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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2021-2022)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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

**BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAWAS YOJANA (BJRCY)
FOR SC BOYS AND GIRLS**

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2021/Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

(i)

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FOR SC BOYS AND GIRLS**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 02.11.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 02.11.2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2021-22)**

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. Shri Y. Devendrappa
9. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
10. Shri Hans Raj Hans
11. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
12. Shri Abdul Khaleque
13. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
14. Smt. Geeta Kora
15. Shri Vijay Kumar
16. Shri Akshaibar Lal
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
18. Shri Arjun Singh
19. Smt. Supriya Sule
20. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
21. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla
23. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
24. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
25. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
26. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
27. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
28. Shri Narayan Koragappa
29. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Salil Saroj | - | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2021-22) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-Sixth Report on 'Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) for SC boys and girls' relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on 10th November, 2020 and 13th July, 2021. The observations and recommendations of the Committee are based on the evidence of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 15th November, 2021.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) for furnishing the written replies and other material/information and also for appearing before the Committee to tender their evidence in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations have been printed in thick type in the body of this Report.

**New Delhi;
02 December, 2021
11 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)**

**RAMA DEVI,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment.**

REPORT

CHAPTER I

BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAWAS YOJANA (BJRCY)

Introduction

1.1 The Centrally sponsored Scheme of construction of hostels for SC girls is in operation from the Third Five Year Plan *i.e.* 1961-66 and for boys from 1989-90 to enable and encourage children/students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) to attain quality education as such hostels benefits students hailing from rural and remote areas of the Country. The Scheme run by the Department of Social Welfare & Empowerment under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, was revised on 01 January 2008 as Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY). The Scheme was further revised on 10 September, 2018 and 15 July, 2020. Since the revision of the Scheme in 2007-2008, 662 hostels for Boys and Girls have been constructed out of 819 sanctioned till 2020-2021.

1.2 The Committee sought the data of hostels constructed since the beginning but were informed by the Department that the data pertaining to the number of hostels constructed prior to 2007-2008 is not available with them and efforts are being made by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) to retrieve the information. However, till this report was presented, no such data could be furnished by the Department.

1.3 The primary objective of the revised BJRCY Scheme is to attract implementing agencies for undertaking construction of hostels, especially for SC girls, towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their dropout rate. The other objectives are:

(i) having a Girls/Boys Hostel with a capacity of 100 seats in every block headquarters of low literacy districts not having one as of now, by way of priority (in exceptional cases, hostels with larger capacities, maximum upto 250 can be

considered), (ii) repairing and proper maintenance of hostels and (iii) having an effective mechanism for monitoring, review, etc.

1.4 According to the Department, the Scheme is implemented through the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and the Central and State Universities/Institutions. Prior to the revision of the Scheme in 2018, the Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs) and deemed universities in the private sector having good track record were also provided central assistance for expansion of their existing hostel facilities only. The Central Government provide central assistance to these implementing agencies for fresh construction of hostel buildings, expansion of the existing hostel facilities and repair and maintenance of the operational hostels once in every five years. The expenditure on maintenance of the hostels before the revision of Scheme in 2018 was borne by the implementing agencies from their own funds.

1.5 As per the guidelines of BJRCY, the implementing agencies provide suitable land for construction/expansion of hostels free of cost. While sanctioning hostels, priority is given to areas having concentration of SC population of 15 percent or more since revision in July, 2020 (earlier 20 per cent or more) and without adequate hostel facilities for SC students. The State Governments are responsible for operationalisation of the hostels and monitoring of their activities. The expenditure for the maintenance of the students may be met in convergence with Schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments of the Centre/States, e.g. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme etc. Facilities like in-house coaching, medical care, periodic health camps, IT education, sports coaching etc. to the students may also be provided in convergence with the Schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments of the Centre/State.

1.6 The existing funding pattern for Girls' Hostels and Boys' Hostels is as follows:-

(a) For Girls Hostel

100 percent central assistance is provided to the State Governments/ UT Administrations and Central & State Universities/ Institutions, as per the cost norms prescribed in the Scheme.

(b) For Boys Hostel

- 50 per cent central assistance is provided to State Governments on matching share basis.
- 100 per cent central assistance to UT Administrations.
- 90 per cent central assistance to Central Universities/Institutions. The remaining 10 per cent cost is to be borne by the Central University/ Institution concerned.

(c) For State Universities/ Institutions, the central assistance is 45 percent. The remaining 55 percent cost is to be borne by the State University/Institution and the State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 10:45.

(d) In case the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned do not contribute their expected share of 45 percent to the State Universities/ Institutions as prescribed above, the share of the former will also have to be borne by the Universities/ Institutions, by raising their contribution to 55 percent.

1.7 As per the latest information received by the Committee, the Scheme is under further revision as the Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for merger of BJRCY and two other Schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) and Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) under a single Scheme, namely Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY). As proposed, the entire merged Scheme of PM-AJAY including Boys Hostel will be fully funded by the Central Government and the proposal for construction of Hostel is to originate at district level.

CHAPTER II

Budgetary Allocation

2.1 It has been found that the separate allocation for Boys and Girls Hostels has been discontinued from 2019-20. The Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) of the BJRCY from 2016-17 to 2021-22 are as follows:

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE			RE			Actual Expenditure		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
2016-17	40.00	05.00	45.00	30.00	5.00	35.00	30.10	4.90	35.00
2017-18	150.00	05.00	155.00	150.00	05.00	155.00	70.01	4.90	74.91
2018-19	155.45	05.00	160.45	20.00	12.00	32.00	23.11	13.44	36.56
2019-20	-	-	107.76	-	-	25.00	-	-	25.00
2020-21	-	-	30.00	-	-	30.00	-	-	56.39
2021-22	-	-	36.00	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.2 The Department informed that the two Independent Schemes viz. Pradhanmantri Adarsh Gram Yojana and Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan merged with this Scheme from 2021-22 under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) had an allocation of ₹ 700.00 Crore and ₹ 1200.00 Crore respectively in 2020-21. The actual expenditure under BJRCY was ₹ 56.39 Crore in 2020-21. However, the consolidated allocation of ₹ 1800.00 Crore has been made under PM-AJAY for all the above three Schemes for the year 2021-22 against the total allocation of ₹ 1960.00 Crore in 2020-21 and the entire merged Scheme is proposed to be fully funded by the Central Government from 2021-22.

2.3 The details of the number of Girls and Boys Hostels sanctioned during this period are:

Year	No. of Hostels		Inmate s	
	Girls	Boys/inmate s	Girl s	Boys
2016-17	18	12	1250	700
2017-18	17	01	70	100
2018-19	12	15	954	1000
2019-20	06	05	1000	
2020-21	22	02	3230	
2021-22	-	-	-	

2.4 On being enquired by the Committee about reasons for discontinuation of separate allocations for Boys and Girls Hostels since 2019-20, the Department *inter-alia* submitted in a post evidence reply that:

“Since the Scheme for Boys and Girls Hostel for SCs is a single Scheme (Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana) and allocation of the Scheme was being kept combined for both Girls and Boys Hostels' in Budget document of Ministry of Finance, the allocation in detailed Demands for Grants has also been combined from 2019-2020.”

2.5 When asked about the under utilisation of allocated resources during 2017-18 and 2018-19, the Department *inter-alia* informed *vide* their written reply that:

“During the year 2017-18, a proposal for revision of the Scheme of Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) to include one new component i.e. setting up of Residential schools for SC Girls' was prepared/processed by the Department and sent for consideration of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). In anticipation of approval of the proposal, additional funds were allocated under the Scheme for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19. However, the proposal was not recommended for implementation by the Expenditure Finance Committee, Department of Expenditure during 2018-19. As a result there was less utilisation of budgetary allocation during three years”

2.6 The Secretary of the Department further clarified with regard to under-utilisation during 2016-17 and 2019-20 that:

“इसमें हम तभी फंड रिलीज करेंगे, जब इसका यूटीलाइजेशन होगा। Only depending on the progress of work we release further funds. Suppose, there is no progress, the State Government would utilize it for other purposes. So, we release exactly as per the progress. Budget is an estimate.”

2.7 On being asked the objectives of merging BJRCY along with Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Pradhan Mantri Aadarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) into PM AJAY Yojana, the Secretary submitted during the deliberation of the Committee that:

“हम इसलिए लाए कि जहां पर अभी तक छात्रावास नहीं है, वहां पर हमें जितने छात्रावास को लेना चाहिए, उतने ले सकें क्योंकि पी.एम. अजय में, आप जानती हैं, करीब-करीब दो हजार करोड़ रुपये हम हर साल खर्च करते हैं। इसलिए जहां चाहिए, वहां के लिए हम छात्रावास सैंक्शन कर सकते हैं और टेक-अप भी कर सकते हैं। फण्ड्स का जो लिमिटेशन पहले की बी.जे.आर.सी. स्कीम में है, वह लिमिटेशन अब हट जाएगा, इसलिए हम उसे पी.एम. अजय के अण्डर लाए।”

2.8 He further added that:

“Under PM-AJAY – now this will be part of that Scheme – it is 100 per cent Centrally funded. Then, there is no fund limitation also. Earlier there was fund limitation. PM-AJAY has got nearly ₹ 1800-2000 crore yearly allotment. So, there is no constraint of funds. We can really attend to most backward and deserving areas and also deserving institutions. If the institution provides land, then there is no problem of money.”

2.9 The Department has further *inter-alia* submitted in their written reply with regard to the merger of three Schemes with a single reduced budgetary allocation in 2021-22 that:

“The rationale behind the merger is similarity in nature of these Schemes

which are implemented by common implementing agencies for the most part. This would also result in better need assessment and thus planning, and more efficient utilisation of resources.”

2.10 On being enquired whether any study was conducted prior to merging this Scheme in Pradhanmantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), the Department in their post evidence written replies *inter-alia* submitted that:

“The Niti Aayog has submitted a report after an evaluation on the functioning of BJRCY. As per the Report it was submitted that it is recommended that the Scheme guidelines should add a component of convergence of the Scheme with Schemes under SCSP. For example, the infrastructure component of various Schemes such as SCA to SCSP of PMAGY can be converged with the BJRCY to ensure the filling of gaps for SC beneficiaries.”

2.11 The Secretary also informed during the course of deliberation held to brief the Committee that:

“मुझे मालूम है कि यह स्कीम और अच्छा कर सकती है। इसमें हम और ज्यादा इनवेस्टमेंट कर सकते हैं। इसको करना भी चाहिए, क्योंकि बच्चों की हायरस्टडीज़ के लिए घर से बाहर निकलने पर रहने का इंतजाम बहुत ही इंपोर्टेंट है, स्पेशियली गर्ल्स के लिए बहुत ही इंपोर्टेंट है, नहीं तो कोई पैरेंट्स उन्हें नहीं भेजेंगे। इसको हम कैसे और बेहतर बनाएं? इसके ऊपर मंत्रालय में काफी चर्चा चल रही है।”

2.12 The Committee note that the 60 year old scheme of construction of hostels for SC students has been running under the name BJRCY since 2008. There have been major revisions in the scheme, the latest being that from the present Financial Year 2021-22, the budgetary allocation for the Scheme has been merged with ‘Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana’ (PM-AJAY) along with two other Schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) and Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCA to SCSP). While the Ministry have tried to assure the Committee that this change would end any limitation of funds for construction of Hostels for SC boys and girls, the Committee are surprised to find from the Ministry’s written information provided at the time of examination of Demands for Grants (2021-22) that instead of increase, the budgetary allocation for 2021-22 has been reduced by ₹ 160.00 crore, as budgetary allocation for PMAGY and SCA to SCSP and actual expenditure under BJRCY added together was ₹ 1960.00 in 2020-21, whereas for 2021-22 it is only ₹ 1800.00 Crore. Furthermore, the allocation made separately for Boys and Girls Hostels has been clubbed together and a single reduced allocation is being made from 2019-20 onwards. The Committee are unable to accept the submission made by the Department that single allocation would result in better need assessment, planning and more efficient utilization of resources when the performance of Scheme has been very dismal as the Department could sanction 819 hostels only in 13 year period between 2007-08 to 2020-21 in total. Out of this, only 110 hostels were sanctioned since 2016-17 till date hence the Committee needs to be convinced with a speedier sanction and actual construction of hostels under BJRCY to believe that it would now prosper with a single allocation. The Committee feel that specific allocation should have been continued for this Scheme for its independent

functioning without getting affected by other Schemes or vice-versa. Now that budgetary provision for three Schemes including BJRCY has been made under PM-AJAY in 2021-22, the Committee expect that at least notional allocation has been made under each Scheme from the PM-AJAY allocation, including separate allocation for Boys and Girls Hostel, so that each of the Scheme functions independently with the allocated funds and the success of each Scheme is assessed on the basis of their performance. The Committee now expect the Department to provide them data, at the action taken stage, to support and justify the new fund arrangement being successful for BJRCY under PM-AJAY, in terms of speedier completion of long pending sanctioned hostels and sanction of more number of hostels in the requisite blocks/districts, as repeatedly expressed during their discussion on the subject.

2.13 The Committee are aghast to find that a proposal to set up residential schools for SC girls under Babu Jagjiwan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana processed by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment was not approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee despite the provision for additional funds already existing under the Scheme during the years 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Committee feel that setting up such residential schools would undoubtedly give an opportunity to SC girls to enhance their educational level because it is often seen that due to the increasing cost of education, SC girls do not get preference over their male siblings for schooling. The representative of the Ministry also echoed this view by stating that parents of girl students are not likely to send their wards for studies if proper hostel facilities are not available. In this connection, the Committee also feel that the education standard of existing Govt. Schools in many States is still not very encouraging hence it is premature for the Central Government to stop setting up of

residential Schools for SC girls in the country. The Committee would therefore like the Department of Social justice and Empowerment to re-submit their earlier proposal for setting up residential Schools for SC girls in the Country for consideration of the Expenditure Finance Committee while conveying the sentiments of this Parliamentary Committee, under intimation to them at the appropriate stage.

CHAPTER III

STATUS OF HOSTELS

3.1 The Department informed that as per one of the objectives of the Scheme, Girls/Boys Hostel with a capacity of 100 seats in every block headquarters of constituency/districts, not having one as of now, is to be set up, byway of priority towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of dropout rate. In exceptional cases, hostels with larger capacities (maximum upto 250 students) can be considered. These hostels are to be set up by State Governments/UT Administrations and the Central/State Universities/Institutions. Prior to the revision of Scheme in 2018. Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and deemed Universities in the private sector having good track record were also eligible for the Central assistance under the Scheme for expansion of their existing hostel facilities only.

SANCTIONED HOSTELS

3.2 The Committee were informed about the following completion status of the SC Boys' and Girls' Hostels sanctioned from 2007-2008 to 2020-21:

1	No. of SC Boys and Girls Hostels sanctioned	819
2	No. of hostels completed	662
3	No. of hostels under construction	144
4	No. of hostels cancelled by Implementing Agency	13

3.3 State-wise details of hostels sanctioned and their completion status from 2007-08 to 2020-21 as provided in the latest Annual Report of the Department is as follows:

State	No. of hostels sanctioned			No. of hostels completed		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Andhra Pradesh	7	1	8	3	1	4
Assam	17	20	37	3	7	10

Bihar	7	12	19	7	8	15
Chhattisgarh	28	20	48	26	19	45
Gujarat	7	9	16	7	9	16
Haryana	12	2	14	12	2	14
Himachal Pradesh	5	4	9	4	3	7
Jammu& Kashmir	3	2	5	3	1	4
Jharkhand	8	13	21	4	12	16
Karnataka	15	19	34	9	11	20
Kerala	2	7	9	2	5	7
Madhya Pradesh	49	37	86	30	34	64
Maharashtra	27	32	59	21	28	49
Manipur	17	3	20	12	1	13
Nagaland	1	0	1	0	0	0
Odisha	159	13	172	155	13	168
Puducherry	3	1	4	1	0	1
Punjab	11	4	15	6	2	8
Rajasthan	35	67	102	29	64	93
Sikkim	4	0	4	2	0	2
Tamil Nadu	18	27	45	5	26	31
Telangana	7	2	9	3	1	4
Tripura	4	1	5	1	1	2
Uttarakhand	2	1	3	1	1	2
Uttar Pradesh	14	12	26	12	9	21
West Bengal	34	14	48	33	13	46
Total	496	323	819	391	271	662

3.4 The development with regard to SC Girls Hostels and Boys Hostels sanctioned in the last three years *i.e.* 2018-19 to 2020-21 under BJRCY is as under:

(Evidence LoPs, Pg. No. 22, Q. No.i)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2018- 19			2019-20			2020-21 (As on 31-12-2020)		
		No. of Girls Hostels	No. of Boys Hostels	Total	No. of Girls Hostels	No. of Boys Hostels	Total	No. of Girls Hos tels	No. of Boys Hos tels	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Assam	4	12	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Chattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

7	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
8	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Manipur	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	0
15	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Nagaland	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
18	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Punjab	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Sikkim	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
22	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	2	1	3	10	0	10
23	Telangana	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	UP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Puducherry	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	12	15	27	6	5	11	12	1	13

3.5 On being asked the reasons due to which only 662 hostels *i.e.* 391 for girls and 271 for boys could be completed in the long time span of 14 years (2007-2021), the Department *inter-alia* submitted in their post evidence written reply that:

“BJRCY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments/Union Territories and Government Institutions. In fact the Scheme acts as a gap filling instrument for providing hostels facilities to poor SC students where the State/Institution is not able to do so from their own resources. The States are advised to conduct need assessment exercise to identify the requirement and send proposal for sanction, accordingly sanction for construction of a hostel under the Scheme depends upon receipt of proposals from the State Government/Institution concerned along with the complete documents/information required as per the Scheme guidelines.”

3.6 At present all block Headquarters do not have hostels for SC students under BJRCY. On being asked the reasons due to which hostels could not be built in all the block headquarters as stipulated in the guidelines of the Scheme, the Secretary of the Department submitted during the course of evidence that:

“हर एक ब्लॉक में होना चाहिए। इसमें कई राज्य सरकारें काफी काम खुद के पैसों से भी कर चुकी हैं। इसलिए हम राज्य सरकार को बोलते हैं कि आप ऐसे ब्लॉक्स चुनकर हम को प्रस्ताव भेजें, जहां पर होस्टल्स नहीं हैं। हम तो ब्लॉक वाइज़ भी एनालाइसिस करेंगे।”

3.7 Responding to further queries of the Committee on hostels constructed by Central/State Governments in their respective jurisdiction, the Secretary of the Department stated that:

“हम अभी ऐसा कोई डेटाबेस तो मेनटेन नहीं कर रहे हैं कि हर ब्लॉक में राज्य से या केन्द्र की तरफ से होस्टल बनाए गए या नहीं। लेकिन, आप सही बोल रही हैं, हमें इसका डेटाबेस मेनटेन करना चाहिए। हम इसे मानते हैं और हम इसे नोट करके आगे भी बढ़ाएंगे।”

3.8 On being enquired about the number of proposals received from the State

Governments/UT administrations and the Central and State Universities/Institutions awaiting sanction, the Department *inter-alia* submitted in their written post evidence reply that:

“At present, there is no proposal, which is complete in all respects and as per the prescribed format, received from the implementing agencies which are awaiting sanction under the Scheme.”

3.9 When asked about the reasons due to which States having high SC population have few hostels in comparison to States having low SC population, which the Committee had observed from the State-wise position of Hostels, the Secretary submitted during the course of evidence that:

“From 2007, the responsibility for proposing a hostel has been given to the State Governments. So, those State Governments which have taken greater interest in proposing and showing land etc. have got more numbers. We have not allotted any quota based on SC population. That could be one of the lacunae in the Scheme which we can further rectify when we are proposing a change in the coming few months. But it is true that some States have taken a lot of benefit and some States which should have taken benefit, had not taken benefit. That is correct. This is despite the Ministry following up with State Governments on regular basis.”

3.10 In this context, the Secretary of the Department further informed the Committee during the course of evidence that:

“जॉइंट सेक्रेटरी लेवल पर और हमारे लेवल पर भी राज्य सरकार के साथ वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसेज़ एवं मीटिंग्स भी होती हैं तथा प्रोग्रेस का रिव्यू भी करते हैं। कई राज्य अच्छा इंटेस्ट लेते हैं और उससे फायदा भी ज्यादा पाते हैं। कई राज्य इंटेस्ट नहीं लेते हैं। प्रपोजल नहीं आए हैं तो उसके ऊपर काफी मेहनत करती है, लेकिन ऐसा करने के बाद भी राज्यों के रिस्पॉंस में फर्क है। कई राज्य काफी आगे बढ़ चुके हैं और कई राज्यों ने इतना इंटेस्ट नहीं लिया है।”

3.11 On being asked by the Committee repeatedly about the number of hostels for

girls and boys which were constructed prior to 2007-08 since 1961 and those still operational, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment underwent restructuring during 2007-08 and as a result Ministry of Minority Affairs and part of Ministry of Women and Child Development were carved out as separate Ministries from it. At present, the Department has data readily available from the year 2007 onward. Efforts are being made to retrieve the desired information on the hostels constructed prior to 2007 from the old records of the Department and from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. In this connection, Implementing Agencies have already been written vide letter dated 13.01.2021, followed by reminders dated 24.02.2021, 19.05.2021 and 05.07.2021 for providing the status of the hostels. Furthermore, video conferencing under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary of the Department with Implementing Agencies was held on 05.03.2021. The PMU team has recently been directed to visit various districts of the Country to find out the status of implementation of the Scheme of BJRCY and collect various information pertaining to the hostels sanctioned under the Scheme.”

3.12 In this regard, the Secretary of the Department had submitted during the course of Briefing Meeting that:

“वर्ष 2007 के पहले का आंकड़ा दुर्भाग्य से अभी उपलब्ध नहीं है। इसे भी ढूंढकर आपके सामने रखेंगे क्योंकि वर्ष 2007 के बाद से इस स्कीम में बहुत ही ज्यादा अमेंडमेंट्स हुए हैं। In the old files before the amendment of the Scheme, there were number of hostels which were sanctioned and also completed and put into operation. Those details we will be submitting to the Standing Committee later as we do not readily have them.”

3.13 Since the Secretary of the Department could not provide details even during the course of oral evidence meeting later, he committed as under:

“शिफ्टिंग में कहीं कुछ फाइल्स दूसरी जगह पर चली गई, यह प्रॉब्लम है। हम इसको ढूंढवा देंगे, यह हमारा कमिटमेंट है।”

3.14 On being asked about the initiatives taken by the Department to construct hostels across the country in order to achieve the objectives of the Scheme to have hostels in every block headquarters, the Department *inter-alia* submitted in their written post evidence reply that:

“In order to arrive at the quantum of requirement of the hostels, it has been decided to conduct a comprehensive assessment of need/demand among National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranked institutes and Aspirational Districts, wherein letters have been written to them to furnish the information on points like number of operational hostels, SC students enrolled, gap in availability of hostels for SC students, etc. In response, some of the NIRF ranked institutes and a few Aspirational Districts have shown the requirement of SC hostels. These institutions have further been requested to furnish the proposal as per the prescribed format of the Scheme guidelines. Once the proposal is received, it will be examined and if no discrepancy is found, the same may be considered for release of funds. As per the proposed revised guidelines of PM-AJAY, in which BJRCY will be merged, the State/UT Administrations will, after a need assessment exercise, submit Annual Action Plans (AAPs) having District/State level projects, including for construction of hostels. The Ministry will provide funds under PM- AJAY for approved projects. Further, a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) has been set up under the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an Institute under the aegis of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, which will collect information on availability and requirement of hostels for SC students in various districts/blocks.”

3.15 On being asked by the Committee about hostels which have not been made operational after construction and the time by which those are expected to be made operational, the Department *inter-alia* submitted in their written post evidence reply that:

“As per the guidelines of the Scheme, the State Governments will be responsible for operationalization of the hostels constructed under the Scheme and monitoring of their activities. However, a PMU team has recently been directed to visit various districts of the Country to find out the status of

implementation of the Scheme of BJRCY and collect various information/records pertaining to the sanctioned hostels.”

3.16 The Committee further asked whether any online Portal for submission of proposals by the State Governments/Universities/Institutions under BJRCY has been developed by the Department. In response, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“The creation of online portal for submission of proposals by the implementing agencies is under process.”

3.17 As one of the objectives of the Scheme is to reduce and contain the dropout rate of the SC girls, the Committee asked the effectiveness of the Scheme in bringing down the drop-out rate. In this regard, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written reply that:

“While this Department has not conducted any specific survey to find out the reduction and containment of dropout rates of SC girls, however to contain the dropout rate among the SC girls students, integrated efforts have been made by different Ministries which has resulted into favorable outcomes. The decrease in the dropout rate of SC girls has been reflected in the Report of Ministry of Education as below:

Year	Drop-out Rate
2018-19	18.95
2017-18	21.45
2016-17	24.26

3.18 Non-availability of adequate provision for safety and security of girl students in educational institutions is one of the major factors for school/college dropout trend among girls. The Committee wondered whether the State/UT Governments have taken into account the parameters which are essential for safety and security of girl students like accessibility, law and order of the area etc. before finalizing the land for hostels and

whether any directions have been issued by the Department to the State/UT Governments in this regard. To this, the Department stated in their written reply that:

“As per the scheme guidelines, the availability of lady wardens and Watchman in Girls Hostels constructed under the scheme will be mandatory and the implementing agencies will ensure the same. The Implementing Agencies, through their concerned State Governments/Administrative Ministries/Departments are required to submit the report pertaining to percentage of occupancy, availability of lady wardens and watchmen in girls’ hostels, etc. to the Department periodically.”

3.19 The Committee are perturbed to note that the Department does not have the details of all SC hostels set up under the Scheme since the provision for construction of Hostels for SC girls was made way back in 1961-66. In fact, the Department was able to provide the details of only such hostels to the Committee, which were sanctioned/completed after the Scheme was revised in 2007-08. The justification of the Department for the same was the records not being readily available as the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment underwent restructuring during 2007-08 and as a result Ministry of Minority Affairs and a part of the Ministry of Women and Child development were carved out as separate Ministries from it. Nonetheless it is utterly surprising that the Department of Social justice and Empowerment has not been able to retrieve a record of just 46 years (1961-2007) for this Scheme since then. The Department was not able to give convincing reply to the Committee when they appeared before the Committee twice. It was later informed that an exercise has been undertaken for retrieving records after the Committee insisted, including asking the Project Monitoring Unit to collect the information. The Committee hope that the Department have now conducted an exhaustive exercise for compilation of details of all the SC hostels sanctioned till date and desire to be informed of the progress made/data collected in this regard at the Action Taken stage, as committed by the Secretary of the Department.

3.20 The Committee are sad to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been able to sanction only 819 hostels *i.e.* 391 for girls and 271 for boys, since the revision of the Scheme in 2007-08 against the objective of the Scheme to have Girls/Boys Hostel in every block headquarters of low literacy districts. Out of

these, only 662 have been constructed so far, 144 are statedly under construction and 13 have been cancelled by the States due to various reasons. After further revision of the Scheme in 2018 and 2020, where two major decisions were taken regarding discontinuation of Central assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Institutions/ Deemed Universities for expansion of their hostels and reduction in criteria of SC population from 20 percent or more to 15 percent or more, the Scheme seems to have hit a roadblock as the Department have been able to sanction only 62 Hostels since then. On being enquired, the Department has statedly held States/UTs responsible for poor performance as sanction for construction of a hostel under the Scheme depends upon the receipt of complete proposals from them. The Committee are also disturbed to note that the States/UTs having comparatively larger SC population like Punjab, Bihar, etc. have been sanctioned less hostels and even the sanctioned ones have not been made operational in many cases. Hence, the Committee strongly believe that the onus of making the Scheme successful is on the Department as the Scheme was started by them for creating the hostel facility so that the SC girls/boys hailing from rural and educationally backward areas of the country are able to attain and complete quality education, and thus, they are not justified in expressing their helplessness to improve the performance of BJRCY in the absence of proposals from States/UTs. As the number of hostels available is still much less in comparison to the existing SC population and the SC students do require hostels to continue their education, the Department has to think of innovative ideas beyond the usual measures routinely adopted by them. Since holding Meetings at various levels have not yielded desired results, it is urgently required that first of all, a reliable database is made for Hostels in various districts all over India, having real-time status

update and monitoring facility at the Central level. The Committee also wonder as to why Hostels cannot be planned in deficient districts when 100% Central Assistance can be made for the same. However appropriate parameters/benchmarks are to be specified first so that a workable action plan is chalked out. This requires collection and analysis of data. They emphasize that a mechanism has to be evolved to make the Scheme effective as intended. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department now on these lines so that the requisite number of hostels are sanctioned, constructed and operationalised in the given time frame of two years.

3.21 The Committee find from the recently conducted comprehensive assessment of need/demand among National Institute Ranking Framework(NIRF) ranked Institutes and Aspirational Districts for such hostels that some of the NIRF ranked Institutes and a few Aspirational districts have shown the requirement of Hostels. The Committee also note that a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) has been setup under the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) to collect information on availability and requirement of hostels for SC students in various districts and Blocks. The Committee feel that the assessment of required hostels must be conducted in a time bound manner without any further delay, with engagements of persons having requisite experience in the field so that work is done meticulously and reliable data is collected to decide upon a definite course of action. The Committee would like to be informed of the assessment of number of hostels and the parameters fixed for making the assessment at the Action Taken stage. The Committee are surprised to note that even today there is no online portal for submission of proposals by the implementing Agencies under the Scheme and feel that the creation of an online

portal will help in accelerating the process of sanction and construction of hostels in a time bound manner. The Committee hence recommend that the Department should create an online portal without any further delay, under intimation to them.

CHAPTER IV

DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF HOSTELS

4.1 The Department informed the Committee that as per the Scheme guidelines revised in 2020, while sanctioning hostels, priority may be given to the areas having concentration of SC population of 15 percent or more (earlier it was 20 percent or more) and without adequate hostel facilities for SC students. The construction of hostels sanctioned under the Scheme is required to be completed within a period of two years. The Central assistance is released by the Ministry in two equal installments for each hostel. The first installment *i.e.* 50 percent of the sanctioned amount is released to the implementing agencies at the time of the sanctioning of the project. The second and final installment is released upon receipt of physical and financial progress reports along with photographs and Geo-tagging of the site.

4.2 As informed by the Department, out of 819 hostels sanctioned between 2007-08 and 2020-21, only 662 have been constructed and 144 are under construction. 20 hostels could not be constructed due to land dispute or other reasons. 13 hostels have been cancelled during this period. The details of the number of hostels (girls and boys) sanctioned/constructed between 2015-16 to 2020-21 was furnished as follows:

Particulars	No. of Hostels sanctioned		No. of Hostels construction completed	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
2015-16	23	04	15	03
2016-17	17	12	08	09
2017-18	17	01	01	0
2018-19	12	15	0	0
2019-20	06	01	05	0
2020-21	21	0	02	0

4.3 As regards to the timeframe fixed for construction of hostels, the Secretary submitted before the Committee during deliberation that:

“इस स्कीम को दो साल के अंदर खत्म करना चाहिए। यह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के माध्यम से होता है, हम केवल मोनिटर करते हैं। वर्ष 2017-18 में सैक्शनड हुआ है, ज्यादातर वैसे ही हॉस्टल हैं।”

4.4 As per the Department, the detailed information of some of the incomplete hostels from 2007 till date is as under:

State	Incomplete Grl Hostels	Reason for not completing construction work	Incomplete Boys Hostels	Reason for not completing construction work
Andhra Pradesh	2 (2008-09)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate site proposed • Raised upto roof level 	-	-
	1(2010-11)	Alternate site proposed	-	-
Bihar	-	-	4 (2010-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hostels cancelled Reason not given • 1 hostel is under construction.
Odisha	3 (2007-08)	Reasons not given	-	-
Jharkhand	1 (2008-09)	Not aware about the status	1 (2012-13)	work not started due to land dispute
	3 (2012-13)	(i) 1 hostel Cancelled reason not given.(ii) Work not started (iii) work not started due to land dispute	-	-
Karnataka	2 (2007-08) 1 (2010-11) 2 (2013-14)	Reasons not given	4 (2007-08) 2(2013-14)	Reasons not given
Maharashtra	1 (2012-13)	1st floor completed	3 (2013-14)	Reasons not given
	3 (2013-14)	Reasons not given	1 (2014-15)	Reasons not given
Manipur	1(2012-13)	In the finishing level	-	-
	1 (2013-14)	Reasons not given	-	-
Punjab	1 (2008-09)	Reasons not given	1 (2015-16)	60% completed
	1 (2014-15)	Completed roof upto level	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	1 (2010-11)	Reasons not given
Assam	1 (2007-08) 1 (2013-14)	Reasons not given	1 (2007-08)	Reasons not given
Puducherry	-	-	1 (2010-11)	Only ground floor completed
Tripura	2 (2016-17)	Reasons not given	-	-

Telangana	2 (2008-09)	Reasons not given	1 (2013-14)	Completed upto rooflevel
	1 (2010-11)	Reasons not given	-	-
	1 (2013-14)	Reasons not given	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	1 (2007-08)	At the finishing level	-	-
	1 (2008-09)	In progress	-	-
	1 (2013-14)	Reasons not given	-	-

4.5 On being asked about reasons due to which construction work of several Hostels has not been completed even after the expiry of the stipulated period of two years and measures taken by the Department to expedite the construction work of the hostels that has been delayed including the hostels sanctioned for Private institutions, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“At present, around 144 hostels are there which were sanctioned funds under the Scheme and have not been completed. In order to seek the clarification/justification from the implementing agencies regarding the delay in the construction of hostels, they were written vide letter dated 13.01.2021, followed by reminders dated 24.02.2021, 19.05.2021 and 05.07.2021 for providing the status of the hostels. Furthermore, a video conferencing under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary of the Department with implementing agencies was held on 05.03.2021 in this regard. Moreover, PMU team has recently been directed to visit various districts of the Country to find out the status of implementation the Scheme of BJRCY and collect various information pertaining to construction of these hostels.”

4.6 In this regard, the Secretary further elaborated during the course of evidence that:

“मुझे यह बोलने में थोड़ी प्रसन्नता भी हो रही है कि 819 होस्टल्स में 80 परसेंट कम्पलीट हो चुके हैं। इन 20 परसेंटमें 13 कैंसिल भी हो गए, क्योंकि लैंड डिस्प्यूट में चली गई या कुछ और प्रॉब्लम है। बाकी 144 होस्टल्स अंडरकंस्ट्रक्शन हैं। उसके लिए परसों ही एक टीम गठित की है। यंग प्रोफेशनल्स की एक टीम गठित की है। ये 144 होस्टल्स किसलिए पेंडिंग हैं, कब से पेंडिंग हैं, कोई कॉन्ट्रैक्टर इसके ऊपर काम कर रहा है या नहीं कर रहा है, इसकी क्वालिटी कैसी है? हरेक एसपेक्ट को स्टडी करने के लिए दिल्ली से 20 लोगों की एक टीम गठित की है। मेरे ख्याल से वे लोग 15-20 दिन में फोटो के साथ रिपोर्ट लेकर आएँगे। यह क्यों रुका हुआ है, अगर रुका हुआ है तो क्यों रुका

हुआ है, स्लो चल रहा है तो क्यों स्लो चल रहा है, इसकी पूरी एक स्टडी कराएंगे। स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के सामने फोटोग्राफ्स के साथ रिपोर्ट रखेंगे। एक्चुअली हम 144 होस्टल्स का एनालिसिस कर रहे हैं।”

4.7 With regard to the private institutions which received funds for hostel construction before the revision of the Scheme in 2018, but did not complete, the Department submitted the following details in their written reply:

S No	Name of the Institute	Boys/Girls	District/State	Status
1	Paramhansa Ramkrishna Munibaba	Girls	Buldana, Maharashtra	1 st floor completed
2	Nana Patil Vidyarthi Sanstha	Boys	Sangli, Maharashtra	1 st floor completed
3	Gunai Shikshan Parsarak Mandal	Boys	Latur, Maharashtra	1st floor completed
4	Aggarwal School of Nursing and Paramedical Education Society	Girls	Ferozpur, Punjab	Up to roof level completed. Final completion status not received
5	Swami Sarvanand Institute of Engineering and Technology	Boys	Gurdaspur, Punjab	60% of the work completed.
6.	Mewar Education Society	Girls	Mewar, Rajasthan	Roof level completed. Final completion status not received
7	Mewar Education Society	Boys	Mewar, Rajasthan	Roof level completed.
8	Sardar Bhagat Singh Inter College, Birouri	Boys	Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh	1 st floor completed

4.8 With regard to the monitoring mechanism of construction of hostels, the Secretary of the Department submitted that:

“जैसे मैंने बताया है कि इसमें हमारी फिफ्टी-फिफ्टी पार्टनरशिप है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का भी फंड्स हैं और हमारा भी फंड्स हैं। होस्टल चलाने की जिम्मेदारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के ऊपर है। एज पर द स्कीम गाइंडलाइन्स ऐसे ही है। हम इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए सहायता दे रहे हैं। उसमें वार्डन को अपॉइंट करना,

सेनिटेशन करना, बच्चों को एडमिट करना या मेस चलाने का काम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट खुद करती है। यह जिम्मेदारी उनके ऊपर है।”

4.9 On being asked about the status in cases when States that have cancelled sanctioned hostels and the alternate arrangements available with them to meet the requirement of Hostels of SC students, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written reply that:

“At present, there are around 13 hostels which have been cancelled either due to land or some other disputes. The implementing agencies have been written vide letter dated 13.01.2021, followed by reminders dated 24.02.2021, 19.05.2021 and 05.07.2021 for providing the status of the hostels.”

4.10 The Secretary of the Department also informed the Committee during the course of evidence that:

“वर्ष 2018 में जब स्कीम का मॉडीफिकेशन हुआ, तो उसमें यह कहा गया कि पहले आप सरकारी जमीन आइडेंटिफाई करो। प्रपोजल के साथ आप इसे कहां बनाएंगे, इसका स्केच भी आपको देना चाहिए। आपने जैसा कहा कि 100 बच्चों के लिए हॉस्टल होता था, हमने उसको बढ़ाकर 250 बच्चों के लिए कर दिया जिससे सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटीज़ या बड़े इंस्टीट्यूशंस में हॉस्टल बनने का एक अवसर इससे आया।”

4.11 On being enquired about any instance of land dispute reported after revision in the Scheme, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their reply that:

“As per the existing Scheme guidelines of BJRCY, if after release of grant, there is a need for change of location where the new hostel is to be constructed, due

to any dispute etc., the implementing agency may submit a request along with the land documents of the proposed new location. Amount of Central Assistance already released should not be utilized by the implementing agency until approval of the Ministry of SJ&E is obtained for the change of location.”

4.12 On being enquired about the criterion of land to be used for the construction of hostels, the Secretary submitted during the course of evidence that:

“लैण्ड या तो राज्य सरकार की होनी चाहिए या फिर किसी संस्थान की होनी चाहिए, लेकिन उसका टाइटल, फ्री ऑफ डिस्प्यूट होना चाहिए। रूल और गाइडलाइंस जो हैं – 2017-18 के बाद हमने बदले थे। उसके पहले क्या होता था कि राज्य सरकार जो प्रस्ताव भेजती हैं तो हम सैंक्शन करते थे। तब लैण्ड के बारे में इतनी गहराई से परीक्षण नहीं होता था। चूंकि राज्य सरकार से आ रहा है तो मानते हैं कि यह लैण्ड फ्री ही होगी। लेकिन जब कंस्ट्रक्शन शुरू होता है, वहां पर कोई दूसरा आ कर लड़ाई शुरू करता है, कोर्ट में जाकर स्टे लाते हैं। मैडम, ऐसी दिक्कतें ज्यादा नहीं हैं, ये तो 13 केसिज़ हैं, जिनमें हमें यह कैंसल करना पड़ा क्योंकि लैण्ड पर बाद में डिस्प्यूट निकल आया। लेकिन सन् 2017 के बाद जब हमने नियम और गाइडलाइंस बदले थे, उसके बाद से लैण्ड का बहुत ही डिटेल्ड एग्जामिन करके ही हम सैंक्शन कर रहे हैं।”

4.13 With reference to the measures taken by the Department to check the problems of land acquisition by the States/UTs, the Secretary submitted during the course of evidence that:

“One strategy that we have followed is that wherever there is already a compound within an institution or the institution has its own premises, we will give priority to that because then there is no title issue and the institution will maintain it also. We will take up the educationally backward blocks and then see how many of them are there. Then, we will do some sort of a proactive action.”

4.14 On being asked about release/stoppage of next installment to delinquent States/UTs, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“As per the Scheme guidelines the second and final installment will be released upon receipt of physical and financial progress reports along with photographs of the site and full utilization of the amount of first installment of grants-in-aid released by the Ministry of SJ&E together with the matching share, as applicable, by the implementing agencies concerned. This provision mainly intends to check the wrongful use of money by the implementing agencies thereby ensuring that the sanctioned fund is used for the rightful purpose.”

4.15 On being enquired, whether any study was conducted prior to deciding in 2018 that the Scheme will now be implemented only through the State Governments/UT Administrations and the Central and State Universities/Institutions and that the Central assistance would be discontinued to NGOs/Private Deemed Universities for expansion of existing hostels along with the number of proposals received under the revised scheme, the Department *inter alia* submitted in their written reply that:

“BJRCY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central and State Universities/Institutes. Prior to revision of the Scheme, Non-Government Organizations and Deemed Universities in the Private Sector also used to be provided Central Assistance for expansion of their existing hostel facilities. However, on the basis of inputs received from the stakeholders for betterment of the beneficiaries, the Scheme of BJRCY was revised for implementation only through the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central and State Universities/Institutes. Since then, proposals for 62 Girls' and Boys' Hostels received from the Implementing Agencies have been sanctioned during the period from 2018-19 to 2020-21 under the Scheme of BJRCY.”

4.16 The Committee are surprised to find that the construction work of 144 hostels is yet to be completed and that 13 hostels has been cancelled, out of total 819 hostels sanctioned for SC girls and boys. They find that construction work of many hostels has been inordinately delayed since many of these hostels were sanctioned as early as 2008-09. In addition, the work of 8 private hostels is also incomplete. The Committee cannot but feel that despite the scheme being in existence for 6 decades, the Department has not developed any mechanism which could ensure that the sanctioned hostels are timely constructed. However, now several initiatives are being taken, after the revision of the Scheme in 2018 and 2020, by the Department including assigning Project monitoring Units the responsibility to keep a check on the progress of work as well as incorporating a stipulation that land on which hostel is to be built should be either owned by the State Government or by the Institute and the title of land should be free from any dispute, which should yield positive results. The Committee were also informed during evidence that the Department would be preferring institutions having large land area of their own to construct such hostels. The Committee hope that with these systems in place now, above said 144 hostels would be constructed within the prescribed time limit of two years. The Committee suggest Department to examine incorporating suitable penal provisions in the guidelines for the projects getting delayed beyond the specified time period. They recommend that the Department must take suitable measures so that the hostels so far sanctioned to Private Institutes are completed. For the cancelled hostels, concerned State/UT Governments should be encouraged to submit fresh and complete proposals. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard by the Department in their Action Taken Notes.

4.17 The Committee find that under the scheme, 144 hostels sanctioned long back have not been completed, out of which 8 hostels are under Private Institutions. In order to complete the projects, the Department sent reminders four times and held a video conference too albeit with hardly any result. The Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Department now to send a team of 20 personnel to the 14 States, where incomplete hostels are reported, to take stock of the ground situation. As committed by the Department before the Committee, a consolidated report on the same along with photographs would be submitted to them following the completion of this exercise. The Committee expect it at the action taken stage.

4.18 The Committee note that the Central assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations, Private Institutions and Deemed Universities for expansion of hostels has been discontinued after the revision of guidelines of BJRCY in 2018. Prior to this 62 hostels were sanctioned for such institutions. While the Committee feel that the issue must have been deliberated extensively before discontinuation of this provision, it is worth mentioning that some of the private Institutions/Deemed Universities are doing outstanding work in the education field in the country however studying at such Institutions can be very expensive beyond the means of SC students, who can, at least, get the benefit of free hostel, if constructed under BJRCY. The Committee strongly feel that the provision with regard to Central assistance to private Institutions/Deemed Universities for expansion of hostels, barring Non-Governmental Organisations, after detailed scrutiny of their credentials, may be re-examined if there is a scope for the same under PM-AJAY.

CHAPTER V

HOSTELS INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1 As per the norms of the Scheme, the capacity per hostel should not normally exceed 100 students*. In exceptional cases, hostels with larger capacities (maximum up to 250 students) can be considered. In order to have an integrated and inclusive student community system, with a positive leaning towards the Scheduled Castes, it shall be mandatory for the educational institutions concerned to provide 70 percent reservation to SC students in the hostels created under the Scheme. Further, priority in allotment of hostel accommodation should be given to SC students whose parents are either 'Safai Karamcharis' or engaged in unclean occupations. No fee or charges of any kind are to be collected from the SC students for making provision of the hostel facilities.

5.2 The Central Government provide Central assistance to the implementing agencies both for fresh construction of hostel buildings and expansion of the existing hostel facilities as per the following norms:

(a) The cost norms for construction/expansion of Girls and Boys Hostels are as follows:

- (i) North Eastern Region : ₹ 3.50 lakh per inmate
- (ii) Northern Himalayan Regions: ₹ 3.25 lakh per inmate
- (iii) Gangetic plains and lower Himalayans Region: ₹ 3.00 lakh per inmate

(b) In addition, one time grant of ₹ 5000/- per student is provided for making provisions for a cot, a table and a chair for each student and for common facilities like television, computer, kitchen equipments etc.

(c) Further, central assistance is being provided since 2018-19 for repair and maintenance of the operational hostels to implementing agencies once in every five years to a maximum of ₹ 5.00 lakh for one hostel of 50 inmates, ₹ 10.00 lakh for 100 inmates and ₹ 15.00 lakh for 150 inmates and so on.

* 250 students now

5.3 Further, facilities like in-house coaching, medical care, periodic health camps, IT education, sports coaching, etc. to the students may also be provided in convergence with Schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments of the Centre/State. Implementing agencies, through their concerned State Governments/Administrative Ministries/Departments, may submit reports regarding percentage of occupancy, facilities available in the hostels (including availability of lady wardens and watchmen in Girls' Hostel), outcomes like academic performance, etc. to the Department periodically. Further, implementing agencies will give wide publicity for admission of students in the hostels through newspapers, television, etc. They will also develop a grievance redressal mechanism for hostel inmates under intimation to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

5.4 When the Committee enquired about the number of hostels with the student capacity of 100 and 250 available for boys/girls in the country under BJRCY, the Department in their written submission stated that at present the number of Boys/Girls Hostels sanctioned for with the student capacity of 100 and 250 inmates are as under:

	No. of hostels sanctioned for 100 Inmates	No. of hostels sanctioned for 250 Inmates
Girls	257	14
Boys	87	8

5.5 On being asked about the average occupancy of the hostels constructed under the Scheme and any instance where the admission in hostel was not granted despite availability of space in the Hostel, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“No case about the denial of admission by the implementing agencies in the hostel despite the availability of space in hostel has been reported to this Department.”

5.6 With regard to 70 percent reservation of SC students in the hostels, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“Under the Scheme, it is mandatory for the educational institutions

concerned to provide 70 percent reservation to SC students in the hostels created under the Scheme. In this regard, the implementing agencies have to furnish the details of the number and composition (SC, ST, OBC and General) of inmates for which the hostel is proposed to be constructed and sanction is given only after receipt of these details.

5.7 With reference to the publicity to hostels to create awareness among needy students about the hostels, the Committee were informed that:

“As per the Scheme guidelines, the implementing agencies will give wide publicity for admission of students in the hostels through newspapers, television etc. Further, the information regarding the recent release of Central Assistance under this Scheme has been disseminated through various social media to encourage students from remote area to enroll and continue their education.”

5.8 On being asked about the Reports with regard to in house facilities, warden, etc. is duly received by the Department from the States/UTs as stipulated in the Guidelines, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“As per the Scheme, the State Government and implementing agencies concerned will have to ensure availability of wardens. These implementing agencies have to produce the details of in house facility, warden etc. while furnishing proposal for construction of new hostels. Besides, this Department has also written to implementing agencies to furnish information regarding above. Moreover, a Project Monitoring Unit(PMU) has been set up under the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an Institute under DOSJE. The PMU team is overseeing the implementation of various Schemes, including BJRCY, at field level. They will also collect information on availability of hostels and requirement of hostels for SC students in various districts/blocks.”

5.9 On being enquired whether the Cost norms are linked with the inflation and are periodically revised, the Committee were informed by the Department in their written reply that;

“The cost norms are not linked to inflation and are not revised at specified intervals. They are same as specified in Scheme guidelines. The old cost norms were revised based on the recommendations of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Prior to this, the cost norm per inmate was Rs. 2.00 lakh for all States.”

5.10 With regard to any suggestion received for change in funding pattern/cost norms from any quarter, the Committee were informed by the Department in their written reply that:

“The Department has not received any written suggestions for changing the funding pattern prescribed under the Scheme.”

5.11 On being enquired whether any periodic inspection of the premises of the Hostel is conducted by the Department officials to ensure that the guidelines are meticulously followed in the running of hostels, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“For the purpose of effective monitoring, the Ministry/Steering Committee may itself conduct or cause field visits by appropriate agencies or authorities to inspect the projects. While carrying out field visits of sanctioned projects, the Departmental officers carry out inspection, at random, the incomplete hostels to monitor progress of their construction and also completed hostels to monitor their operational aspects. Details of the last five inspections carried out are as follows:

S.No.	Name of the Hostels	Date of Inspection	Observations
1	University Campus, Saurashtra University, Rajkot	02/02/2020	The hostels appear to have been constructed as per the specifications/building plan submitted along with the proposals to this Ministry by the State

			Government for sanction.
2	University Campus, Maharaja Krishna Kumar Singhji University, Bhavnagar	04/02/2020	The hostels have been constructed at the locations proposed by the State Government and approved by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during 2012-13. Also, the hostels have been constructed as per the specifications/building plan submitted along with the proposal to this Ministry.
3	Azad High School, Yairpok, Imphal East	02/11/2019	Students haven't been provided with beds. The furniture such as study table are not available.
4	Andro High School, Imphal East	02/11/2019	
5	Leimaran High School, Leimaran, Bishnupur	02/11/2019	Hostel was not completed.

5.12 On being further enquired about the mode of inspection, the representatives of the Department submitted during the course of evidence that:

“जब हम देखने जाते हैं तो शायद अच्छे संचालन वाले हॉस्टल्स ही हमको दिखा दिए जाते हैं। ऐसा बहुत कम होता है कि जो अच्छे संचालित नहीं हैं, वहां पर हमें ले जाते हों। मैडम, इसलिए सर ने जो यह बड़ा अच्छा कदम उठाया है कि मॉनिटरिंग के लिए यंग बच्चों को उन्होंने सिलेक्ट किया है। मैं भी उस इंटरव्यूबोर्ड में थी। बहुत अच्छे-अच्छे बच्चे हैं, जो हर चीज़ के बारे में बड़े अवेयर हैं। हम उनको पूरी एक चेकलिस्ट बना कर दे रहे हैं कि आप जब जाएंगे तो क्या-क्या चीज़ देखकर आएंगे। उससे हमें रिपोर्ट भी अच्छी मिलेगी। उसके बाद हम आपको भी अवगत कराएंगे और हम भी उसके ऊपर एक्शन लेंगे। जो चल रहे हैं, उनके भी और जिनका कंस्ट्रक्शन नहीं हुआ उसका भी इसी तरह से किया जाएगा।”

5.13 She further added:-

“मैंने स्वयं इन्सपेक्शन किया है, जैसा मैंने बताया कि अच्छे संचालित वाले हॉस्टल ही वे दिखाते हैं। उनमें जो कमियां हैं, वह मैं आपको बताती हूं। कई हॉस्टल में ऐसा देखा है कि बच्चों के खेलने-कूदने की कोई जगह नहीं है, बंद सा हॉस्टल है और बच्चों को खेलने-कूदने का कोई मौका नहीं है। अन्दर भी खेलने के लिए कोई खिलौना, चेस या कैरम चीजें भी नहीं थीं। उसके अलावा कई बार देखा गया है, जो थोड़ी बड़ी लड़कियां थीं उनसे कीचन में काम भी करा रहे थे। यह बिल्कुल सही नहीं है। जो बच्चे पढ़ने के लिए गए हैं उनसे कीचन में काम कराना ठीक बात नहीं है। उसके अलावा साफ-सफाई में निश्चित रूप से समस्या थी। खास तौर पर जो बाथरूम था, उसमें लड़कियों के लिए डस्टबीन होने चाहिए, वह नहीं था। इस तरह की प्रोब्लम है। इसके अलावा, अगर हॉस्टल में बच्चे रह रहे हैं तो कायदे से बच्चों को कोचिंग या ट्यूशन की फैसिलिटी भी मिलनी चाहिए। उसके लिए हम पैसा नहीं देते, उसके लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को पैसा देना चाहिए। कई जगह पर ट्यूशन के लिए प्रोविजन नहीं था। इस तरह की प्रोब्लम देखी गई।”

5.14 On being enquired about grievance redressal mechanism in the hostels, the Committee were informed by the Department in their written post evidence reply that:

“To ensure that citizens get services as per prescribed norms, the Government of India has adopted CPGRAMS (Central Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) for handling citizen complaints/ grievances. Citizen can use this system to raise grievances if prescribed service norms are not met with or there is any mistreatment. Further, it is also provisioned in the Scheme guidelines that the implementing agencies shall develop a grievance redressal mechanism for hostel inmates under intimation to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.”

5.15 On being asked whether there is any mechanism in the Central Ministry to physically check the quality of facilities provided in BJRCY hostels like food, infrastructure, safety and security to the students, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“Under this Scheme, the Central Government provides eligible central assistance to implementing agencies as per provisions of the Scheme, for only construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities. The implementing agencies, including the State Government are

responsible for operationalization and monitoring of the hostels constructed under the Scheme.”

5.16 With reference to maintenance of funds the Committee were *inter-alia* informed videwritten reply by the Department that:

“At the time of submission of the proposal, hostel must be operational and having minimum occupancy of 50 percent of total inmates sanctioned with at least 70 percent of these being SC students. The hostels for girls must have lady wardens and lady guards in place. The implementing agencies may undertake to ensure their availability while submitting proposal for repair and maintenance of these hostels. Ground level operations of the hostel are monitored by the concerned State/UT or the institution.”

5.17 On being enquired about the occupancy status of hostels, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“Under the Scheme, the functioning and occupancy status of hostels is required to be monitored post-construction by the implementing agencies that are required to submit annual occupancy status. While submitting new proposals, the State Governments/UT Administration are required to furnish physical and financial progress reports of the hostels sanctioned earlier. However, as this data is not readily available, the Implementing Agencies have again been asked, to furnish the occupancy status of the Hostels constructed under the Scheme.”

5.18 On being enquired about the steps taken to ensure best quality of services provided in hostels, the Secretary submitted during the course of evidence that:

“इसकी इम्प्लीमेंटेशन राज्य सरकार करेगी। इसे पीडब्ल्यूडी डिपार्टमेंट देखता है। गुणवत्ता के बारे में हम उनसे बात कर सकते हैं। पीडब्ल्यूडी डिपार्टमेंट के ऊपर पूरा सिस्टम है, अगर कोई समस्या है तो वहां एड्रेस कर सकते हैं।”

5.19 The Committee note that the Implementing Agencies are exclusively responsible for the operation of hostels and their maintenance. As per the guidelines, facilities like in house coaching, medical care, periodical health camps, IT education, sports coaching, lady warden and night watchmen in Girls Hostels including grievance redressal mechanism are to be made available for the inmates of the hostels. Implementing Agencies are also responsible for publicity about admissions in hostels. The Committee are unhappy to find that the facilities available in the hostels are found to be not satisfactory by the department and are therefore required to be scrupulously monitored regularly. Submission of reports by the implementing agencies has probably become a routine exercise and hence may not serve the desired objective. The inmates of the hostels cannot be left at the mercy of the implementing agencies, more so because they belong to those factions of society which may not come forth about their problems due to fear/lack of confidence. The Committee would therefore like the Department to extend their role beyond funding. The Department needs to keep track of the hostel functioning through Hostel Management Committees, as recommended by NITI Aayog, and evolve suitable digitized mechanisms so that all the relevant information is readily available with the Department instead of relying on the age old system of Reports submitted by implementing agencies. As has already been emphasized by the Committee, the Department should develop a software to keep real time information about the occupancy status and ensure that sufficient publicity is given so that hostels have 100% occupancy. The Committee also desire that directions should be issued to all the implementing agencies to develop a grievance redressal mechanism for hostel

inmates, apart from surprise inspections/social audit so that every complaint/grievance can be addressed properly without any delay.

5.20 The Committee find that the Department has fixed separate Cost Norms for construction of hostels in North Eastern Region, Northern Himalayan Regions and Gangetic plains and lower Himalayan Region and for the repair and maintenance of the hostels. The Committee are surprised to note that the cost norms have been recently revised on the recommendation of School of Planning and Architecture. The Committee are unable to understand the reasons due to which the cost norms were not revised timely to absorb the inflation effect. They strongly believe that had the Department revised cost norms in time, they may have received more proposals from the States/UTs for construction of hostels which could have benefitted many needy SC students. The Committee hence recommend that the construction cost as well as repair and maintenance cost should be revised in regular periodicity to absorb inflation effect so that realistic cost norms are framed which would result in a better performance.

5.21 On the overall assessment of the Scheme, the Committee observe that the Centrally sponsored Scheme of construction of Hostels for SC girls and boys has been in place from 1961-66 and 1989-90 respectively followed by Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana in 2007-2008, which was revised twice in 2018 and 2020. Despite bringing out changes to improve its performance the Scheme has not taken off though it underwent repeated changes in the Scheme. Only 819 hostels have been sanctioned till date and 662 have been constructed so far. What is most

disheartening is that out of these, actually functioning hostels number a mere 366 i.e. 344 for SC girls and 22 for SC boys. This is quite insufficient for such a large SC poor population in the country. The Committee cannot but conclude that the Scheme has not been operated by the successive nodal Departments with the requisite zeal and enthusiasm. Most surprising is that the Scheme has not done well even after the creation of an exclusive Ministry for ensuring Social Justice and Empowerment to the deprived sections from 2004 onwards. The fact that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has not been able to retrieve the record of the Hostels set up prior to the revision of the Scheme in 2007-08 even after a span of 15 years is ample proof of the same. While the Committee have been convinced that a Project monitoring Unit, recently set up to monitor the functioning and progress of construction of hostels, will boost the pending projects, the Committee are skeptical as it appears from the response of the Department that full responsibility has been entrusted over a Unit, wherein young professionals have been engaged with the hope to rectify a Scheme that has been floundering for decades. While the Committee trust the best intentions of the Department yet they are of the view that if the Scheme is to achieve its enshrined objectives then the Department needs to revisit their own mechanisms and think of out-of-the-box solutions to address the flaws and plug the leakages under the new initiative of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY). The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to consider constitution of a dedicated body for operation of the Scheme on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Eklavya Model residential Schools, etc. particularly as the Scheme is now proposed to be Centrally funded in toto.

CHAPTER VI

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 A Steering Committee is constituted to monitor and review the progress of construction/completion of hostels regularly based on the progress reports. It consists of (a) Joint Secretary (SCD-B), Social Justice and Empowerment-Chairperson (b) Representative of State Government/ Implementing Agency-Member (c) Representative of Ministry of HRD - Member (d) Director/Deputy Secretary (SCD-B), Social Justice and Empowerment - Member (e) Under Secretary (BJRCY), Social Justice and Empowerment-Convenor. The Steering Committee conduct periodical review meetings with the representatives of State Governments and other Implementing Agencies to monitor the progress of construction. Also monitor the functioning and occupancy status of hostels post-construction. Implementing Agencies shall be required to submit annual occupancy status. While submitting new proposals, the State Governments/UT Administrations will furnish physical & financial progress reports of the hostels sanctioned earlier. For the purpose of effective monitoring, the Ministry/Steering Committee may itself conduct or cause field visits by appropriate agencies/authorities to inspect the projects. The Committee may invite experts as special invitees, as and when it deems necessary. An independent third-party outcome evaluation will be done periodically.

6.2 On being asked whether the requisite number of Steering Committee meetings to monitor the progress of construction and functioning/ occupancy status of hostels has taken place since March, 2020, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“The meetings of the Steering Committee were held on 28/6/2019 and 07/01/2020 and the periodical review meetings with the implementing agencies were held under the chairpersonship of Joint Secretary(SCD-B) of the Department on the dates from 20/05/2020 to 22/05/2020, from 23/07/2020 and 24/07/2020, on

30/9/2020 and 05/3/2021.

6.3 When the Committee enquired whether the Steering Committee was satisfied with the progress of construction and the functioning of Hostels, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“To monitor the functioning and occupancy status of hostels, the Ministry/Steering Committee takes periodical review meeting with Implementing Agencies. Officers of this Department also go for field visit as and when required. Joint Secretary of the Department has taken review meeting through video Conferencing on 05.03.2021 with the Implementing Agencies and discussed the status of the hostels. Moreover, a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) has been set up under the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an Institute under this Department. The PMU team is overseeing the implementation of various Schemes including BJRCY also at field level. High value projects of the Department are being physically inspected/ visited by the PMU.”

6.4 On being asked whether the provision of inviting experts to the meeting of Steering Committee has ever been exercised by the Committee, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that:

“As per available records, the provision of inviting experts to the meeting of Steering Committee has not been exercised in the past few years and will be done as and when such requirement arises.”

6.5 With regard to the findings of NITI Aayog on the monitoring of the Scheme the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that the following findings were made by NITI Aayog and has been duly noted and shall be incorporated during revision of the Scheme:

- (i) Ministry mandate all implementing agencies to separately submit yearly action plan regarding the maintenance and day-to-day expenditure of operational hostels. This should be monitored separately, and specific output outcome indicators should be defined for the same.
- (ii) Scheme guidelines should add a component of convergence of the Scheme with

Schemes under SCSP. For example, the infrastructure component of various Schemes such as SCA to SCSP of PMAGY can be converged with BJRCY to ensure the filling of gaps for SC beneficiaries.

- (iii) A robust monitoring and results framework is recommended to improve the efficiency in monitoring. The name of key indicators, definition/description of the indicators, numerator and denominator of the indicators, frequency of data collection, data source, method of collecting data and responsibility of collecting data may incorporated in the guidelines.
- (iv) Include a provision for the formation of a Hostel Management Committee in the Scheme design, comprising of all key stakeholders to monitor the day-to-day functioning of hostels under the Scheme, which is currently missing in the Scheme guidelines.

6.6 On being further asked about any other independent Evaluation study conducted to assess the performance of the Scheme other than the NITI Aayog and the recommendation made their in the action taken thereon, the Department *inter-alia* stated in their written post evidence reply that besides the evaluation study conducted by the NITI Ayog recently, a third party evaluation of the Scheme was conducted by Development & Research Services Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi in the year 2017-18. The provision with regard to major recommendations such as (i) making provision of budget for maintenance and repair; (ii) strengthening security of hostel by appointment of wardens/female wardens, watchmen/lady guards, boundary walls, etc.; (iii) making provision for meeting the expenses towards maintenance of students by increasing scholarship amount, in-house coaching, medical care, etc. have been made in guidelines.

6.7 The Committee are unhappy to find that despite the provision of Steering Committee to monitor and review the progress of construction/completion of hostels and also monitor the functioning and occupancy, neither the work of construction nor the functioning of the hostels is satisfactory. They wonder whether such a Committee is in existence, and, if existing, whether it meets regularly at all to address various issues. Had the work been taken seriously and field visits conducted to inspect the lingering projects, the Scheme would not have underperformed. Since the work has now been entrusted to Project Monitoring Units, the Committee would like to believe that the situation can improve. The Committee needs the findings of PMU and future action plan based on the inputs to know the actual progress. The Committee are also of strong opinion that a dedicated Hostel Monitoring Committee may be constituted to monitor the progress and functioning of the hostels for the proper implementation of Scheme and appropriate penal provisions may be put in place for the violation of established norms. The Committee feel that the recommendations of Niti Aayog with regard to robust monitoring mechanism to improve the efficiency in monitoring must be suitably incorporated in the guidelines of the Scheme for its better implementation.

New Delhi;

**02 December, 2021
11 Agrahayana 1943 (Saka)**

**RAMA DEVI,
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

ANNEXURE-I

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21) HELD ON
TUESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1430 hrs. in Committee Room No. 2, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
3. Shri Y. Devendrappa
4. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
5. Smt. Geeta Kora
6. Shri Akshaibar Lal
7. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
8. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
10. Shri N. Chandrasegharan
11. Shri P. L. Punia
12. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

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

**REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
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1.	Shri R. Subrahmanyam	Secretary
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2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and congratulated Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras, MP (LS) for his nomination to this Committee. The Chairperson, then informed the Committee that the term of Shri P.L. Punia, MP (RS) was ending on 25th November, 2020 and expressed appreciation for his support and valuable contribution to the functioning of the Committee to which Shri Punia reciprocated. Thereafter, the Committee paid their humble tribute to Shri Durga Prasad Balli and Shri Ashok Gasti, Members during the previous term of the Committee (2019-20) on their sad demise. All the Members and officers of the Committee stood in silence for one minute in honour of the departed souls.

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9. Thereafter, representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) were called in for briefing on 'Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana for SC boys and girls'. The Chairperson welcomed them to the sitting of the Committee and drew their attention to Direction 55(I) of the 'Directions by the Hon'ble Speaker' regarding the evidence tendered before the Committee.

10. Thereafter, the Secretary briefed the Committee on the subject. Major issues discussed at the sitting are as follows:-

- (i) Progress of the Scheme in last 59 years.
- (ii) Reasons for under-utilization of budget under the Scheme.
- (iii) Role of the Department in the management of Hostels constructed under the Scheme.
- (iv) Steps taken for early completion of sanctioned hostels.
- (v) Monitoring mechanism for construction work of sanctioned hostels.
- (vi) Removal of private institutions from the purview of the Scheme.
- (vii) Evaluation Study of the Scheme by NITI Aayog.
- (viii) Measures taken by the States/UTs/Implementing agencies for safety and security of the students particularly girl students residing in the Hostels
- (ix) New Scheme for construction of hostels for transgender persons.

11. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson then directed them to furnish written replies to all the queries raised by the Members within two weeks.

12. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views on various issues raised by the Members.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned.)

*****Not related to this Report.

ANNEXURE-II

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21) HELD ON
TUESDAY, 13TH JULY, 2021**

The Committee met from 1430 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Y. Devendrappa
4. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
5. Shri Vijay Kumar
6. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

Rajya Sabha

7. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
8. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
9. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
10. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
11. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri R. Subrahmanyam	Secretary
2.	Smt. Kalyani Chadha	Joint Secretary

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) to the sitting of the Committee convened to take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) on the subject 'Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) for SC boys and girls' pertaining to their Department. In her opening remarks, Chairperson *inter-alia* mentioned that all the sanctioned hostels have not been constructed within stipulated period and enquired about reasons, therefor including the steps taken during COVID-19 pandemic to achieve targets fixed for construction. She also desired to know the reasons for merging BJRCY with Pradhanmantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) and the measures taken to ensure that the guidelines with regard to management of hostels are complied by all the implementing agencies.

3. The Chairperson, thereafter, referring to the Direction 55(1) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha informed the representatives of the Department that the proceedings of the Committee are 'Confidential', till a Report on the subject is presented to the House and asked the Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to introduce his team.

4. The Committee, thereafter, *inter-alia* deliberated on the following issues during the sitting:

- (i) Assessment of the number of hostels required to be constructed and to develop appropriate mechanism so that more hostels are established in the country across all the States/UTs.
- (ii) Monitoring system to ensure quality and avoid delays in construction of hostels.
- (iii) Need to conduct periodic inspections of hostels by the Department to ensure that the facilities are duly available and properly maintained.
- (iv) Maintenance of data/records of the hostels sanctioned prior to 2007-08 as this scheme has been running since long.
- (v) Analysis of budgetary allocation/expenditure and developing of a system to avoid under-utilization of funds.

Thereafter, Chairperson invited Shri RamKumar Verma, MP to Chair the remaining part of the sitting. The sitting resumed with further discussion on the following:

- (vi) Proper scrutiny of Inspection Reports by the Department before any action is taken, to avoid any inconvenience to hostel inmates.
- (vii) Mechanism to ensure that BJRCY is not at any disadvantage, after merger with PM-AJAY Yojana.
- (viii) Redressal Mechanism to address complaints of hostel inmates.
- (ix) Periodic evaluation of Scheme on the lines of Evaluation Study conducted by Planning Commission in 2009.
- (x) Information pertaining to low-literacy districts in the country.
- (xi) Development of system to curb any form of discrimination in the hostels.

5. The Secretary responded to the queries raised by the Members on the above-mentioned issues.

6. Before concluding the meeting, the Chairperson directed the Department to furnish written replies to the queries raised by Members remaining unanswered to the Secretariat within a week for early finalization of the Report. Copy of the verbatim

proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned.)

ANNEXURE-III

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2021-22) HELD ON MONDAY,
15TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

The Committee met from 1200 hrs. to 1230 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Y. Devendrappa
4. Smt Ranjeeta Koli
5. Shri Arjun Singh

RAJYA SABHA

6. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
7. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
8. Shri Narayan Koragappa
9. Smt. Chhaya Verma
10. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
2. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the draft Report of the Committee on the Twenty-Sixth Report on 'Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) for SC Boys and Girls' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment). The Members were also informed about the important observations/recommendations contained in the Report.

3. Thereupon, the Chairperson requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Report. The Report was adopted by the Committee without any modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Report and to present the same to both the Houses.

(The Committee then adjourned)

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl.No.	Para No	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3
1.	2.12	<p>The Committee note that the 60 year old scheme of construction of hostels for SC students has been running under the name BJRCY since 2008. There have been major revisions in the scheme, the latest being that from the present Financial Year 2021-22, the budgetary allocation for the Scheme has been merged with 'Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana' (PM-AJAY) along with two other Schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) and Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCA to SCSP). While the Ministry have tried to assure the Committee that this change would end any limitation of funds for construction of Hostels for SC boys and girls, the Committee are surprised to find from the Ministry's written information provided at the time of examination of Demands for Grants (2021-22) that instead of increase, the budgetary allocation for 2021-22 has been reduced by ₹ 160.00 crore, as budgetary allocation for PMAGY and SCA to SCSP and actual expenditure under BJRCY added together was ₹ 1960.00 in 2020-21, whereas for 2021-22 it is only ₹ 1800.00 Crore. Furthermore, the allocation made separately for Boys and Girls Hostels has been clubbed together and a single reduced allocation is being made from 2019-20 onwards. The Committee are unable to accept the submission made by the Department that single allocation would result in better need assessment, planning and more efficient utilization of</p>

		<p>resources when the performance of Scheme has been very dismal as the Department could sanction 819 hostels only in 13 year period between 2007-08 to 2020-21 in total. Out of this, only 110 hostels were sanctioned since 2016-17 till date hence the Committee needs to be convinced with a speedier sanction and actual construction of hostels under BJRCY to believe that it would now prosper with a single allocation. The Committee feel that specific allocation should have been continued for this Scheme for its independent functioning without getting affected by other Schemes or vice-versa. Now that budgetary provision for three Schemes including BJRCY has been made under PM-AJAY in 2021-22, the Committee expect that at least notional allocation has been made under each Scheme from the PM-AJAY allocation, including separate allocation for Boys and Girls Hostel, so that each of the Scheme functions independently with the allocated funds and the success of each Scheme is assessed on the basis of their performance. The Committee now expect the Department to provide them data, at the action taken stage, to support and justify the new fund arrangement being successful for BJRCY under PM-AJAY, in terms of speedier completion of long pending sanctioned hostels and sanction of more number of hostels in the requisite blocks/districts, as repeatedly expressed during their discussion on the subject.</p>
2.	2.13	<p>The Committee are aghast to find that a proposal to set up residential schools for SC girls under Babu Jagjiwan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana processed by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment was not approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee despite the provision for additional funds already existing under the Scheme during the</p>

		<p>years 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Committee feel that setting up such residential schools would undoubtedly give an opportunity to SC girls to enhance their educational level because it is often seen that due to the increasing cost of education, SC girls do not get preference over their male siblings for schooling. The representative of the Ministry also echoed this view by stating that parents of girl students are not likely to send their wards for studies if proper hostel facilities are not available. In this connection, the Committee also feel that the education standard of existing Govt. Schools in many States is still not very encouraging hence it is premature for the Central Government to stop setting up of residential Schools for SC girls in the country. The Committee would therefore like the Department of Social justice and Empowerment to re-submit their earlier proposal for setting up residential Schools for SC girls in the Country for consideration of the Expenditure Finance Committee while conveying the sentiments of this Parliamentary Committee, under intimation to them at the appropriate stage.</p>
3.	3.19	<p>The Committee are perturbed to note that the Department does not have the details of all SC hostels set up under the Scheme since the provision for construction of Hostels for SC girls was made way back in 1961-66. In fact, the Department was able to provide the details of only such hostels to the Committee, which were sanctioned/completed after the Scheme was revised in 2007-08. The justification of the Department for the same was the records not being readily available as the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment underwent restructuring during 2007-08 and as a result Ministry of Minority Affairs and a part of the Ministry of</p>

		<p>Women and Child development were carved out as separate Ministries from it. Nonetheless it is utterly surprising that the Department of Social justice and Empowerment has not been able to retrieve a record of just 46 years (1961-2007) for this Scheme since then. The Department was not able to give convincing reply to the Committee when they appeared before the Committee twice. It was later informed that an exercise has been undertaken for retrieving records after the Committee insisted, including asking the Project Monitoring Unit to collect the information. The Committee hope that the Department have now conducted an exhaustive exercise for compilation of details of all the SC hostels sanctioned till date and desire to be informed of the progress made/data collected in this regard at the Action Taken stage, as committed by the Secretary of the Department.</p>
4.	3.20	<p>The Committee are sad to note that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been able to sanction only 819 hostels <i>i.e.</i> 391 for girls and 271 for boys, since the revision of the Scheme in 2007-08 against the objective of the Scheme to have Girls/Boys Hostel in every block headquarters of low literacy districts. Out of these, only 662 have been constructed so far, 144 are statedly under construction and 13 have been cancelled by the States due to various reasons. After further revision of the Scheme in 2018 and 2020, where two major decisions were taken regarding discontinuation of Central assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Institutions/ Deemed Universities for expansion of their hostels and reduction in criteria of SC population from 20 percent or more to 15 percent or more, the Scheme seems to have hit a roadblock as the Department have been able to</p>

	<p>sanction only 62 Hostels since then. On being enquired, the Department has statedly held States/UTs responsible for poor performance as sanction for construction of a hostel under the Scheme depends upon the receipt of complete proposals from them. The Committee are also disturbed to note that the States/UTs having comparatively larger SC population like Punjab, Bihar, etc. have been sanctioned less hostels and even the sanctioned ones have not been made operational in many cases. Hence, the Committee strongly believe that the onus of making the Scheme successful is on the Department as the Scheme was started by them for creating the hostel facility so that the SC girls/boys hailing from rural and educationally backward areas of the country are able to attain and complete quality education, and thus, they are not justified in expressing their helplessness to improve the performance of BJRCY in the absence of proposals from States/UTs. As the number of hostels available is still much less in comparison to the existing SC population and the SC students do require hostels to continue their education, the Department has to think of innovative ideas beyond the usual measures routinely adopted by them. Since holding Meetings at various levels have not yielded desired results, it is urgently required that first of all, a reliable database is made for Hostels in various districts all over India, having real-time status updation and monitoring facility at the Central level. The Committee also wonder as to why Hostels cannot be planned in deficient districts when 100% Central Assistance can be made for the same. However appropriate parameters/benchmarks are to be specified first so that a workable action plan is chalked out. This requires collection and analysis of data. They emphasize that a mechanism has</p>
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		<p>to be evolved to make the Scheme effective as intended. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department now on these lines so that the requisite number of hostels are sanctioned, constructed and operationalised in the given time frame of two years.</p>
5.	3.21	<p>The Committee find from the recently conducted comprehensive assessment of need/demand among National Institute Ranking Framework(NIRF) ranked Institutes and Aspirational Districts for such hostels that some of the NIRF ranked Institutes and a few Aspirational districts have shown the requirement of Hostels. The Committee also note that a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) has been setup under the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) to collect information on availability and requirement of hostels for SC students in various districts and Blocks. The Committee feel that the assessment of required hostels must be conducted in a time bound manner without any further delay, with engagements of persons having requisite experience in the field so that work is done meticulously and reliable data is collected to decide upon a definite course of action. The Committee would like to be informed of the assessment of number of hostels and the parameters fixed for making the assessment at the Action Taken stage. The Committee are surprised to note that even today there is no online portal for submission of proposals by the implementing Agencies under the Scheme and feel that the creation of an online portal will help in accelerating the process of sanction and construction of hostels in a time bound manner. The Committee hence recommend that the Department should create an online portal without any further delay, under intimation to them.</p>

6.	4.16	<p>The Committee are surprised to find that the construction work of 144 hostels is yet to be completed and that 13 hostels has been cancelled, out of total 819 hostels sanctioned for SC girls and boys. They find that construction work of many hostels has been inordinately delayed since many of these hostels were sanctioned as early as 2008-09. In addition, the work of 8 private hostels is also incomplete. The Committee cannot but feel that despite the scheme being in existence for 6 decades, the Department has not developed any mechanism which could ensure that the sanctioned hostels are timely constructed. However, now several initiatives are being taken, after the revision of the Scheme in 2018 and 2020, by the Department including assigning Project monitoring Units the responsibility to keep a check on the progress of work as well as incorporating a stipulation that land on which hostel is to be built should be either owned by the State Government or by the Institute and the title of land should be free from any dispute, which should yield positive results. The Committee were also informed during evidence that the Department would be preferring institutions having large land area of their own to construct such hostels. The Committee hope that with these systems in place now, above said 144 hostels would be constructed within the prescribed time limit of two years. The Committee suggest Department to examine incorporating suitable penal provisions in the guidelines for the projects getting delayed beyond the specified time period. They recommend that the Department must take suitable measures so that the hostels so far sanctioned to Private Institutes are completed. For the cancelled hostels, concerned State/UT Governments should be encouraged to submit fresh and complete proposals. The Committee would</p>
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		like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard by the Department in their Action Taken Notes.
7	4.17	The Committee find that under the scheme, 144 hostels sanctioned long back have not been completed, out of which 8 hostels are under Private Institutions. In order to complete the projects, the Department sent reminders four times and held a video conference too albeit with hardly any result. The Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Department now to send a team of 20 personnel to the 14 States, where incomplete hostels are reported, to take stock of the ground situation. As committed by the Department before the Committee, a consolidated report on the same alongwith photographs would be submitted to them following the completion of this exercise. The Committee expect it at the action taken stage.
8	4.18	The Committee note that the Central assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations, Private Institutions and Deemed Universities for expansion of hostels has been discontinued after the revision of guidelines of BJRCY in 2018. Prior to this 62 hostels were sanctioned for such institutions. While the Committee feel that the issue must have been deliberated extensively before discontinuation of this provision, it is worth mentioning that some of the private Institutions/Deemed Universities are doing outstanding work in the education field in the country however studying at such Institutions can be very expensive beyond the means of SC students, who can, at least, get the benefit of free hostel, if constructed under BJRCY. The Committee strongly feel that the provision with regard to Central assistance to private Institutions/Deemed

		Universities for expansion of hostels, barring Non-Governmental Organisations, after detailed scrutiny of their credentials, may be re-examined if there is a scope for the same under PM-AJAY.
9	5.19	<p>The Committee note that the Implementing Agencies are exclusively responsible for the operation of hostels and their maintenance. As per the guidelines, facilities like in house coaching, medical care, periodical health camps, IT education, sports coaching, lady warden and night watchmen in Girls Hostels including grievance redressal mechanism are to be made available for the inmates of the hostels. Implementing Agencies are also responsible for publicity about admissions in hostels. The Committee are unhappy to find that the facilities available in the hostels are found to be not satisfactory by the department and are therefore required to be scrupulously monitored regularly. Submission of reports by the implementing agencies has probably become a routine exercise and hence may not serve the desired objective. The inmates of the hostels cannot be left at the mercy of the implementing agencies, more so because they belong to those factions of society which may not come forth about their problems due to fear/lack of confidence. The Committee would therefore like the Department to extend their role beyond funding. The Department needs to keep track of the hostel functioning through Hostel Management Committees, as recommended by NITI Aayog, and evolve suitable digitized mechanisms so that all the relevant information is readily available with the Department instead of relying on the age old system of Reports submitted by implementing agencies. As has already been emphasized by the Committee, the</p>

		<p>Department should develop a software to keep real time information about the occupancy status and ensure that sufficient publicity is given so that hostels have 100% occupancy. The Committee also desire that directions should be issued to all the implementing agencies to develop a grievance redressal mechanism for hostel inmates, apart from surprise inspections/social audit so that every complaint/grievance can be addressed properly without any delay.</p>
10	5.20	<p>The Committee find that the Department has fixed separate Cost Norms for construction of hostels in North Eastern Region, Northern Himalayan Regions and Gangetic plains and lower Himalayan Region and for the repair and maintenance of the hostels. The Committee are surprised to note that the cost norms have been recently revised on the recommendation of School of Planning and Architecture. The Committee are unable to understand the reasons due to which the cost norms were not revised timely to absorb the inflation effect. They strongly believe that had the Department revised cost norms in time, they may have received more proposals from the States/UTs for construction of hostels which could have benefitted many needy SC students. The Committee hence recommend that the construction cost as well as repair and maintenance cost should be revised in regular periodicity to absorb inflation effect so that realistic cost norms are framed which would result in a better performance.</p>
11	5.21	<p>On the overall assessment of the Scheme, the Committee observe that the Centrally sponsored Scheme of construction of Hostels for SC girls and boys has been in place from 1961-66 and 1989-90 respectively followed by Babu Jagjivan Ram</p>

		<p>Chhatrawas Yojana in 2007-2008, which was revised twice in 2018 and 2020. Despite bringing out changes to improve its performance the Scheme has not taken off though it underwent repeated changes in the Scheme. Only 819 hostels have been sanctioned till date and 662 have been constructed so far. What is most disheartening is that out of these, actually functioning hostels number a mere 366 i.e. 344 for SC girls and 22 for SC boys. This is quite insufficient for such a large SC poor population in the country. The Committee cannot but conclude that the Scheme has not been operated by the successive nodal Departments with the requisite zeal and enthusiasm. Most surprising is that the Scheme has not done well even after the creation of an exclusive Ministry for ensuring Social Justice and Empowerment to the deprived sections from 2004 onwards. The fact that the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has not been able to retrieve the record of the Hostels set up prior to the revision of the Scheme in 2007-08 even after a span of 15 years is ample proof of the same. While the Committee have been convinced that a Project monitoring Unit, recently set up to monitor the functioning and progress of construction of hostels, will boost the pending projects, the Committee are skeptical as it appears from the response of the Department that full responsibility has been entrusted over a Unit, wherein young professionals have been engaged with the hope to rectify a Scheme that has been floundering for decades. While the Committee trust the best intentions of the Department yet they are of the view that if the Scheme is to achieve its enshrined objectives then the Department needs to revisit their own mechanisms and think of out-of-the-box solutions to address the flaws and plug the leakages under the new initiative of</p>
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		<p>Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY). The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to consider constitution of a dedicated body for operation of the Scheme on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Eklavya Model residential Schools, etc. particularly as the Scheme is now proposed to be Centrally funded in toto.</p>
12	6.7	<p>The Committee are unhappy to find that despite the provision of Steering Committee to monitor and review the progress of construction/completion of hostels and also monitor the functioning and occupancy, neither the work of construction nor the functioning of the hostels is satisfactory. They wonder whether such a Committee is in existence, and, if existing, whether it meets regularly at all to address various issues. Had the work been taken seriously and field visits conducted to inspect the lingering projects, the Scheme would not have underperformed. Since the work has now been entrusted to Project Monitoring Units, the Committee would like to believe that the situation can improve. The Committee needs the findings of PMU and future action plan based on the inputs to know the actual progress. The Committee are also of strong opinion that a dedicated Hostel Monitoring Committee may be constituted to monitor the progress and functioning of the hostels for the proper implementation of Scheme and appropriate penal provisions may be put in place for the violation of established norms. The Committee feel that the recommendations of Niti Aayog with regard to robust monitoring mechanism to improve the efficiency in monitoring must be suitably incorporated in the guidelines of the Scheme for its better implementation.</p>

