STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-2021)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Assessment of the working of Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCA to SCSP)" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI

August, 2021/ Sravana, 1943 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 06 August, 2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 06 August, 2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI

August, 2021/ Sravana, 1943 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21)

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

- 2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
- 3. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
- 4. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
- 5. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
- 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 Vijay Kumar
- 14. Shri Akshaibar Lal
- 15. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
- 16. Shri Arjun Singh
- 17. Smt. Supriya Sule
- 18. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
- 19. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
- 20. Shri Tokheho Yepthomi
- 21. Vacant #

Rajya Sabha

- 22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
- 23. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
- 24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
- 25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
- 26. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha*
- 27. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
- 28. Shri Narayan Koragappa*
- 29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
- 30. Shri Ramkumar Verma
- 31. Shri Ramji*

^{*} Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 23.12.2020

[#] Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras ceased to be Member of the Committee w.e.f. 07.07.2021 consequent upon his appointment as Union Minister.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary

2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director

3. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary

4. Shri Kamal Khurana - Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2020-21) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Assessment of the working of Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCA to SCSP)" relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

- 2. The Sixty-fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd January, 2019. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the observations/recommendations contained therein on 10th December, 2020. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 5th August, 2021.
- 3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix.
- 4. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations/comments of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of this Report.

NEW DELHI;

<u>05 August, 2021</u> 14 Sravana, 1943 (Saka) RAMA DEVI Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

- 1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Assessment of the working of Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan [New Renamed as DAPSC (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes)] (SCA to SCSP)" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 1.2 The Sixty-Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd January, 2019. It contained 15 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. 1.11, 2.7, 4.8, 4.25, 5.3, 5.7 and 5.11.

(Total 7; Chapter – II)

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.8 and 3.9

(Total 2; Chapter- III)

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

Paragraph Nos. 3.18, 4.11 and 5.13.

(Total 3; Chapter-IV)

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

Paragraph Nos. 3.14, 4.21 and 4.35

(Total 3; 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 Ministry which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. Non-Lapsable Central Pool of SCSP Funds.

Recommendation (SI. No. 3, Para No. 3.14)

- In their original recommendation, the Committee had noted that one of the recommendations of the 'Task Force to Review Guidelines on Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan', inter-alia, suggested that SCSP funds remaining unutilized at the end of a financial year may be transferred to "Non-lapsable Central Pool of SCSP Funds (NLCPSF)", a Head to be created in the Public Account. The Committee had further noted that the erstwhile Planning Commission had not accepted this recommendation of the Task Force. However, NITI Aayog had considered this recommendation and suggested to the Department of Expenditure and Department of Economic Affairs to pool such under-utilised and unutilised funds of some Ministries/Departments and allocate to nodal Ministries i.e. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Committee believed that the formation of a non lapsable pool is imperative to curb the diversion of funds and to ensure proper utilization of funds under this Scheme. The Committee, therefore, were of the considered view that the Department should take initiative to pursue Department of Expenditure and Department of Economic Affairs to consider this proposal and implement it at the earliest. The Committee had desired to be apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard.
- 1.6 The Department, in their action taken reply, have submitted as under:-
 - "NITI Aayog sent a proposal for creation of pool for unutilized/underutilized funds allocated for welfare of SCs& STs and re-allocating such funds to the Nodal Departments i.e. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in respect of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan to meet their budgetary requirements under scholarship/fellowship schemes and other beneficiary oriented schemes to Ministry of Finance. The Department has also requested the Ministry of Finance

to take a view on the proposal for creation of pool for utilized funds allocated for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

In response, Ministry of Finance has informed that nodal Ministries and obligated Ministry/Department's in consultation with NITI Aayog are required to identify specific schemes which provide benefits to SCs/STs and also come up with innovative responses in terms of new schemes etc. in case there is difficulty in providing benefits to SCs/STs under the existing schemes.

As desired by the Committee, Department of Expenditure will be pursued further for creation of pool for unutilized funds allocated for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

In addition to above a robust mechanism to monitor the allocation and expenditure under DAPSC (earlier known as SCSP or AWSC) has been developed. The portal developed by the Department (http://e-utthaan.gov.in/) provides real time status of utilization of funds allocated for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. For regular monitoring of the DAPSC the inter-ministerial meetings are held periodically."

1.7 The Committee, in their original recommendation, had desired that in accordance with the recommendation of NITI Aayog for the formation of a non lapsable pool for under-utilized/unutilized SCSP Funds, the matter should be pursued by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment with the Department of Expenditure and Department of Economic Affairs to consider the same and be implemented. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in their reply, have now informed them about a somewhat lukewarm response of the Ministry of Finance to the said recommendation asking the Ministry to identify specific Schemes which provide benefits to SCs/STs and come up with innovative responses in terms of new schemes etc. in case there is difficulty in providing benefits to SCs/STs under the existing Schemes. The Department has neither informed the Committee if they responded to this suggestion, nor intimated whether their request was rejected or put on hold by the Ministry of

Finance, subject to fulfilling the condition. In its stead, the Department has merely stated about pursuing further of the matter with the Department of Expenditure. The Committee observe that more than two years have passed since they made this recommendation keeping in view the overall welfare of Scheduled Castes and for ensuring optimal utilization of funds under the Scheme. But no final decision has been taken so far. The Committee are of the view that further delay in formation of non-lapsable pool may deprive the target section of the society from the benefits of the Scheme and, therefore, recommend that sincere efforts should be made by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in consultation with NITI Aayog, to convince the Ministry of Finance on the formation of a non-lapsable pool of SCSP funds.

B. Online Portal Under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 3.18)

- 1.8 In their original recommendation, the Committee had noted that for fair selection of eligible candidates under the scheme of SCA to SCSP, there was a proposal to have an end to end processing of bank linked loans wherein the applicant/beneficiary can submit the application with the minimal documents through the online portal. Wondering as to why this Scheme had not been linked electronically till now while all the other major Schemes run by the Department had already been linked to the online portals or were in the process of doing so, the Committee, therefore, had desired that the Department should take extra measures to develop an online portal for this Scheme at the earliest and implement it without any delay. The Committee were concerned to note that the approval for online portal under the Scheme of the SCA to SCSP was still under process and awaits approval of the Cabinet and desired that the Department should make efforts for getting the approval of Cabinet for the proposal of applying through online portal under this Scheme.
- 1.9 The Department, in their action taken reply, have submitted as under:-
 - "The Ministry, in association with National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (**NSFDC**), CPSU under the Ministry of Social Justice &

Empowerment in collaboration and National E-Governance Division (NEGD) has developed an online portal for end-to-end process of various income generation projects implemented under the Scheme. The portal was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment on 27.02.2019 in the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries conference held in New Delhi.

It is informed that in order to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations in processing the proposals under the Scheme, the Ministry is developing an online portal for proposal submission, its approval, implementation and monitoring and enabling the process to become paper free. This will also help better targeting, monitoring & smooth implementation of the scheme.

Under infrastructure development programmes, funds under SCA to SCSP is also being used in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) of the Department. An Online Software has been developed and launched under PMAGY also for monitoring the progress and capturing information from the States/UTs for the smooth implementation of the scheme."

1.10 The Committee, while expressing their concern for fair selection of eligible candidates under the scheme of SCA to SCSP, had recommended development of an online portal so that the applicant/beneficiary can easily submit their application with minimal documents through the same. In their action taken reply, the Department has informed that the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation(NSFDC) has developed an online portal for end-to-end process of various income generating projects, and the same was launched in February, 2019. Further, for infrastructure development programmes for which funds under SCA to SCSP are also being used in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Aadarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), an online software has been developed for monitoring the progress and capturing information from States/UTs under PMAGY. These initiatives are appreciable. However, the on-line portal desired by the Committee for facilitating ease of filing applications by the intended

beneficiaries remains yet to be developed as the Ministry in December 2020 has replied that they are in the process of developing an online portal for submission of proposals, approval, implementation and monitoring and enabling the process to become paper free, despite the Committee's recommendation to this effect in January 2019. The Committee are therefore not satisfied with the slow progress on this matter. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating their earlier recommendation, desire that for effective implementation of the scheme to the deserving candidates, development of online-portal for proposal submissions with minimum documents and an end-to-end processing of bank-linked loans should be done in a time bound manner. They desire to be informed about the progress.

C. Poor Implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4 Para No. 4.11)

- 1.11 The Committee had noted in their original recommendation that weak Scheduled Caste Corporations in the States were one of the major reasons for poor implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP. Taking note of the fact that the State SC Corporations play a major role in disbursing the funds to the beneficiaries and consequently effective implementation of the Scheme, the Committee had mpressed upon the Department to pursue the matter more seriously and directed the States/UTs to strengthen the Scheduled Castes Corporations by identifying the reasons for their shortcomings and take remedial action for their improvements and create a webpage or online portal which would display the details of the beneficiaries in the Welfare Departments of every State in order to strengthen the SC Corporations and improvise the implementation of the Scheme.
- 1.12 The Department, in their action taken reply, have submitted as under:-

"The Department regularly pursues with the State Social Welfare Departments to strengthen the State Scheduled Caste Corporation. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) under the Ministry also implement various Income Generating Schemes/Educational schemes through State Scheduled Caste Corporations.

Besides above, under the scheme of State Scheduled Caste Corporation (SCDC) run by the Department, grant is given to the State Corporations for the economic development of Scheduled Castes."

1.13 In view of the importance of State Scheduled Caste Corporations in implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP, the Committee had recommended the Department to direct the States/UTs to strengthen the Scheduled Castes Corporations by identifying their shortcomings and taking corrective steps and also creating a web page/online portal showing the Statewise details of beneficiaries of the Scheme. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has informed about regularly pursuing with the State Social Welfare Departments to strengthen the State Scheduled Caste Corporations. The reply is not specific about any new steps taken as desired by the Committee and thus they feel that mere persuasion would not yield desired results unless it is coupled with active and positive push by the Department. The Committee are of the considered view that the experience so far in the Ministry must enable them to identify the reasons for the dismal performance of some of the State Scheduled Caste Corporations and the same must be analysed to find a wayforward for supporting them with innovative suggestions for attaining their desired objectives. As some of the State Governments do have their webpages/portals for various Scheduled Caste Corporations, the Committee desire that the Ministry should undertake an evaluative study of all State SC corporations websites and based on it, come up with concrete suggestions to strengthen those. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken as suggested.

D. Welfare of Safai Karamcharis/Manual Scavengers

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 5.13)

1.14 In their original recommendation, the Committee had observed that the Safai Karamcharis/Manual Scavengers belong to the section of society which need immediate welfare measures. This stratum of society is extremely imperative for the survival of any civil society. The Committee were sad to note that there are very few Schemes run by the Department for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis and Manual Scavengers in particular. The Committee had further noted that under SCA to SCSP, the proposal to provide subsidy to the Safai Karamcharis was under process, and, therefore, had desired that the Department should take action to introduce more Schemes related to the welfare of Safai Karamcharis and Manual Scavengers, expedite the procedure to finalise the proposals and implement the Schemes to provide subsidy to the Schedule Caste Safai Karamcharis at the earliest.

1.15 The Department, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:

"The Department implements schemes like Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). Besides this, the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation is mandated with all round socio- economic up-liftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Manual Scavengers and their dependents throughout India, through various loan and non-loan-based schemes. For the benefit of the target group, various skill development programmes are also implemented by the Corporation.

The SRMS and the Schemes of NSKFDC are modified from time to time to address the needs of the target group. During revision of SRMS, the following major components have been introduced for the benefit of the target group:-

Revision of Scheme in year 2017-18

- Organising Health Camps for manual scavengers, safai karamcharis and their families.
- ii. Organising Workshops on 'Prevention of Hazardous Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks'.
- ii. Short duration behavioral training of working sanitation workers.

Revision of Scheme in year 2020-21

- i Provide capital subsidy to identified manual scavengers, sanitation workers and their dependants for procurement of mechanised cleaning equipments/vehicles to promote mechanised cleaning and entrepreneurial activity amongst them.
- ii Health Insurance coverage of identified manual scavengers under Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana).

Similarly the Schemes of NSKFDC are also revised from time to time. Recently, the Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) has been revised to finance sanitation equipments/vehicles costing upto 50.00 lakh for sanitation related projects. With a view to minimise the incidents of manual hazardous cleaning and to promote mechanised cleaning, financial assistance is also being provided to Urban Local Bodies for procurement of sanitation related equipment's under SUY.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment also implements Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazardous.

In addition to the above, Safai Karamcharis belonging to Scheduled Castes can also avail benefits under various schemes being implemented for Scheduled Castes."

1.16 In view of very few schemes for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis and Manual Scavengers, the Committee had recommended that the Department should take action to introduce more Schemes and expedite the procedure to finalise the proposal to provide subsidy to Safai Karamcharis from SCA to SCSP. From the response of the Department, the Committee find that the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and Schemes of National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) were revised in the year 2017-18 and again in the year 2020-21. Also, the Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) was revised to finance the sanitation equipment/vehicles costing upto ₹ 50 lakh for sanitation related projects.

However, the Committee do not find any action to provide subsidy to Safai Karamcharis from the Scheme of SCA to SCSP. The Committee would like to highlight the fact that the Safai Karamcharis and Manual Scavengers need support for enhancing their quality of life and for social inclusion. Hence, the Committee desire that the Department should actively implement the proposal to provide subsidy to Safai Karamcharis from the Scheme of SCA to SCSP. In Committee's view, it is also imperative that these schemes are sufficiently popularized among the target population and implemented across the length and breadth of the country within a stipulated time frame. For this purpose, a specific time-bound action plan should be devised and implemented by the Department. As the previous schemes have been under implementation since long, the Committee would like to be apprised of the quantum of funds disbursed and the number of persons benefitted under those schemes during each of the last five years and recommend a comparative/analytical study to arrive at the visible and substantial impact, if any, of the revision of the Schemes on the lives of the targeted beneficiaries.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 1.11)

Scheme of SCA to SCSP

2.1 The Committee note that the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) is a Central Sector Scheme under which 100 per cent grant is given to the States/UTs as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) for the Welfare of Scheduled Caste persons living below the poverty line through Income Generating Schemes and Schemes of Skill Development. As the overall development of Scheduled Castes persons, who are economically, educationally and socially backward in our society, is the main prerogative of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee desire that the Department's role should not be limited only to release funds to the States but also to ensure proper and effective implementation and monitoring of the Schemes so that economic development could reach the intended beneficiaries. This can be only be done by regular assessment of the Schemes by sending the officials to the fields and places in States/UTs where the funds have been released and spent. The Committee may also be informed the mechanism, the Department has devised/evolved to carry out the assessment apart from believing the data sent by State Governments/UT Administrations.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The Department has constituted a Project Appraisal Committee under the Chairpersonship of Secretary. SJE other stakeholders along with Departments/Ministries to appraise and approve the activities under the scheme of SCA to SCSP from the financial year 2019-20 and onwards. In order to further strengthen the monitoring mechanism, it is also proposed that the Committee will inter-alia review the utilization of State SCSP and Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes Funds. State Government/UT Administration are required to submit the Annual Action Plan in order to get the funds under the scheme. Based on the viable income generating schemes in the Annual Action Plan, the Department sanctions the activities to be under taken under the scheme. During 2019-21 and 2010-21 the PAC held five meetings each to appraise and approved the Annual Action Plans submitted by the States. During 2020-21 out of 28 States implementing the Scheme till date 26 have submitted the AAP out of which 25 have been already approved by the PAC.

The Department also conducts regular meetings/interactions with the State Government/ UTs Administration to assess the progress of the scheme and its implementation as per the extant guidelines. Field visits are also undertaken by the Ministry officials from time to time to assess the quality of implementation, share best practices and guide the State officials further.

In addition to above Department is also working on the development of online system for proposal submission, approval and tracking system so that progress of each approved works/project can be monitored online. This will also help better monitoring &smooth implementation of the scheme.

Under infrastructure development programmes, funds under SCA to SCSP are also being utilized in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) of the Department. Under PMAGY online Software has been developed for Need assessment, Project formulation, its implementation and monitoring.

Besides the above, in order to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations in processing the proposals under the Scheme, the Ministry, in association with National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), CPSU under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration and National E-Governance Division (NEGD) has got developed an online portal for end-to-end processing of various schemes implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Caste, Backward Class and Safari Karamcharis. The portal was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment on 27.02.2019 in the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries conference held in New Delhi. Training of the concerned functionaries of the State Governments/UT Administration on the use of the Software has also been organized by NSFDC. This will also help better monitoring & smooth implementation of the scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2 ,Para No. 2.7)

Furnishing of Annual Action Plan

2.3 The Committee note that there are some States like Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Punjab and Maharashtra, where there was no allocation of funds in 2017-18. The Committee also note that no funds had been released from the year 2014-15 to 2017-18 to Uttarakhand and Delhi. The reason given to the Committee was that these States did not forward Utilization Certificates and/or Annual Action Plan in prescribed time limit due to which no funds were released to them from the Centre. The Committee wonder that

when the States like Punjab, where there is highest percentage of Scheduled Caste population and Bihar which has fifth largest absolute Scheduled Caste population in the country, are not getting assistance from Centre to run this Scheme, what is the purpose of running this Scheme. Taking note of the fact that the Schemes running under SCSP in the States having higher number of Scheduled Caste population would be hampered if these States do not receive adequate funds from the Centre, the Committee recommend the Department not to stop the release of funds totally for the entire year but release a proportion of the notional allocation to the States having remarkable number of Scheduled Caste population. More so, in the meanwhile, the States should be prescribed a time limit and pursued vigorously to submit Utilisation Certificates and Annual Action Plans as required.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The Grants under the scheme are released to the State Government/UT Administration as per the extant guidelines. As per the Ministry of Finance guidelines, if the Utilization Certificate is pending beyond a prescribed period, further grants cannot be released to the States/UTs.

In order to obtain all the pending statements like Annual Action Plan, Utilization Certificate etc., all the State Government/UT Administration are vigorously pursued for submission of these documents on time.

In addition, regular Video-Conferencing is also held on monthly basis to discuss the pending issues with the State Governments/UTs Administrations.

However as desired by the Committee, the Notional Allocation has been made from the financial year 2018-19 and onward in respect of the States namely Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Punjab and Maharashtra. The Government of Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab and Maharashtra have submitted their Annual Action Plan during 2020-21 and the same have also been appraised by the PAC. Rs. 9.0487cr. have been released to Gujarat.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 4.8)

Project Appraisal Committee

2.5 The Committee note that the Department has proposed to form a Project Appraisal Committee to appraise and approve the activities to be funded under SCA to SCSP based on the Annual Action Plans submitted by the State Governments. As Project Appraisal Committee is a commendable step taken by the Department to ensure

more stringent and effective mechanism, the Committee are of the view that the Department should expedite finalization of the proposal and form Project Appraisal Committee as soon as possible. The Committee observed that there are some State Governments which are not submitting Annual Action Plans to the Department and therefore, are unable to avail Central Assistance. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should first pursue all the States which are availing Central Assistance for SCSP to submit Annual Action Plan diligently every year so that this Project Appraisal Committee could function unhampered.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The Department has already constituted a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, SJE along with other stakeholders Departments/Ministries to appraise and approve the activities under the scheme of SCA to SCSP from the financial year 2019-20 and onwards.

Besides this, all the States/UTs are pursued on regular basis to submit the Annual Action Plan and other necessary documents on priority in order to get the grants under the scheme. Of the 28 States/UTs which are implementing the Scheme 26 have already submitted the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2020-21 and these AAPs have been appraised during the five meetings of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) which were held virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic. Further, regular video conferencing is also being held with the States/UTs for submitting the complete information.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 4.25)

Digitization of Schemes of Government of India

2.7 The Committee note that in pursuance to the recommendation of the Evaluation Report digitization of the Income Generating Schemes under the SCSP an end to end processing of Income Generating Schemes have been proposed by the Department. The Committee wonder that in the present scenario when every other Scheme of the Departments/Ministries of the Government of India has been digitized or is in the process of getting digitized, why the Department has taken this initiative so late. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Department to initiate digitization as well end to end processing under SCA to SCSP at the earliest and apprise the Committee of the same. The Committee further note that the recommendations of the Evaluation Study of 2013 like increase in the allocation under infrastructure development, etc. have not

been considered and left as it is. The Committee would like to be apprised of their current status in this regard.

Reply of the Government

2.8 It is submitted that in order to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations in processing the proposals under the Scheme, the Ministry, in association with National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (**NSFDC**), CPSU under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration and National E-Governance Division (NeGD) has got developed an online portal for end-to-end processing of various Income Generation projects implemented under the Scheme. The portal was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment on 27.02.2019 in the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries conference held in New Delhi.

It is informed that in order to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations in processing the proposals under the Scheme, the Ministry is developing an online portal for proposal submission, its approval, implementation and monitoring and enabling the process paper free. This will also help better targeting, monitoring & smooth implementation of the scheme.

Regarding increase in infrastructure component, it is submitted that under infrastructure component the allocation has been increased from 10% to 30%.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 5.3)

Diversion of Funds

2.9 The Committee observe that the issue of diversion of funds under the Scheme of SCA to SCSP has been brought in the notice of the Committee by some Members of the Committee. Though till now diversion of funds to other schemes of the Department or for other purposes, has not taken place as is reported by the Department, still the Committee are of the considered opinion that there is a possibility of diversion of funds under this Scheme as this Scheme covers an array of Schemes under it. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, being the nodal Department, should play a pro-active role in preventing any occurrence of diversion of funds that may take place in the future.

Reply of the Government

2.10 Under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) all the States/UTs Administration are required to submit the Annual Action Plans. Based on the Annual Action Plan submitted, the viable income generating activities, skill development programme etc. are sanctioned.

In order to further strengthen the monitoring mechanism, the Department has constituted a Project Appraisal Committee under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, SJE along with other stakeholders Departments/Ministries to appraise and approve the activities under the scheme of SCA to SCSP from the financial year 2019-20 and onwards. Besides this, the committee will inter-alia review the utilization of State SCSP and Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes Funds. The committee is also required to review that the funds allocated are utilized for the intended purpose only and there is no diversion.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (SI. No. 5, Para No. 5.7)

Funds Utilization by North-Eastern States

2.11 The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in pursuing some of the North Eastern States to fully utilize the allocated funds and also provided additional funds to the North Eastern States during the year 2017-18. The Committee note that the performance of the actual release of funds to the North Eastern States has improved during the last three years but number of beneficiaries in the States of Assam, Sikkim and Tripura have been decreased in 2016-17 and not reported in Manipur in 2016-17. As the actual release under Central Assistance to the North Eastern States is more than the double amount allocated for North Eastern States in 2017-18 as compared to 2016-17, the Committee desire the Department to issue directions to the North Eastern States to not only utilize the allocated funds in full but to also cover maximum number of beneficiaries under this Scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.12 As desired by the Committee, directions have been issued to all the North Eastern States implementing Scheduled Caste Sub Plan to cover maximum number of beneficiaries. During 2020-21 the all the four States of North Eastern namely Assam, Sikkim, Tripura and Manipur have submitted their AAPs.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 5.11)

Skill Development Programme for Scheduled Caste Beneficiaries

2.13 The Committee note that Skill Development Programme for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries is one of the major activities which is run by the Department with the help of Central Assistant to the States for the Welfare of SCs. The Committee are disappointed to note that some of the States are not submitting Annual Action Plan due to which funds are not released to them and hence no beneficiaries covered under the Scheme. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the reply of the Department. Taking note of the fact that Annual Action Plan is imperative for providing Central Assistant to the States, the Committee urge the Department to take this Scheme with utmost seriousness and pursue the States/UTs at the highest level and direct them to submit Annual Action Plan in time so that the Central Assistance is released every year to those States/UTs which are running Schemes under SCA to SCSP and benefits of schemes should reach the beneficiaries.

Reply of the Government

2.14 Skill Development Programmes now constitute an integral part of the AAPs. All the States/UTs have been advised to implement their Skill Development Programmes as approved by Project Appraisal Committee.

Regular video conferencing is also being held with the States/UTs for proper implementation.

The Department has also devised several proformas for monitoring the progress of the scheme which inter-alia includes formats for Annual Action Plan. It is expected that this will help the State Governments for furnishing the Annual Action Plan on time and get the funds under the Scheme.

The Department has already constituted a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) under the scheme for the smooth implementation of the scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT:

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.8)

Submission of Utilization Certificates

3.1 The Committee note that late/non submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) is a recurring feature of some of the States/UTs which is evident in other Schemes too. This Scheme intends to perform welfare activities for socially-economically backward and downtrodden section of Society. The Committee are dismayed to note that due to non/late submission of Utilisation Certificates, development programmes/Schemes are inversely affected in these States. The Committee, therefore, desire that on the lines of the action taken by the Department to achieve UCs from Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Chhattisgarh, it should take extra measures to pursue other defaulter States too, to submit pending UCs at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

3.2 In order to obtain all the pending statements like Annual Action Plan, Utilization Certificate etc., all the State Government/UT Administration are vigorously pursued for submission of these documents on time.

In addition, regular Video-Conferencing is also held on monthly basis to discuss the pending issues with the State Governments/UTs Administrations.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3 Para 3.9)

Revision of guidelines for the Scheme of SCSP

3.3 The Committee are distressed to find that the Guidelines for the Scheme of SCSP have been revised in 2018 and the Committee were kept unaware of it. The Committee observe that the Department was aware of the fact that the scheme of SCA to SCSP is under active examination of the Committee, still the Department did not feel the need of informing the Committee that revised Guidelines for the Scheme of SCSP have come into existence and the concerned Ministries/Departments have been issued directions to comply with it according to the revised Guidelines. The Committee expect

the Department not to repeat such kind of behavior and take the Committee so lightly in future. The Committee also direct the Department to keep them informed of the latest developments on the subjects under examination by the Committee.

Reply of the Government

3.4 It is submitted that as per the Ministry of Finance guidelines to appraise all the schemes beyond the 12th Plan period, the EFC memorandum for the scheme of SCA to SCSP was prepared. Further, a meeting to recommend the continuation and changes under the scheme was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Expenditure, Ministry of Finance on 19.09.2018.

Based on the recommendations of the EFC meeting, a Cabinet Note was circulated to all the concerned Ministries/Departments. As the Cabinet Note is still under process, the Scheme has not yet been revised. It is further submitted that under the scheme SCA to SCSP funds are released to States/UTs only.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (SI. No. 3, Para No. 3.18)

Revision of guidelines for the Scheme of SCSP

4.1 The Committee note that for fair selection of eligible candidates under the scheme of SCA to SCSP, there is a proposal to have an end to end processing of bank linked loans wherein the applicant/beneficiary can submit the application with the minimal documents through the online portal. The Committee wonder why this Scheme has not been linked electronically till now while all the other major Schemes run by the Department have already been linked to the online portals or are in the process of doing so. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take extra measures to develop an online portal for this Scheme at the earliest and implement it without any delay. The Committee are concerned to note that the approval for online portal under the Scheme of the SCA to SCSP is still under process and awaits approval of the Cabinet. The Committee are not satisfied with this reply of the Department and desire that the Department should make efforts for getting the approval of Cabinet for the proposal of applying through online portal under this Scheme.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The Ministry, in association with National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (**NSFDC**), CPSU under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration and National E-Governance Division (NEGD) has developed an online portal for end-to-end process of various income generation projects implemented under the Scheme. The portal was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment on 27.02.2019 in the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries conference held in New Delhi.

It is informed that in order to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations in processing the proposals under the Scheme, the Ministry is developing an online portal for proposal submission, its approval, implementation and monitoring and enabling the process to become paper free. This will also help better targeting, monitoring & smooth implementation of the scheme.

Under infrastructure development programmes, funds under SCA to SCSP is also being used in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) of

the Department. An Online Software has been developed and launched under PMAGY also for monitoring the progress and capturing information from the States/UTs for the smooth implementation of the scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (SI. No. 4 Para 4.11)

Poor Implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP

4.3 The Committee note that weak Scheduled Caste Corporations in the States are one of the major reasons for poor implementation of the Scheme of SCA to SCSP. Taking note of the fact that the State SC Corporations play a major role in disbursing the funds to the beneficiaries and consequently effective implementation of the Scheme, the Committee impress upon the Department to pursue the matter more seriously and direct the States/UTs to strengthen the Scheduled Castes Corporations by identifying the reasons for their shortcomings and take remedial action for their improvements and create a webpage or online portal which would display the details of the beneficiaries in the Welfare Departments of every State in order to strengthen the SC Corporations and improvise the implementation of the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

4.4 The Department regularly pursues with the State Social Welfare Departments to strengthen the State Scheduled Caste Corporation. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (**NSFDC**) under the Ministry also implement various Income Generating Schemes/Educational schemes through State Scheduled Caste Corporations.

Besides above, under the scheme of State Scheduled Caste Corporation (SCDC) run by the Department, grant is given to the State Corporations for the economic development of Scheduled Castes.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (SI. No. 5, Para No. 5.13)

Welfare of Safai Karamcharis/Manual Scavengers

4.5 The Committee believe that the Safai Karamcharis/Manual Scavengers belong to the section of society which need immediate welfare measures. This stratum of society is extremely imperative for the survival of any civil society. The Committee are sad to note that there are very few Schemes run by the Department for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis and Manual Scavengers in particulars. The Committee further note that under SCA to SCSP, the proposal to provide subsidy to the Safai Karamcharis is under process. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take action to introduce more Schemes related to the welfare of Safai Karamcharis and Manual Scavengers, expedite the procedure to finalise the proposals and implement the Schemes to provide subsidy to the Schedule Caste Safai Karamcharis at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

4.6 The Department implements schemes like Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). Besides this, the National Safai Karamcharis Finance& Development Corporation is mandated with all round socio-economic up-liftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Manual Scavengers and their dependents throughout India, through various loan and non-loan-based schemes. For the benefit of the target group, various skill development programmes are also implemented by the Corporation.

The SRMS and the Schemes of NSKFDC are modified from time to time to address the needs of the target group. During revision of SRMS, the following major components have been introduced for the benefit of the target group:-

Revision of Scheme in year 2017-18

- (i) Organising Health Camps for manual scavengers, safai karamcharis and their families.
- (ii) Organising Workshops on 'Prevention of Hazardous Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks'.
- (iii) Short duration behavioral training of working sanitation workers.

Revision of Scheme in year 2020-21

(i) Provide capital subsidy to identified manual scavengers, sanitation workers and their dependants for procurement of mechanised cleaning equipments/vehicles to promote mechanised cleaning and entrepreneurial activity amongst them.

(ii) Health Insurance coverage of identified manual scavengers under Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana).

Similarly the Schemes of NSKFDC are also revised from time to time. Recently, the Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) has been revised to finance sanitation equipments/vehicles costing upto Rs. 50.00 lakh for sanitation related projects. With a view to minimise the incidents of manual hazardous cleaning and to promote mechanised cleaning, financial assistance is also being provided to Urban Local Bodies for procurement of sanitation related equipment's under SUY.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment also implements Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazardous.

In addition to the above, Safai Karamcharis belonging to Scheduled Castes can also avail benefits under various schemes being implemented for Scheduled Castes.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (SI. No. 3, Para No. 3.14)

Non Lapsable Central Pool of SCSP Funds.

5.1 The Committee note that one of the recommendations of the 'Task Force to Review Guidelines on Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan', inter-alia, suggested that SCSP funds remaining unutilized at the end of a financial year may be transferred to "Non-lapsable Central Pool of SCSP Funds (NLCPSF)", a Head to be created in the Public Account. The Committee note that the erstwhile Planning Commission had not accepted this recommendation of the Task Force. However, NITI Aayog has considered this recommendation and suggested to the Department of Expenditure and Department of Economic Affairs to pool such under-utilised and unutilised funds of some Ministries/Departments and allocate to nodal Ministries i.e. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Committee believes that the formation of a non-lapsable pool is imperative to curb the diversion of funds and to ensure proper utilization of funds under this Scheme. The Committee, therefore, is of the considered view that the Department should take initiative to pursue Department of Expenditure and Department of Economic Affairs to consider this proposal and implement it at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

5.2 NITI Aayog sent a proposal for creation of pool for unutilized/underutilized funds allocated for welfare of SCs& STs and re-allocating such funds to the Nodal Departments i.e. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in respect of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan to meet their budgetary requirements under scholarship/fellowship schemes and other beneficiary oriented schemes to Ministry of Finance. The Department has also requested the Ministry of Finance to take a view on the proposal for creation of pool for unitized funds allocated for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

In response, Ministry of Finance has informed that nodal Ministries and obligated Ministry/Department's in consultation with NITI Aayog are required to identify specific schemes which provide benefits to SCs/STs and also come up with innovative

responses in terms of new schemes etc. in case there is difficulty in providing benefits to SCs/STs under the existing schemes.

As desired by the Committee, Department of Expenditure will be pursued further for creation of pool for unutilized funds allocated for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

In addition to above a robust mechanism to monitor the allocation and expenditure under DAPSC (earlier known as SCSP or AWSC) has been developed. The portal developed by the Department (http://e-utthaan.gov.in/) provides real time status of utilization of funds allocated for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. For regular monitoring of the DAPSC the inter-ministerial meetings are held periodically.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 4.21)

Recommendations of Report of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

5.3 The Committee observe that "based on the recommendations/findings of the evaluation report submitted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memorandum has been prepared to revise the extant guidelines. The Committee further observe that this EFC memorandum has been recommended by the Department of Expenditure and accordingly the Cabinet Note has been proposed and circulated for inter Ministerial consultation. The Committee believe that the extant guidelines for the Scheme would be revised periodically but its process should not be time taking. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department to pursue the matter more seriously and expedite the procedure to finalize the guidelines for better and effective implementation and stringent monitoring of the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

5.4 A Cabinet Note, based on the recommendations given by the EFC in its meeting held on 19.09.2019, was submitted to Cabinet Secretariat in February, 2019 for approval. A Supplementary Cabinet Note under the Scheme for continuation & revision

was also re-submitted to Cabinet Secretariat on 30th July, 2019 for approval. Approval of the Cabinet Secretariat is awaited.

The Scheme Guidelines were consolidated during 2018-19 and formats for submission of Annual Action Plan and periodic reporting were devised and circulated to States/UTs during 2018-19.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 4.35)

Evaluation Study by the Expenditure Finance Commission

5.5 The Committee observe that after the Evaluation Study of 2013 on Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-plan, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has conducted another evaluation of the Scheme in 2018 and has submitted the report in August, 2018. The Committee find that several important aspects have been covered for effective/proper implementation of scheme in the recommendations of evaluation study 2018 and most of the recommendations have been included in the Cabinet notes which are under process. The Committee desire to take early action on the recommendations made by the evaluation study.

Reply of the Government

5.6 Based on the evaluation study conducted in 2018 and recommendations given by the Expenditure Finance Committee, the Cabinet Note was submitted for approval of the Cabinet in October, 2018. Approval is awaited.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.17012/01/2017-SCD-II dated 10th December, 2020)

NEW DELHI;

<u>05 August, 2021</u> 14 Sravana, 1943 (Saka) RAMA DEVI Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE SIXTY- FOURTH REPORT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON "ASSESSMENT OF THE
WORKING OF SCHEME OF SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHEDULED CASTES SUBPLAN (SCA TO SCSP)" OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	15	
II.	Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 1.11, 2.7, 4.8, 4.25, 5.3, 5.7 and 5.11)	7	46.66
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government (Paragraph Nos 2.8, and 3.9)	2	13.34
IV.	Observations/Recommendations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration (Paragraph Nos. 3.18, 4.11 and 5.13)	3	20
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos 3.14, 4.21 and 4.35)	3	20