UTs and received in routine through Quarterly Progress Report, 716 units of Toilets have been completed and construction work in 524 units are in progress. 35 units of Toilets have been dropped by the States due to administrative reasons (Uttar Pradesh-25 units & Maharashtra-10 units). The Ministry is pursuing with the State for submission of updated status of the projects. The status of all 3109 units of Toilets would be furnished to the Committee after obtaining the same from the concerned States/UTs.

The observation of the Committee to regularly pursue with the States/UTs for submission of status of functional toilets with water supply and for ensuring judicial utilization of funds has been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Minority Affairs OM No. G-20014/2/2019-Budget dated 24th Feb, 2020)

Comments of Committee

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

NEW DELHI;

6 August, 2020

15 Shravana, 1942 (Saka)

**RAMA DEVI
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment**

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 2020

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Main Committee Room Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Y. Devendrappa
3. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
4. Shri Akshaibar Lal
5. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

6. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
7. Shri Ashok Gasti
8. Shri P.L. Punia
9. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
10. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of four Draft Action Taken Reports of the Committee on "Demands for Grants 2019-20" and taking evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019".

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

(i) *** *** ***

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

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

(iv) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourth Report on "Demand for Grants 2019-20" of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

4. The Committee adopted the aforesaid draft Reports without any amendment and authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports to Parliament or to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

5. *** *** ***

6. *** *** ***

7. *** *** ***

8. *** *** ***

(The Committee then adjourned.)

*** Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20)' OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
Total number of Recommendations	8	
(I) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government : Paragraph Nos. - 3.23, 4.17, 5.23 and 5.24.	4	50%
(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government : Paragraph No. - Nil	0	0%
(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration: Paragraph Nos. - 2.14, 3.22 and 5.25	3	37.5%
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of in nature: Paragraph No. - 3.24.	1	12.5%