

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2022-2023)**

(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 Thirty-First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2022-23' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

FORTY-THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2022/ Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.12.2022

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.12.2022



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2022/ Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

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*Not appended with this cyclostyled copy.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Deepak (Dev) Adhikari
3. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
4. Shri Bholanath (B.P. Saroj)
5. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
6. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
7. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
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. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
16. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
17. Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule
18. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
19. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
20. Shri Devendrappa Y.
21. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
26. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
27. Shri Naryana Koragappa
28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri Ramji
30. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
31. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ved Prakash Nauriyal - Joint Secretary
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
4. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary
5. Shri Haokip Kakai - Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Forty-Third Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-First Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2022-23' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Thirty-First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 24.03.2022. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 15.7.2022. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 14.12.2022.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-First 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 bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

15 December, 2022
24 Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER-I

REPORT

The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirty- First Report on 'Demands for Grants for 2022-23' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Thirty-First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 24.03.2022. It contained 23 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:- **(Total: 15, Chapter: II)**

Rec. Para No.2.9, 2.10, 3.13, 3.14, 4.12, 4.13, 5.9, 6.16, 6.17, 7.13, 8.10, 9.13, 11.12, 12.12 & 13.8.

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: – **(Total: 04, Chapter: III)**

Rec. Para No.2.11, 5.8, 10.8 & 12.11

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: – **(Total:04, Chapter: IV)**

Rec. Para No. 3.15, 6.15, 7.14 & 10.9

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

3. The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I 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.

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

A. POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS (PMS-SC).

Recommendation (Para No.3.15)

5. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee find that the income criteria of ₹2.5 lakh annually fixed for grant of scholarship was revised in 2013-14. The Committee strongly believe that such a low income criteria fixed must have become a serious hurdle for many of the needy students. The Committee have been informed that a Group of Ministers is examining this issue and would suitably revise the annual income limit. The Committee are of the strong view that the income criteria for getting scholarship should be revised and also recommend that suitable mechanism should be developed for the periodic revision of the amount of the scholarship. They would like to be apprised of the status on the matter.”

6. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“On this matter, it may be informed that the PMS-SC scheme has been recently revised based on the decision taken by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 23.12.2020 and is effective till year 2025-26. In the revised Scheme guidelines the annual income ceiling has been fixed at Rs. 2.5 lakh. Thus, there is no proposal at present to revise the income criteria under this Scheme at this stage.”

7. Keeping in view the fact that income criteria under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students has not been revised since 2013-14, the Committee in their original Report had desired for revision of income criteria of the Scheme and also to develop a mechanism to periodically revise the amount of

Scholarship. The Committee find that income criteria of ₹2.5 lakh annually fixed in 2013-14 for grant of scholarship would continue to remain effective till 2025-26 in the revised Scheme as per the decision taken in the meeting of Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs on 23.12.2020. The Committee believe that the amount disbursed under the Scheme is very crucial for SC students to continue/pursue their higher studies and therefore desire that there is urgent need to revisit the income criteria for grant of scholarship to cover more students and increase of scholarship amount. The Committee, therefore desire that the views of the Committee may be placed before the appropriate authority for the revision of income criteria and to develop a suitable mechanism for periodic revision of scholarship to absorb the effect of inflation.

B. SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR YOUNG ACHIEVERS SCHEME (SHREYAS) FOR SCs and OBCs.

Recommendation (Para No.6.15)

8. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee note that the Department was able to spend a substantial amount of budgetary allocation on all the four schemes falling under the ambit of Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs and OBCs in the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 except for 2021-22 where the Department lagged behind in spending under 3 schemes i.e., ‘Free Coaching for SCs & OBCs’, ‘Top Class Education for SCs’ and ‘National Overseas Scholarship for SCs’. The Committee are surprised that the fund meant for National Fellowship for SCs was under utilized due to less number of candidates joining / continuing the course against the selection. Similarly, in case of Top Class Education Scheme, the funds sanctioned could not be utilized due to non submission of documents by Institutes and incase of ‘Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs’ Scheme, the expenditure could not be incurred due to non-submission of complete proposals by empanelled Institutes. There is no doubt that low utilization of funds sanctioned not only keeps the funds idle but also deprives the students belonging to marginalized sections of the society for getting education opportunities provided by the Department through these Scholarship Schemes. The Committee feel that any slackness will further impact the implementation of

free coaching for SCs & OBCs, Top class Education for SCs and National Overseas Scholarship for SCs schemes during 2020-21 and 2021-2022. Although steps have been taken by the Department to rectify the system so that similar problems do not recur in future, yet there is strong need for compliance and regular monitoring of the system by the Department/an independent agency. The Committee would like to see the budgetary provisions made for 2022-23, fully utilized in the interest of SC and OBC students.”

9. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“During the last financial year i.e 2021-22, budgetary allocation of Rs. 30.00 crore was made under the NOS scheme. Later at the R.E stage, this was further increased to Rs. 35 crore. An expenditure of Rs 49.07 crore has been incurred under the NOS scheme during F.Y. 2021-22. The expenditure was thus in excess of the budgetary allocation. Also, for F.Y. 2022-23 budgetary allocation of Rs 36.00 crore has been made under the scheme. As regards NFSC, the BE of the Scheme for FY 2021-22 was Rs. 300.00 cr. and R.E. was kept Rs.125.00 crore. In this connection it is stated that UGC is the Nodal Agency for implementing the scheme and funds are released to UGC for further disbursement of the fellowship to the students as per their estimate. The UGC had projected requirement of funds of Rs.122.39 cr. only for the year 2021-22 and the said amount was released to UGC.”

10. In view of the poor performance of three Schemes under the ambit of Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHEYAS) for SCs and OBCs during 2019-2022, the Committee had desired for strict compliance and regular monitoring of the system by the Department/an independent agency and expected that the budgetary provisions for 2022-23 would be fully utilized. The Committee were informed during the examination of DFG 2022-23 that the Department have taken various steps to rectify the system to avoid recurrences of problems faced in 2021-22. The Committee, however, do not find any information with regard to the utilisation of budgetary allocation for 2022-23 till date and the information furnished for 2021-22 is also incomplete as it contains information only for ‘National Overseas Scholarship for SCs’ and National

Fellowship for SCs' wherein they were able to spend more than budgetary allocation. The Committee find that UGC has projected less requirement of funds. This means either the number of SC & OBC students going for higher education is going down/the publicity of the scheme has not been enough/the processing of applications could be slow or deficient. The Department needs to explore reasons for less projection from UGC. The Committee feel that the pace of the expenditure is, presumably, not appropriate in 2022-23. Has it been reasonable, the Department would have certainly highlighted their achievements in 2022-23 to justify the effectiveness of the steps taken by them to rectify the system. The Committee feel that there is scope for improvement in the system. Hence, they would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that the steps taken to improve the system are required to be stringently followed to improve the utilisation of budgetary allocation and the regular monitoring of their implementation by the Department/an independent agency is also necessary for the positive outcome. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the current status of utilisation of budgetary allocation for all the Schemes in 2022-23 under SHREYAS for SCs and OBCs.

C. THE SCHEME FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS (SRMS)

Recommendation (Para No.7.14)

11. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are disappointed to note that compensation to 104 persons has not been granted, for deaths due to manual cleaning of sewer/septic tanks. They were aghast to know that some of the States such as Maharashtra has declined to pay compensation due to scarcity of funds. The Committee feel that the family of a bread-earner needs to be instantly compensated in case of death. However, there appears to be non-seriousness on the part of the Department as well as

State Governments. The Committee desire that the Department should take suitable measures so that the family of the deceased does not have to suffer and they are compensated as per the norms. The Committee would also like that pending 104 cases for compensation are immediately settled. The Committee would also like to reiterate their earlier suggestion to establish a system to examine the cause of death so that the persons engaging them are also held responsible and penalty fixed on them for violating the laid down norms.”

12. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been regularly pursuing with the concerned State Governments the matter of early payment of compensation in remaining cases. The details of such cases have also been shared with the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis with the request to take up each such pending case with the concerned State/District Magistrate/Commissioner of Municipality for payment of full amount of compensation to the dependants. In case of Maharashtra, the matter has been taken up with the Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra as well as the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. The concerned officers have been contacted at personal level also for early resolution of the matter. As per the reports received from various State Governments and Municipalities. FIRs have been lodged in 537 cases out of 973 death case against the persons prima facie responsible for employing persons for hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and violating the norms.”

13. Noting that Compensation to the families of 104 persons who died while cleaning of sewer/septic tanks manually was not awarded, the Committee had desired that suitable measures should be taken by the Department to reduce the sufferings of the dependents. However, it has been found from action taken reply of the Department that no concrete action has been taken to compensate the family of the deceased except for the pursuance of the State Governments but with no positive results. The Committee are not happy with the pace in which the

things are being processed. The Committee reiterates their earlier recommendation and desire that the family of the deceased should be compensated in a time bound manner so that they are not let to suffer endlessly as the onus of implementing policy decisions lies with the Government of India. The Committee would also like that the procedure/ norms should be fixed in such a manner that they work as a deterrent so that no one has courage to engage persons in violation of the laid down norms and if anyone is found violating the norms, the responsibility of the guilty is fixed without delay. The Committee would be happy if there is no further dilly-dallying in awarding compensation in pending 104 cases and information in this regard is furnished to the Committee.

D. DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE BOARD FOR DENOTIFIED, NOMADIC AND SEMI-NOMADIC COMMUNITIES (DWBDNCS).

Recommendation (Para No.10.9)

14. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee take note that the Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities constituted in 2017 has been inter-alia assigned the responsibility to identify the locations where these communities were located. The Committee find that at present 269 such Denotified, Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are specified and a survey is now in under process to place these castes in SC, ST and BC categories. The Committee are surprised to find that the Department has not been able to take any decision till date hence they would like the Department to take necessary action in this regard so that these castes are placed either under SCs, STs or BCs and avail benefits. Delay in locating them would increase their suffering and they would not be able to get benefit of the prevailing Schemes meant for the welfare of SC/STs. The Committee would appreciate if this work is done in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the timelines fixed in this regard.”

15. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has authorized AnSI Rs.2.26 Crore in the year 2019 for conducting evaluation study of 62 DNT Communities. . Out of 62 Communities, AnSI has submitted the report of 48 Communities Among the 48 communities, 24 Communities mentioned in Annexure-II of Idate Commission report (State wise list of DNT, NT and SNT Communities not included in SC/ST/OBC Category). It is hereby mention that the list of Annexure-II of Idate Commission Report comprises of 267 communities, out of which 12 communities have been allotted to respective Tribal Research Institutes (Odisha-05, Gujarat-04, Kerala-03) for conducting ethnographic study. Hence, AnSI is supposed to study the remaining 255 communities, out of which 24 communities are already studied by AnSI and report is submitted to Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. AnSI informed that Out of 226 DNT Communities, Anthropological Survey of India has already completed the study of 161 communities across the country and remaining 65 communities and additional 5 communities from Arunachal Pradesh will be studied during the year 2022.”

16. The Committee in their original Report had expressed their displeasure on the inability of the Department to take necessary action to place Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities either under SC, ST or OBC categories and recommended that the exercise be prioritised and completed in a time bound manner so that these communities may avail benefits of the prevailing schemes meant for the welfare of SCs/STs/OBCs. The Department submitted in their action taken reply that various studies have been undertaken by the Anthropological Survey of India and Tribal Research Institutes in this regard. The Committee find that reports on some studies have been completed and submitted to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. However, the Committee are dismayed to note that the process is very slow. Hence, the Committee would like to reiterate its earlier recommendation of expediting the process of evaluation and Study of the Communities mentioned above and their early placement in suitable categories in a time bound manner so as to achieve the goal of upliftment of socially backward classes as envisaged by the Government of India.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Para No.2.9)

The Committee are disappointed that the Department has been able to spend only ₹2,873.42 crore till 31st December, 2021, out of the Revised Estimate of ₹10,180.00 crore during the year 2021-22 on various welfare schemes administered by them. They note the reasons submitted by the Department for the slow pace of expenditure, such as delay in getting continuation orders of many big schemes meant for the welfare of SCs as late as 1st February, 2022, six month time taken to convince State Governments to appoint a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) under various Schemes, delay in setting up the process to transfer funds from Central Share directly to the beneficiary account through DBT in Post Matric scholarship etc. While the cooperation from State Governments is a time taking process, the Committee feel that the Department should have been more pro-active to obtain orders for continuation of various Schemes. Nevertheless assuming that the ball has now been set rolling, the Committee hope that the initiatives taken by the Department would certainly streamline the system and provide maximum benefit to the needy beneficiaries of the Schemes with the funds releasing on time leaving no scope for their misuse. The Committee are though apprehensive as the Department, in general, is given to spending a large chunk of allocated funds at the fag end of the year particularly on Scholarship scheme component. They, therefore, exhort the Department to take steps to implement the new system, so painstakingly developed, with full sincerity. The Committee further hope that the appointment of single Nodal agency by State/ UT Governments under various Schemes would be completed in a time bound manner, and would like to be informed about the State-wise position of the nodal agencies appointed by State/UT Governments under each Central Sector Scheme of the Department.

Reply of Government

The Department was able to spend only ₹2,873.42 crore till 31st December, 2021, out of the Revised Estimate of ₹10,180.00 crore during the year 2021-22 on various welfare schemes. In this connection, it is stated that Rs. 8705.62 Cr. of the total allocation (BE), was allotted for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes i.e. 82.77 % of the total Budget. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, funds were to be released as per revised flow of fund system through Single Nodal Agency (SNA) which was introduced during the FY 2021-22 by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Under the revised flow of fund system, State/UTs government had to appoint Single Nodal Agency. As the funds would be released only after implementation of SNA by the State/UTs. Accordingly, the Department had been pursuing the matter with the States/ UTs since beginning of the F.Y. 2021-22 for implementation of SNA. Nodal Agencies had been appointed by most of the State/UTs after repeated consultations and meetings with the States/UTs throughout the year.

In view of this, the Department was able to make a total expenditure of Rs. 7459.99 crore till 31st March, 2022, out of the Revised Estimate of ₹10,180.00 crore during the year which was 73.28 % of Revised Estimate (RE). The fund position of the Department during the FY 2021-22 was as follows:

Budget Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Actual Expenditure (AE)
10517.62 Cr.	10180.00 Cr.	7459.99 Cr.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.2.10)

The Committee are pained to observe that the budget of the Department was downsized at RE stage in the last 2 years, as the BE of ₹10,103.57 crore and ₹10,517.62 crore was reduced to ₹8,207.56 crore and ₹10,180 crore at revised stage, during 2020- 21 and 2021-22 respectively. The Committee are concerned that even a reduced budget was not utilized fully. They are unable to comprehend the logic behind submitting higher projections at the time of annual budget preparations and thereby even failing to fully spend the Revised Estimates. In 2022-23 also, the projections of the Department have been curtailed by the Ministry of Finance and as ₹11,922.51 crore has been allocated instead of the projected ₹12,133.09 crore. The Committee have been assured that they would be able to spend the full allocation and if there is any gap they will seek additional funds at revised stage. The Committee earnestly feel that the welfare of the socially, educational and economically marginalised sections of the society must not be compromised. The Committee therefore, recommend that the appropriate and timely decisions should be taken for effective implementation of various Schemes so that even an unexpected situation such as COVID 19 pandemic does not become a hurdle in meeting the aspirations of the targeted persons. They would desire to be apprised of the overall utilization status of 2021-22 allocation too.

Reply of the Government

Total ₹10,517.62 Cr. was allocated to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for the FY 2022-23. Out of the total allocation to the Department, ₹8,705.62 cr was allotted for Centrally Sponsored schemes and. ₹1,395.00 Cr. was allotted for Central Sector Schemes. As 82.77 % fund of the total Budget was accounted for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, funds were to be released as per revised flow of fund system through Single Nodal Agency (SNA) which was introduced during the FY 2021-22 by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Under the revised flow of fund system, State/UTs

government had to appoint Single Nodal Agency. Since, implementation of SNA was delayed by some of the States, which resulted in less expenditure of the Department. Also, around 60% Budget of total allocation were allotted for the schemes of educational development. In this regard, it is submitted that due to COVID-19 pandemic prevailing during 2021-22, the Schools/Colleges were opened in the later part of the year consequently delaying the opening of State Scholarship Portals. Hence, the registrations and processing of applications by State was delayed. In addition, enrollment of students in some major courses viz. Medical, Engineering etc. were not completed by the end of 2021-22 due to delayed counseling of these courses in various universities/institutions. Also, some of the schemes are demand driven scheme. Due to Covid-19 pandemic most of the training programmes were required to be postponed and rescheduled time and again. All these factors contributed to less spending under the scheme during 2021-22. With regard to AVYAY, SHRESHTA and NAPDDR, it is stated that as per the decision taken by the Department, GIA had to be released only after inspections conducted by PMU. Due to Covid, all the NGOs/Organizations were not inspected timely by PMU. Also, during FY 2021-22 Grants in aid to the projects/NGOs/organizations were released in proportionate to the number of beneficiaries found during inspection due to Covid. Beneficiaries were found comparatively less during the financial year 2021-22 because of Covid-19 so GIA has been proportionately released less. Despite the above mentioned challenges the Department was able to spend ₹7,459.99 crore till 31st March, 2022, out of the Revised Estimate of ₹10,180.00 crore during the year which was 73.28 % of Revised Estimate (RE). The suggestion of committee regarding effective implementation of various Schemes has been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.3.13)

The Committee note that the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste students has been revised in December, 2020 for effective implementation and better monitoring of the Scheme. Despite the same, the Committee find that the Department has been able to spend only ₹720.45 crore till February, 2022 out of the Revised Estimate of ₹4,196.59 crore for the year 2021-22, while the Department have assured that the allotted budget will be completely utilised since the processing of applications has gained momentum. The Committee have been informed that the verification process in most of the States/ UTs is still progressing since the applications portal opened late due to delayed admissions in college/ schools in Covid 19 times. The extraordinary circumstances which derailed the process cannot be ignored, hence, the Committee feel that this trend of delay in spending of funds must be addressed now in order to achieve the goal. Further the Committee observe that the number of beneficiaries for 2021-22 is almost similar as that of 2020-21. A worried trend, they feel that the number of beneficiaries should increase to indicate that due care is being

taken by the Department to ensure maximum benefits to the intended beneficiaries. The Committee would like the Department to take suitable measures in this regard, also the State/ UT Governments should reach out to the targeted sections of the society and popularise the scheme.

Reply of the Government

Under Post-Matric Scholarship to the Students belonging to Scheduled Castes for studies in India (PMS-SC), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of scholarship amount has been introduced w.e.f FY 2021-22. It is pertinent to mention that DBT payment can take place only after receiving the final level verified data from State Governments on National Scholarship Portal (NSP). During the FY 2021-22, due to second wave of COVID-19 Pandemic, the Schools/Colleges were opened in the later part of the year, thereby, delaying the opening of State Scholarship Portals. Hence, the registrations and processing of applications by States was delayed. Notwithstanding this, the Department was able to spend ₹1,978.56 Crores till March, 2022 out of the Revised Estimate of ₹4,196.59 Crores for the FY 2021-22. Enrollment of students in some major courses viz. Medical, Engineering etc. was not completed by the end of 2021-22 due to delayed counseling of these courses in various universities/institutions across majority of the States. As a result, less number of beneficiaries was registered on State Portals. As on date, the number of beneficiaries for 2021-22 is almost similar as that of 2020-21. It is relevant to mention that during the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meetings held on 25.04.2022 & 26.04.2022, it has been specifically outlined by this Department that States should organize awareness drives through institutes and various media platforms so that all the eligible students of the targeted sections of the society shall avail the benefits. In addition, the Scheme guidelines require State Governments to campaign every year to identify SC students and mentor them to enroll and avail scholarships.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.3.14)

The Committee find that as per the ratio fixed for sharing of the Post Matric Scholarships between Centre and States, Central share of 60% is to be released after 40% State share is released. During the year 2021-22, the Central share had to be released first irrespective of the fact whether or not the State has released its share, to avoid hardships to students. The Committee are perturbed to note from the details furnished by the Department that in 2020-21 Central share of Scholarship were not released to Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Goa, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir. Also Bihar, Delhi and Haryana did not release their share in 2020-21. The Committee are also surprised to find that several States such as Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and

West Bengal failed to provide any information with regard to their share in Post Matric Scholarships. The Committee are of the opinion that such instances discourages students which ultimately affects the future of the young generation. The Committee would like the Department to take appropriate steps to ensure that such instances are not repeated. The Committee would like to recommend the Department to set up a high powered Committee to look into such matters and pursue with the State/UT Governments to release their shares timely.

Reply of the Government

Under PMS-SC guidelines, Central share of 60% is to be released after 40% State share is released. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic prevailing during 2021-22, the Schools/Colleges were opened in the later part of the year consequently delaying the opening of State Scholarship Portals. Hence, the registrations and processing of applications by States were delayed. Considering this fact, the Central share had been released first irrespective of the fact whether or not the States has released its share, to avoid hardships to students as an exemption for FY 2021-22 only. Accordingly, during Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meetings held on 25th & 26th April, 2022, the States/UTs who did not release their shares have been instructed to release 40% State Share at the earliest and to wind up the process of disbursement of scholarship for the year 2021-22 by 31st May, 2022. The PAC strictly advised the States that 40% State share has to be released prior to the release of 60% Central Share from 2022-23 and ahead.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.4.12)

The Committee find that two separate schemes i.e Pre Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs and Pre Matric Scholarships for those Engaged in Unclean Occupation, have been merged into one Scheme, namely "Pre Matric Scholarships for SCs and others" since 2021-22. The Committee are surprised to know that the budgetary allocation made for 2022-23 is ₹500.00 crore which is much less in comparison to the budgetary allocation of ₹725.00 crore for 2021-22 and ₹700.00 crore for 2020-21. The Committee find no logic for reducing budgetary allocation for 2022-23 when two schemes have been merged and the Department is expecting to cover 33 lakh beneficiaries during 2021-22. The Committee, therefore, assume that the numbers of beneficiaries may come down in 2022-23, as during previous year too only 32.98 lakh persons could be covered with an expenditure of ₹596.33 crore. They would like to be apprised of any improvements in the methodology the Department will adopt to achieve the target fixed with the given budget. In so far as the transfer of funds through DBT mode is concerned, the Committee hope that it will eliminate duplicate/fraudulent cases. Nonetheless the Committee still are of the strong view that the Department would need more funds to

achieve the target of 2022-23. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend the Ministry to pursue for enhancement of the budgetary allocation for 2022-23 at RE stage so that the maximum beneficiaries get coverage under the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

Under “Pre Matric Scholarships for SCs and others”, Central Assistance amounting Rs. 570.39 Crores has been released to 38.05 lakh beneficiaries (Anticipated) out of the Rs. 725.00 Crores budgetary allocation at the end of FY 2021-22. The Department has decided to release the scholarship amount under the Scheme through DBT directly to beneficiaries’ account from the year 2022-23 and ahead. This aims to eliminate the duplicate and fraudulent applications. Furthermore, the budgetary allocation for the year 2022-23 has been recommended by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) after considering all the facets of the proposal for merger of the existing schemes. Since the demand was less in the FY 2021-22 and there was a change in the RE, therefore, the Budgetary Allocation for the year 2022-23 has been reduced in comparison to 2021-22. However, In case the demand exceeds the availability of funds, supplementary budget shall be sought so that maximum beneficiaries get coverage under the Scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.4.13)

The Committee further find that under this Head the Department have been able to spend ₹362 crore till date, out of the budgetary allocation of ₹725 crore for the year 2021-22 and that they will strive to fully utilize the budgetary allocation as pending UCs from the States are anticipated to be received. The Committee are apprehensive about full utilisation of funds despite redesigning of National Scholarship Portal alongwith newly adopted approach under the continued scheme by the Department unless concrete steps are taken by the Department to remove the hindrances often faced by the students and the implementing agencies. The Committee strongly believe that the Department must have exhaustively examined the pros and cons of the merger of 2 schemes into one so that both the sections of the society do not get adversely affected by each other’s presence in the implementation of merged Scheme. The Committee, therefore recommend the Department to have an in built mechanism to closely monitor the Scheme for its successful implementation and ensure that the task of coordination entrusted to NSKFDC is diligently carried out by them.

Reply of the Government

After receiving all the pending UC of FY 2020-21 from States/UTs, Under “Pre Matric Scholarships for SCs and Others”, Central Assistance amounting ₹570.39 Crores has been released to 38.05 lakh beneficiaries (Anticipated) out of the ₹725.00 Crores budgetary allocation at the end of FY 2021-22. The department has started DBT directly to beneficiaries’ account through online transaction to ensure greater transparency, control duplicity and wrongful claims by institutions from 2022-23. The Department has laid stress on digitization i.e Online end to end processing and verification of eligibility credentials to avoid any manual intervention. The Department has also sent Central Team to States and Institutes to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme. Also regular follow up through correspondence and meetings with State Government officials to ensure timely and accurate submission of requisite documents to ensure close monitoring over the performance of the scheme is being carried out by the Department. While NSKFDC is being impressed upon to identify potential beneficiaries, the Department has also instructed the States to carry out the surveys for identifying the persons engaged in unclean occupations.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.5.9)

The Committee are pleased to note that under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Aabyaday Yojana, ₹10,000 crore have been approved by the Cabinet for undertaking various projects for the next five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 involving an expenditure of ₹3 to ₹10 crore each. The Committee expect that the funds sanctioned would be judiciously utilized to achieve the intended objectives. They believe that necessary modalities must have been drawn to ensure that the funds are not left idle. The Committee desire that all necessary action may be taken by the Department to make people aware about the Scheme so that the Department get sufficient proposals. The Committee would like to be informed of the steps taken for fruitful utilisation of funds.

Reply of the Government

Subsequent to the approval of the scheme for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the ministry has formulated the guidelines making the State/UT Govt easier to submit the projects as per the modalities envisaged in the guidelines. Further, an online portal has also been developed for end to end digitization of project for project formulation to monitoring of the same. This would ease the State Govt. to submit the proposal in time at one hand appraisal and approval and by the ministry. This would result in better implementation and monitoring of the scheme. This would result in fruitful utilization of funds.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.6.16)

The Committee find that the target fixed under National Fellowship for SCs, National Overseas Scholarship for SCs, Top Class Education for SCs and Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs is very less in comparison to their actual population. The Committee would like that the Department should consider the eligible students under each of these Schemes before fixing the target for each year. Similarly, the income criteria fixed for availing the benefits under the Scheme needs a revision in view of the rising inflation. The Committee feel that any person whose annual income is less than ₹8.00 lakh per annum cannot afford to study abroad, hence the income criteria of ₹8.00 lakh per annum is unrealistic. This income criteria discourages many students in availing the Scheme, hence its purpose would be served only when the income criteria is revised. The Department should also develop a suitable mechanism to assess the number of eligible students for National Fellowship for SCs, National Overseas Scholarship for SCs, Top Class Education for SCs and Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs, to fix the target so that maximum students gets coverage under the Schemes. The Committee would therefore recommend a review of the number of slots for each year fixed under each of these schemes as well as that of the income criteria. The Committee would like the Department to take requisite measures to attend to these issues with utmost sincerity.

Reply of the Government

It may be submitted that under Free Coaching Scheme, income limit has been increased from ₹3.0 lakh to ₹6.0 lakh during 2016-17 and from ₹6.0 lakh to ₹8.0 lakh during 2020-21 to cover more beneficiaries of SC and OBC Community. As per directions of competent authority, the scheme has been revised. Total available 3500 slots will be filled through the direct selection of the eligible candidates by the department. Similarly under Top Class Scheme, income limit has been increased from ₹4.5 lakh to ₹6.00 lakh per annum during 2018-19 and from ₹6.0 lakh to ₹8.0 lakh during 2020-21 to cover the more beneficiaries of SC Community. Number of institutes in the Scheme has also been increased from 175 to 220 in 2018-19, from 220 to 256 during 2020-21 and thereafter from 256 to 259 during 2021-22. As per EFC recommendation, guidelines of Top class Scholarship (SC) has been revised during 2021-22 with total coverage of 4100 to 4500 beneficiaries annually from 2021- 22 to 2025-26 respectively.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.6.17)

The Committee are perturbed to note that the Budgetary Estimates for the year 2022-23 has been substantially reduced in comparison to 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 under SHREYAS. The Committee find that the justification that keeping in view of trend of expenditure in past years, there has been reduction in the budgetary allocation, as not convincing enough. The Committee feel that the failure of the Scheme in a particular year for no fault of beneficiary does not imply that there are no takers for the Schemes, hence, budget should not have been reduced. The Committee are, therefore, of the view that the evaluation study of all these Schemes and the recommendations/suggestions made therein need to be adopted to strengthen the Scheme. The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to take action on it now, apart from finding ways and means through which the beneficiaries of the Schemes can be maximized.

Reply of the Government

It is informed that that budgetary estimates for 2022-23 has been reduced in comparison to 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 in respect of Free Coaching Scheme (SC&OBC) & National Fellowship (SC). However under Top Class Scheme (SC) & National Overseas Scholarship (SC) budgetary estimates has been increased in comparison to previous years. With reference to the scheme of Free Coaching Scheme (SC&OBC), BE has been slightly reduced from ₹50.00 crore in 2021-22 to ₹47.00 crore in 2022-23. It may be informed that the scheme has been modified and one mode of selection under the scheme in which grant-in-aid was released to the empanelled institutes has been discontinued. Now the scheme is being implemented in mode2 only in which the students are directly selected by the department and they have the liberty to choose the institute of their own choice to pursue coaching. Based on the expenditure incurred under this scheme during past 03 years, budget of ₹47.00 crore has been allotted for 2022-23 and if there is more requirement of funds, the same will be arranged at the time of re-appropriation of Budget at RE stage. Under the scheme of National Fellowship, BE has been reduced from ₹300 crore in 2021-22 to ₹173 crore in 2022-23 as per the recommendation of EFC.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.7.13)

The Committee are happy to find that a National Action Plan for Mechanised Ecosystem (NAMASTE) has been instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in coordination with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation to eliminate manual cleaning of sewer system and septic tanks

and rehabilitation of workers engaged in manual cleaning. The intervention for promotion of mechanized cleaning is to be done through ongoing Scheme 'Swachta Udyami Yojana' implemented by National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation. The Committee also find that there are various schemes such as skill development programme, loans at concessional rates, credit linked upfront Capital subsidy, implemented by the Department, In order to stop manual scavenging. The Committee are surprised to note that despite all these measures, deaths of persons, while cleaning of sewer and septic tanks, continues even today. The Committee are unable to comprehend the reasons due to which the initiatives of the Department are not making requisite impact. The Committee believe that the National Action Plan for mechanized Ecosystem (NAMASTE) initiated in coordination with the line Ministries would help ease out the problem of manual cleaning once all municipal bodies are made aware of the same and encouraged to implement mechanical cleaning. The Committee would like the Department to set up a mechanism for periodic scrutiny of the Scheme as there is a strong need to plug loopholes that are affecting the efforts of the Department, without any further delay. The Committee would also like the budgetary allocation meant for the implementation of the Schemes to be enhanced instead of reducing them at revised stage.

Reply of the Government

Various measures taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in coordination with the other concerned Ministries viz. Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and civil society, particularly during the last few years, have proved very effective in containing the incidents of manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The number of deaths of workers while cleaning sewers or septic tanks, which was as high as 117 during the year 2019 has drastically reduced to 19 in the year 2020 and 30 during the year 2021. Therefore, it is clear that there is remarkable improvement in the situation of deaths. The Ministry will continue its efforts to achieve its objective to stop the deaths of workers. Ministry regularly reviews the implementation of the schemes of Swachhta Udyami Yojana, National Action Plan for Mechanised Ecosystem (NAMASTE) and other relevant programmes to tackle the menace of manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks resulting into the deaths of sanitation workers. Efforts are being made to target the major municipalities of the country by pushing planned interventions with additional funds for full mechanization of the sewers and septic tanks cleaning operations in these Urban Local Bodies. These efforts will also ensure that the budgetary allocation meant for the implementation of the Schemes are fully utilized. Additional funds would be arranged, in case of any requirement.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.8.10)

To promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes two schemes namely Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC) and Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC) were launched in 2014-15 and 2018 respectively. On the scrutiny of the budgetary allocation and expenditure of both the Schemes, the Committee are quite disappointed to note that the Department was not able to spend a single penny under VCF-SC in 2021-22 and for VCF-BC in 2020- 21 and 2021-22 as the owner of the Companies are not able to contribute equity, which should be more than 50 per cent. Since the Department cannot release more than 50 per cent equity to the owner of the Company, as otherwise it would make the Department owner of the enterprise, the Department needs to review and make alternate provision to tackle this issue so that the scheme is successfully implemented. The Committee are pleased to note that the Department is now taking necessary steps to encourage spending on Start Ups and they are sure that Start Ups would come out of the existential crisis they suffered due to market or supply chain disruptions. The Committee also find that under Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM) of the VCF-SC since September 2020 ₹6.90 crore sanctioned to 23 companies and out of this amount only ₹ 0.87 crore were disbursed to 15 companies upto 31 December, 2021. The Committee desire that the remaining amount sanctioned to the companies should be disbursed without any delay and Committee would also like to be apprised about the details of total amount disbursed out of the sanctioned funds in both the Schemes.

Reply of the Government

A. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) and Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under VCF-SC: The present current corpus under VCF-SC is ₹.683.18 crore which include contribution of ₹.609.22 crore from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India (by way of direct contribution and pooling in of the interest under the fund) and contribution of ₹73.96 crore by IFCI Limited (by way of direct contribution and pooling in of the interest under the fund). IFCI Venture Capital Funds Limited under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes has sanctioned and disbursed the following funds till date:

Year wise particulars	Total (Since launch of fund till 17 th May 2022)		
	(VCF-SC)	(ASIIM)	Total (VCF-SC and ASIIM)
Net Sanctioned Assistance (₹. Cr.)	484.63	10.20	494.83
Number of Sanctioned Beneficiaries (in Numbers)	128	34	162
Total Disbursements (₹. Cr.)	302.28	1.63	303.91
Disbursed Beneficiaries (in Numbers)	94	24	118

Observation:

- As on 17th May 2022, out of the total contribution of ₹.609.22 crore from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India, an amount of ₹558.94 Cr. (i.e. about 92% fund from MoSJE) is already committed i.e. including sanctioned funds of ₹474.84 Cr. given to 162 Companies owned by Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs and approved expenses of ₹64.11 Cr (till 31st January 2022).
- Further as on 31st March 2022, the corpus of the VCF-SC including ASIIM was ₹646.18 Cr. out of which the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India has contributed ₹ 579.22 crore. During that period, an amount of ₹538.95 Cr. i.e. about 93.05% fund from MoSJE was already committed i.e. including sanctioned funds of ₹474.84 Cr. given to 155 Companies owned by Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs and approved expenses of ₹64.11 Cr (till 31st January 2022).
- Against the aforesaid sanctions, a sum of ₹303.91 Crore has been disbursed to 118 beneficiaries under VCF-SC including ASIIM till date. In the balance cases, the progress & documentation is in progress.
- Recently, a national level event in the name of Dr. Ambedkar Young Entrepreneurs League (AYE League) was organised on 14th April 2022 in order to receive applications under ASIIM. In this event, about 1042 nos. of applications were received under AYE League and about 1463 number of nominations were received under Dr. Ambedkar Business Excellence (ABE) felicitation. Further as part of our continuous efforts towards marketing/ creating awareness about VCF-SC and ASIIM schemes, IFCI Venture has published national level and state level advertisements across various states. Various webinars are also being conducted to solicit applications under the schemes. Hence, all the above efforts have been created to solicit a strong pipeline of cases and fresh sanctions and disbursements to new SC entrepreneurs.

B. Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC): VCF-BC was launched in April 2018 but became operational from 1st October 2019 only after receiving contribution from MoSJ&E on 30th Sept' 2019. i.e. after attaining the minimum fund corpus of ₹20 Cr. which was a mandatory requirement to start the fund.

The present current corpus under VCF-BC is ₹131.77 crore which include contribution of ₹126.42 crore from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India (by way of direct contribution and pooling in of the interest under the fund) and contribution of ₹5.35 crore by IFCI Venture Capital Funds Limited (by way of direct contribution and pooling in of the interest under the fund). IFCI Venture Capital Funds Limited under VCF-BC has sanctioned and disbursed the following funds till date:

Year wise particulars	Total (Since launch of fund till 17 th May 2022)
Net Sanctioned Assistance (Rs. Cr.)	68.03
Number of Sanctioned Beneficiaries (in Numbers)	24
Total Disbursements (Rs. Cr.)	8.19
Disbursed Beneficiaries (in Numbers)	7

Observation:

- As on 17th May 2022, out of the total contribution of ₹126.42 crore from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India, an amount of ₹71.36 Cr. (i.e. about 56% fund from MoSJE) is already committed i.e. including sanctioned funds of ₹68.03 Cr. given to 24 Companies owned by Backward Classes Entrepreneurs and approved expenses of ₹3.33 Cr (till 31st January 2022).
- Against the aforesaid sanctions, a sum of ₹8.19 Crore has been disbursed to 7 beneficiaries under VCF-BC. In the balance cases, the progress & documentation is in progress.
- Further as part of our continuous efforts towards marketing/ creating awareness about VCF-BC scheme, IFCI Venture has published national level and state level advertisements across various states. Various webinars are also being conducted to solicit applications under the schemes.
- Since the scheme of VCF-SC was last modified on 29.10.2020. The request for modification in the scheme guidelines of 'Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC)' was also proposed to MoSJE, so that both the schemes may be kept identical and in order to improve the reach of the scheme. The same is under consideration at Ministry.Hence, on consideration of proposed modifications under VCF-BC and with continued awareness creation efforts, the pipeline of cases and fresh sanctions and disbursements to new BC entrepreneurs can be done.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.9.13)

The Committee note that the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY) consisting of Integrated Programme for senior citizens and State Action Plan for senior citizens takes care of financial security, food, healthcare and human interaction. The Committee are

perturbed to note that the Department was able to spend only ₹133.31 crore out of the budgetary allocation of ₹204.00 crore in 2020-21 and in 2021-22, the Department could spend only ₹30.13 crore out of the Budgetary Allocation of ₹300.00 crore. The Committee are constrained to note that the Budgetary Allocation for 2022-23 has been kept at par with the Revised Estimate of 2020-21 and 2021-22 i.e ₹150.00 crore. Further surprising to the Committee is the fact that the targets fixed under the Scheme are nowhere is comparison to the population of elders and there are several States such as Bihar, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura where no funds were granted in 2021-22 upto 31.12.2021. The Committee feel that the Department need to do much more than what they have been doing for the welfare of senior citizens in the Country. After formulation of the Schemes, they should make their presence felt by continuously monitoring through their established mechanisms. The Committee, therefore, recommend to take suitable steps for implementation of welfare measures for senior citizens in a more dedicated manner with sympathetic approach and also desire that the budgetary allocation would be enhanced for 2022-23 along with the target so that maximum elderly people get social security through these Schemes.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that while during 2020-21 the expenditure was ₹133.31 crore out of RE of ₹150 crore, the expenditure during 2021-22 was ₹96.54 crore out of ₹150 crore RE. It is submitted that the Ministry introduced concept of EAT (Expenditure, Advance, Transfer) Module of PFMS as per instructions of Department of Expenditure from 3rd quarter of 2020-21. Training to the beneficiary NGOs was provided by the Ministry. The beneficiary NGOs are mandatorily required to follow the EAT module since then. The Ministry also set up a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for stringent monitoring and better implementation of the Scheme. The PMU coordinators conduct inspection of the NGOs. Since its setting up the Ministry has stopped grant in aid to more than 120 projects of the NGOs, on the basis of negative inspection reports of the PMU, after providing reasonable opportunity to the NGOs.

Since 2021-22, the Ministry has been providing grant in aid to the projects in proportion to the number of beneficiaries found during inspection. The Ministry seeks proposals for new projects from Gap/ Uncovered districts of all the States/ UTs, including Bihar, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura such new cases are approved for inclusion under IPSrC after receipt of positive recommendation from the concerned State/ UT Govt. In respect of those from where proposals are received, the Ministry has not received recommendations from the States in time. This matter was raised in the recent meeting of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment with Secretaries of all States/ UTs, held on 09.05.2022. Such States/ UTs were requested to expedite sending recommendation on the matter.

Mizoram is a special mention among these States. The Ministry received recommendation in respect of 02 projects of Mizoram, and these 02 projects have been included under IPSrC *vide* Order No. AG- 15039/37/2021-Sr.C.-I (E.O. No. 41986) dated 26.04.2022. The stringent measures mentioned above, introduced for better implementation and stopping pilferage of government money, resulted into less expenditure, as compared to BE. Since the States/ UTs have been requested to expedite the matter of fresh proposals under IPSrC during a recent meet on 09.5.2022, there shall be new projects during 2022-23 and the Ministry shall be able to meet the target BE of ₹150 crore.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.11.12)

The Committee are astonished to find that despite existing constitutional provisions to check and deter crimes against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since 1990, they have not served the purpose as expected. The Committee are surprised to find from the figures of National Crime Records Bureau that there are several States where cases have not been registered during 2020 under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The Committee find that the relief and rehabilitation provided under the rules from the funds sanctioned is not being utilized fully as in 2020-21 and 2021-22, the Department could spend ₹593.39 crore and ₹452.09 crore (till 31st December, 2021) respectively. The budgetary allocation have also remained stagnant as RE for 2020-21 and 2021-22 was ₹600.00 crore and for 2022-23 the Budgetary Estimates is ₹600.00 crore. The Committee are highly disturbed with the way the issue is being dealt with particularly in regard to allocation of funds and also with respect to release of compensation for relief and rehabilitation of victims as substantial time is consumed in release of compensation to the victims. The Committee also feel that there is a need to review the compensation of ₹85,000/- to ₹ 8,25,000/- fixed in April, 2016 so that the compensation awarded can be utilised for a purpose. The Committee would therefore like the Department to direct all State/UT Governments to ensure that the relief is timely granted and the scale of compensation is also reviewed.

Reply of the Government

As per the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, the responsibility in regard to implementation of the Acts, in criminal offences against members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, including those under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 rests with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Further, the data in regard to criminal offences under the Act is maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau

under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule (List-II) to the Constitution of India, the State Governments and UT Administrations are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of all crimes within their jurisdiction including crimes against members of SCs and STs. As such they are also primarily responsible for implementation of provisions of the PoA Act and the PoA Rules. It is mentioned that the Committee made a reference of the Central Assistance of Rs. 452.09 Crores released till 31st December 2021. However, at the end of F.Y 2021-22, Central Assistance of Rs. 610.11 Crores was released to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the implementation of the PCR Act, 1955 and the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989. Further, States/UTs are advised from time to time to follow the timelines as prescribed in the Rules for providing compensation to the atrocity victims. In the recently held National Review Meeting by the Committee constituted for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 held on 09.05.2022 with all the States/UTs under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and Co-Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs, the matter regarding providing of relief within the timelines as prescribed in the PoA Rules, 1995 was emphasized again. States assured of initiating appropriate steps in this regard at priority. With regard to the review of compensation amount, it is mentioned that in the year 2016, the PoA Rules were recently amended. The number of offences of atrocities for providing relief amount was increased from earlier 22 offences to 47 offences. The minimum amount of relief that should be provided to the victim was revised from between Rs. 75,000/- and Rs. 7,50,000/- to between Rs. 85,000/- and Rs. 8,25,000/- depending upon the nature of offence. Further, in the year 2018, the PoA Rules were further amended and it provided that the relief provided to the victim of the atrocity or his dependents in respect of death, or injury or rape, or gang rape, or unnatural offences, or voluntary causing grievous hurt by use of acid, or voluntary throwing or attempting to throw acids etc. or damage to property shall be in addition to any other right to claim compensation in respect thereof under any other law for the time being in force. It is also stated that the relief amount prescribed in the PoA Rules, 1995 is the minimum relief amount that should be mandatorily provided to the victim of atrocity/dependents. However, no maximum limit has been fixed and prescribed in the PoA Rules, 1995. States being the implementing authority can enhance and increase the relief amount. It is also important to bring to the notice of the Committee that suitable and appropriate legislative amendments have been introduced in the relevant Acts in the recent past keeping the circumstances and needs of the hour.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.12.12)

The Committee note that the existing eligible income limit of ₹2.5 lakh for scholarship schemes for OBC, EBC and DNT students for 2020-21 has been recommended for all five years from 2021- 22 to 2025-26. The Committee feel that with the rising inflation the annual income limit should be regularly reviewed so that the needy students are not deprived of the Schemes. The Committee strongly believe that during the period 2021- 22 and 2025-26, the annual income of family would have increased and thus exclude many OBC, EBC and DNT students from availing the benefits of the Schemes, even though they may not be genuinely in a position to afford the education in good schools/ colleges, hostels etc. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the income criteria should be regularly reviewed to absorb the inflation effect in the annual income.

Reply of the Government

Recommendation of the committee has been noted. The recommendation of the committee will be considered in the due course during the review of the scheme and whenever the needful, the scheme guidelines can be amended with the approval of competent authority.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.13.8)

The Committee find that the interest subvention on loan/ credit upto ₹4.00 lakh is provided under Vanchit Ikai Samooch aur Vargo ko Arthik Sahayata (VISVAS) scheme to Self Help Groups/ Individual Members belonging to other Backward Classes and Scheduled Caste Community. The benefit of low rate of interest is provided to Self-Help Groups formed under National Rural Livelihood Mission or National Urban Livelihood Mission or NABARD and to individual beneficiaries who availed loans through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and similar financial institutions. The Committee are surprised to note that the funds allocated under VISVAS Yojana for SCs was reduced from ₹100 crore in 2021-22 to ₹50.00 crore in 2022-23 and from ₹50.00 crore in 2021-22 to ₹30.00 crore in 2022-23 under VISVAS Yojana for OBC's. The Committee were shocked to find that no expenditure was made under these Schemes upto 15th February, 2022. The Committee cannot find any significant reason for the failure of the scheme except that the Department failed in persuading Banks to participate in the Scheme. The Committee are of the opinion that sincere efforts should be made by the Department in implementing the Schemes as these would help SCs and OBCs in reducing their interest burden in difficult time and in promoting self help groups for

common good. The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to make sincere efforts in making the Scheme successful and ensure that the budget sanctioned for 2022-23 is utilized and the situation of 2021-22 is not repeated.

Reply of the Government

a. VISVAS for SCs: Interest Subvention Scheme-VISVAS was implemented by NSFDC for SC beneficiaries initially through PSBs, RRBs and other similar financial institutions (Hereinafter referred to as Lending Institutions-LI) in 2020-21. Based on the suggestions in Evaluation Study and subsequent consultations held with the LIs who are responsible for selection of beneficiaries suitable modifications have been proposed for its implementation 2021-22 onwards. Summary of major changes proposed in the scheme are as under

S.No.	Condition	Presently	Proposed Modification
1	Credit history of SHG	2 years	1 year
2	Composition of SHG	All members must be OBC/SC	Majority of the members (50%) may belong to OBC/SC
3	Income criteria of group members	All members must have annual family income less than Rs. 3.00 Lakh	Office bearer of SHG can submit a declaration confirming the annual family income of all members to be upto Rs. 8.00 Lakh
4	Caste criteria of SHG members	All members must belong to OBC/SC	Declaration by the office bearer confirming the majority (>50%) of members belonging to OBC/SC
5	SHG Loan limit	Rs. 4.00 Lakh	Rs. 15.00 Lakh
6	Convergence with NRLM/NULM	Not allowed	Convergence allowed for loans above Rs.3.00 lakh and upto Rs. 15.00 Lakh
7	All individual members having annual family income less than Rs.3.00 lakh belonging to either SC or OBC will be eligible for interest subvention on loan up to Rs.2.00 Lakh	Rs.2.00 Lakh	Rs.10.00 Lakh
8	Document for Income Eligibility Check	1- Valid Annual Income Certificate issued by the competent authority of the State Government 2- AAY card holders and other individuals facing three or more Deprivations in terms of SECC-2011, as per records available at the relevant BDO Office.	In addition to earlier documents admissible under income eligibility following documents will also be acceptable to establish income eligibility of OBC beneficiaries:- i) Annual family income certificate may also be considered by the SCAs/Banks/SSCs on self-certification of the beneficiaries with endorsement of the same by any

		<p>3- All OBC beneficiaries involved in Agricultural activities and getting coverage under the PM Kisan shall be eligible for coverage under Interest Subvention.</p>	<p>Gazetted Officer notified by State/Central Government and/or endorsed by Branch Manager of Bank which has provided the loan.</p> <p>ii) In case of loan being applied at Bank (Channel Partner), Self-Certification assessed and endorsed by Branch Manager can be used for providing the loan.</p> <p>iii) For Landless agriculture labour, marginalized farmers (those with up to One-hectare land holding) and small farmers (those with up to Two-hectare land holding), as assessed by the Banks through their standard processes and belonging to the Backward Classes will be automatically treated as part of the target group as per following considerations: -</p> <p>a) Landless agriculture labour and marginalized farmers with land holding less than One hectare will be deemed as having annual family income below Rs.1.50 Lakh per annum.</p> <p>b.) Small farmers i.e. those with land holding between One and Two hectares will be deemed as having annual family income below Rs.3.00 Lakh per annum</p> <p>iv) Bearers of Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Card or Below Poverty Line (BPL) Card will be considered as persons with annual family income less than Rs. 1.5 Lakh p.a. and hence eligible to avail benefits under the scheme.</p>
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Interest Subvention @ 5%p.a. under the proposed Scheme will be provided to the regular accounts of SC loanees- including Self Help Groups & Joint Liability Groups (created under NRLM/SRLM/NABARD Schemes) extended micro credit (hereinafter referred to as SHGs/JLGs), and individuals availing other small business loans subject to the identified beneficiaries not defaulting on their payments . The claim for interest subvention will be submitted by LIs who are the existing channelizing agencies of the Apex Corporations. With the above modifications in the scheme it is expected that the off take under the scheme may increase.

b. VISVAS for OBCs: The SFC meeting for VISVAS Yojana is under process in Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Once SFC completed and scheme is approved for further continuation the funds will be sanctioned under the VISVAS Yojana and budget sanctioned for 2022-23 will be utilized.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

CHAPTER- III

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

(Recommendation Para No.2.11)

The Committee, after scrutiny of Budget documents of the Department, find that the structure of various Schemes stands changed as various Schemes meant for same purpose were merged in one Scheme from 2021-22 such as Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY), Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS), Pradhan Mantri Dakshta or Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM DAKSH), Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNTS (SEED) and Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI). The Committee while appreciating the efforts made by the Department for revamping these Schemes, desire that the procedure/methodology for implementing these Schemes should be properly synchronized and communicated to States/UTs, implementing agencies and other stakeholders. The Committee would like to be apprised in this regard.

Reply of the Government

In accordance with the direction of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment completed its exercise of rationalization, continuation and appraisal of the schemes in consonance with the XV Finance Commission Cycle. In this regard, the schemes were appraised through SFCs/EFCs and approval of competent authority/ Cabinet was obtained. Thereafter the scheme guidelines were formulated and uploaded on the website of the Department. These were also communicated to the respective State Governments and Stakeholders. In the schemes such as SHRESTA and Free Coaching, new modes of implementation were introduced. Under the scheme of PM DAKSH mechanism of online applications and processing through designated portal was introduced. Under Post-Matric Scholarship for SCs, DBT mode for transferring the scholarship directly into the account of students was also introduced. For some of the schemes online web-based portal has been developed in order to ensure transparency and real-time monitoring of the scheme at every stage such as project planning, preparation, submission, evaluation and approval. The Department also further strengthened the implementation of SNA for ensuring just in time fund of flow. All these initiatives were communicated to stakeholders including State Governments, institutions, NGOs etc. Further wide publicity was given for awareness among the stakeholders and beneficiaries through

newspaper advertisements and social media. The suggestions of committee have been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.5.8)

The Committee find that three independent schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) have been merged into Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY) from 2021-22. The Committee are surprised to note that the Department was not able to achieve the target fixed for 2019-20 and 2020-21 under Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan. Hence, the Committee have strong doubt for the achievement of target of 10 lakh fixed under Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan for 2022-23 too. The Committee are also concerned about the performance of each of the Schemes after their merger since there is unified allocation of funds for these three Schemes unless performance is quantified, the success/performance cannot be assessed. The Committee would, therefore like the Department to ensure that all three Schemes are given equal weightage as they are equally important for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. In case there are less proposals under one Scheme, funds should not be utilized on other Scheme rather necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the scheme lagging behind is suitably attended to.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that due to sudden outbreak of global pandemic COVID-19, for which the Department was not prepared, the number of beneficiaries, who could be assisted during the year 2020-21, was significantly on the lower side. However, now in the present scenario, the target beneficiaries set for the year 2022-23 being 10 lakh is very realistic and achievable. All the three schemes, which have been merged for implementation as one scheme, would in fact be implemented as separate components of the merged scheme and separate funds allocations for them has also been made. Initially, efforts will be made not to utilize funds of one component for other components. However, in case despite making concerted efforts, if there is likelihood of surrender of funds under any component, the same would be utilized on viable proposals of the other components in order to avoid surrender of funds. After all, these three schemes are meant for development of Scheduled Castes communities only.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.10.8)

The Committee are constrained to note that the Scheme for economic empowerment of DNT communities formulated to provide coaching, health insurance, facilitate livelihood and financial assistance for construction of homes for the members of DNT, with total outlays of ₹200 crore for the period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 and the Department could not spend even a single rupee in 2021-22 and the budgetary allocation has been reduced to ₹28.00 crore for 2022-23 against the budgetary allocation of ₹50.00 crore for 2021-22. The Committee are dismayed that the Department has already delayed in formulation of the Scheme for welfare of Denotified, Nomadic and semi nomadic communities. Any slackness on the part of the Department to execute the scheme would hamper the welfare measures of the Scheme. The Committee would like the Department to take necessary measures for effective implementation of the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

As per the present status provided by DWBDNCs (pp.1219-1220/c) of SEED Scheme it is stated that in order to implement the scheme components, TSG has at the final stage of developing the online portal for the use of persons intend to seek the benefits under SEED. There are some discrepancies found in the Portal which have been discussed in detail with TSG group in a meeting on 11.04.2022 under the Chairmanship of Ex-Chairman, DWBDNCs. The required information with regard to discrepancies found in the Portal has been discussed with TSG. The Board is maintaining regular liaison with TSG in order to ensure that the portal eventually facilitate speedy implementation of Scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

(Recommendation Para No.12.11)

The Committee find a declining trend in the expenditure incurred under Post Matric and Pre Matric Scholarships for OBC Boys and Girls hostels of OBCs as the expenditure has gone down since 2019-20. In 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Department could spend ₹1,521.90 crore and ₹1,357.02 crore respectively and in 2021-22, the expenditure of mere ₹180.00 crore could be incurred till date. The Committee note that two schemes namely Top Class School and Top Class College have been added to the Scheme. Further, two more independent Schemes having separate budgetary allocation upto 2020-21 have also been merged under the Scheme from 2021-22. The Committee are dismayed to note that even after the merger, the budgetary allocation under the Scheme have not changed much. The Committee feel that bringing together of so many Schemes may help in utilizing the available funds under the scheme but will adversely affect the effectiveness and scrutiny of each Scheme. Keeping into consideration the

budgetary allocation and trend in expenditure, the Committee would like the Department to keep a check on the performance of each Scheme so that the objectives of each scheme are not lost and adopt a mechanism which would ensure the effective implementation of Scheme in the given budget without diluting the objective of the individual Scheme.

Reply of the Government

Monitoring of the scheme has been undertaken periodically for efficient implementation of the scheme by seeking detailed information like- quarterly progress report regarding the number of beneficiaries receiving award under the scheme, Utilization Certificate. There shall be thorough evaluation of the outcomes of the scheme in regular intervals to ascertain the effectiveness of scheme implementation and for tracking the progress of the students. And two schemes namely Top Class School and Top Class College have been added to the Scheme and bringing together of so many Schemes may help in utilizing the available funds under the scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

CHAPTER-IV

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

Recommendation (Para 3.15)

The Committee find that the income criteria of ₹2.5 lakh annually fixed for grant of scholarship was revised in 2013-14. The Committee strongly believe that such a low income criteria fixed must have become a serious hurdle for many of the needy students. The Committee have been informed that a Group of Ministers is examining this issue and would suitably revise the annual income limit. The Committee are of the strong view that the income criteria for getting scholarship should be revised and also recommend that suitable mechanism should be developed for the periodic revision of the amount of the scholarship. They would like to be apprised of the status on the matter.

Reply of the Government

On this matter, it may be informed that the PMS-SC scheme has been recently revised based on the decision taken by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 23.12.2022 and is effective till year 2025-26. In the revised Scheme guidelines the annual income ceiling has been fixed at Rs. 2.5 lakh. Thus, there is no proposal at present to revise the income criteria under this Scheme at this stage.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

Recommendation (Para 6.15)

The Committee note that the Department was able to spend a substantial amount of budgetary allocation on all the four schemes falling under the ambit of Scholarship for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs and OBCs in the year 2019-20 and 2020-21 except for 2021-22 where the Department lagged behind in spending under 3 schemes i.e., 'Free Coaching for SCs & OBCs', 'Top Class Education for SCs' and 'National Overseas Scholarship for SCs'. The Committee are surprised that the fund meant for National Fellowship for SCs was under utilized due to less number of candidates joining / continuing the course against the selection. Similarly, in case of Top Class Education Scheme, the funds sanctioned could not be utilized due to non submission of documents by Institutes and incase of 'Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs' Scheme, the expenditure could not be

incurred due to non-submission of complete proposals by empanelled Institutes. There is no doubt that low utilization of funds sanctioned not only keeps the funds idle but also deprives the students belonging to marginalized sections of the society for getting education opportunities provided by the Department through these Scholarship Schemes. The Committee feel that any slackness will further impact the implementation of free coaching for SCs & OBCs, Top class Education for SCs and National Overseas Scholarship for SCs schemes during 2020-21 and 2021-2022. Although steps have been taken by the Department to rectify the system so that similar problems do not recur in future, yet there is strong need for compliance and regular monitoring of the system by the Department/an independent agency. The Committee would like to see the budgetary provisions made for 2022-23, fully utilized in the interest of SC and OBC students.

Reply of the Government

During the last financial year i.e 2021-22 , budgetary allocation of Rs. 30.00 crore was made under the NOS scheme. Later at the R.E stage, this was further increased to Rs. 35 crore. An expenditure of Rs 49.07 crore has been incurred under the NOS scheme during F.Y. 2021-22. The expenditure was thus in excess of the budgetary allocation. Also, for F.Y. 2022-23 budgetary allocation of Rs 36.00 crore has been made under the scheme. As regards NFSC, the BE of the Scheme for FY 2021-22 was Rs. 300.00 cr. and R.E. was kept Rs.125.00 crore. In this connection it is stated that UGC is the Nodal Agency for implementing the scheme and funds are released to UGC for further disbursement of the fellowship to the students as per their estimate. The UGC had projected requirement of funds of Rs.122.39 cr. only for the year 2021-22 and the said amount was released to UGC.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

Recommendation (Para 7.14)

The Committee are disappointed to note that compensation to 104 persons has not been granted, for deaths due to manual cleaning of sewer/septic tanks. They were aghast to know that some of the States such as Maharashtra has declined to pay compensation due to scarcity of funds. The Committee feel that the family of a bread-earner needs to be instantly compensated in case of death. However, there appears to be non-seriousness on the part of the Department as well as State Governments. The Committee desire that the Department should take suitable measures so that the family of the deceased does not have to suffer and they are compensated as per the norms. The Committee would also like that pending 104 cases for compensation are immediately settled. The Committee would also like to reiterate their earlier suggestion

to establish a system to examine the cause of death so that the persons engaging them are also held responsible and penalty fixed on them for violating the laid down norms.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been regularly pursuing with the concerned State Governments the matter of early payment of compensation in remaining cases. The details of such cases have also been shared with the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis with the request to take up each such pending case with the concerned State/District Magistrate/Commissioner of Municipality for payment of full amount of compensation to the dependants. In case of Maharashtra, the matter has been taken up with the Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra as well as the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. The concerned officers have been contacted at personal level also for early resolution of the matter. As per the reports received from various State Governments and Municipalities, FIRs have been lodged in 537 cases out of 973 death case against the persons prima facie responsible for employing persons for hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and violating the norms.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

Recommendation (Para 10.9)

The Committee take note that the Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities constituted in 2017 has been inter-alia assigned the responsibility to identify the locations where these communities were located. The Committee find that at present 269 such Denotified, Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are specified and a survey is now in under process to place these castes in SC, ST and BC categories. The Committee are surprised to find that the Department has not been able to take any decision till date hence they would like the Department to take necessary action in this regard so that these castes are placed either under SCs, STs or BCs and avail benefits. Delay in locating them would increase their suffering and they would not be able to get benefit of the prevailing Schemes meant for the welfare of SC/STs. The Committee would appreciate if this work is done in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the timelines fixed in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has authorized AnSI Rs.2.26 Crore in the year 2019 for conducting evaluation study of 62 DNT Communities. . Out of 62 Communities, AnSI has submitted the report of 48 Communities Among the 48 communities, 24 Communities mentioned in Annexure-II of Idate Commission report

(State wise list of DNT, NT and SNT Communities not included in SC/ST/OBC Category). It is hereby mention that the list of Annexure-II of Idate Commission Report comprises of 267 communities, out of which 12 communities have been allotted to respective Tribal Research Institutes (Odisha-05, Gujarat-04, Kerala-03) for conducting ethnographic study. Hence, AnSI is supposed to study the remaining 255 communities, out of which 24 communities are already studied by AnSI and report is submitted to Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. AnSI informed that Out of 226 DNT Communities, Anthropological Survey of India has already completed the study of 161 communities across the country and remaining 65 communities and additional 5 communities from Arunachal Pradesh will be studied during the year 2022.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) O.M. No.11014/1/2022-PCR Dated 13.05.2022.)

CHAPTER-V

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

NIL

NEW DELHI;

**15 December, 2022
24 Agrahayana, 1944 (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 THIRTY-FIRST REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2022-23) OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT).

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	23	
II. Observations/ Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:- Rec. Para No.2.9, 2.10, 3.13, 3.14, 4.12, 4.13, 5.9, 6.16, 6.17, 7.13, 8.10, 9.13, 11.12, 12.12 & 13.8	15	65.2%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:- Rec. Para No. 2.11, 5.8, 10.8 & 12.11	04	17.4%
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:- Rec. Para No. 3.15, 6.15, 7.14 & 10.9	04	17.4%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature– NIL	00	00%
		100%