

Report
No.321



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION, WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORTS

THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST REPORT
ON

**Action Taken Notes on 314th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demand
for Grants (2020-21) of Ministry of Women and Child Development**

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 02nd February, 2021)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 02nd February, 2021)



Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
February, 2021 /Magha, 1942, (Saka)

Hindi version of this publication is also available

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(Constituted w.e.f. 13th September, 2020)

1. **Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudhe** **Chairman**

RAJYA SABHA

2. Smt. Arpita Ghosh
3. Shri. Bhubaneswar Kalita
4. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
5. Dr. Sasmit Patra
6. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
7. Shri Gopal Narayan Singh
8. Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh
9. Dr. M. Thambidurai
10. Shri G.K. Vasani

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
12. Shri D. M Kathir Anand
13. Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen
14. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
15. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
16. * Shri Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya)
17. Shri Sangamlal Kadedin Gupta
18. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
19. Dr. Jaisiddeshwar Shivacharya Mahaswamiji
20. Shri Asit Kumar Mal
21. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
22. Shri Balak Nath
23. Shri Chandeshwar Prasad
24. Shri T. N. Prathapan
25. Shri Ratansinh Magansinh Rathod
26. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
27. Shri Vishnu Dutt Sharma
28. Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma
29. Shri Dharambir Singh
30. Shri S. Venkatesan
31. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

* Nominated w.e.f. 30.12.2020.

SECRETARIAT

Dr. Shikha Darbari, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor

Shri Ashok K.Sahoo, Director

Ms. Chitra G., Deputy Secretary

Shri. Mohit Misra, Committee Officer

Smt. Suman Khurana, Committee Officer

Smt. Meera Nair, Assistant Research Officer

PREFACE

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Three Hundred and Twenty First Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Three Hundred and Fourteenth Report on the Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Action Taken Notes were received from the Department of Women and Child Development on 7th July, 2020.

2. Three Hundred and Fourteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 2020 and simultaneously laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 6th March, 2020. Replies of the Government to the observations/recommendations contained in the Report were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 21st January, 2021.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 21st January, 2021 .

NEW DELHI
21st January, 2021
Magha/1942 (Saka)

Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe
Chairman
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Education, Women,
Children, Youth and Sports

REPORT

The Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in its 314 Report on the Demands for Grants 2020-21 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which was presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 6th March, 2020.

2. The Action Taken Notes in respect of observations/recommendations contained in above mentioned Report were received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 7th July, 2020. These have been categorized as follows.

Chapter I : Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Paras-2.7, 2.8, 3.5, 9.4

Total- 4

Chapter II : Observations/Recommendations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:-

Paras- 2.17, 3.8, 3.10, 3.19, 4.9, 6.4, 8.5, 11.5, 14.5

Total- 9

Chapter III : Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:-

Paras- 2.14, 3.13, 3.16, 3.17, 4.7, 4.8, 5.5, 7.5, 8.4, 10.5, 12.4, 13.6,

Total- 12

Chapter-IV: Observation/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government is still awaited:-

Paras- Nil

Total- Nil

CHAPTER-I

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Observation/recommendation

1. *That there is an urgent need to increase the percentage share of budget of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the GOI budget to meet the needs and requirements of growing population of women and children, so that schemes and programmes being run for them do not suffer any shortfall in resources.*

(Para-2.7)

Action Taken

Budget

The recommendation is noted. The Ministry has been pursuing the issue with Ministry of Finance

Poshan

So far POSHAN Abhiyaan is concerned, budget allocation for this scheme is as under:-
(amount in ₹ lakh)

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1500.00	3000.00	3400.00	3700.00

Therefore, allocation for POSHAN Abhiyaan has been increased every year.

ICDS

The financial allocations to the States/UTs are made on the basis of Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) submitted by them, keeping the growing population of women and children registered under the scheme. The APIPs are considered and approved by the Empowered Programme Committee headed by Secretary, MWCD.

Child welfare

Under Child Protection Services sufficient funds have been provided during 2020-21.

Crèche

Expenditure for 2019-20 under Budget Head of National Crèche Scheme was Rs.47.77 crores *i.e.* 95.54% of BE (Rs 50.00 Cr.) and B.E. 2020-21 for National Crèche Scheme is Rs.75.00 crore which is in compliance with these observations.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

The scheme is being implemented in all India covering 640 districts (as per Census 2011), Of these **405 districts** are covered under multi- sectoral intervention along with Media Advocacy under direct supervision of DMs/DCs and all 640 **districts** are covered through advocacy & media campaign. BBBP Scheme is 100 percent funded by the Central Government and funds are directly transferred to designated BBBP account.

BE allocated for BBBP for the year 2020- 21 is sufficient looking at the trend of expenditure by the districts in previous year & also due to media campaigns/creative, as far as possible, being disseminated on pro-bono basis and through new age social media platforms with minimum expenditure.

Media

Expenditure for 2019-20 under Media Head was Rs.72.68 crores and accordingly, B.E. 2020-21 for Media Head is Rs.100.00 crore which is in compliance with these comments in so far as Media Division is concerned.

Gender Budgeting, Research, Publication and Monitoring.

As far as the Scheme is concerned, the scheme is demand driven and depends upon the quality of the proposals and its usefulness for the programmes and policy formulation of the Ministry. Under the scheme, sufficient funds have been provided during 2020-21.

Working Women Hostel (WWH)

At present, financial resources provided under the Working Women Hostel Scheme are adequate to meet the needs and requirements raised under the Scheme.

Ujjawala & Swadhar

The budget is prepared according to prospective number of beneficiaries under the target group. Report/recommendation of the state govt. is sought to ensure that there no short falls in resources

SAG

There is no shortfall in resources under Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG).

NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION (NNM)

Observation/recommendation

2. *That gap between the projected demand of the Ministry for each of its programmes and the actual allocations needs to be bridged completely. As any gap would mean either targets are being compromised or intended beneficiaries are not being covered. Both the things would defeat the purpose of the schemes meant for the benefit of the most vulnerable section of the society i.e. women and children. In this background, the Committee recommends the Ministry to make realistic demands and convince the Ministry of Finance to get its projected demands met.*

(Para-2.8)

Action Taken

Budget

The Ministry has been making realistic demands based on the actual needs as communicated by various States and UT Governments. However, as recommended by the Committee, the proposal will be fine tuned further in consultation with other stakeholders in future.

Poshan

In so far as POSHAN Abhiyaan is concerned, there is no gap between projected demand and its allocations. Allocation of budgets has been done judiciously and optimally.

ICDS

The demands are made as per the cost norms of the Scheme, approved by cabinet committee and final funds are released as per the actual number of beneficiaries benefited under the scheme.

Hence, an increase in demand is justifying keeping in view the growing population.

Child Welfare-II

Under Child Protection Services, sufficient funds have been provided during 2020-21

Crèche

Expenditure for 2019-20 under Budget Head of National Creche Scheme was Rs.47.77 crores i.e. 95.54% of BE (Rs 50.00 Cr.) and B.E. 2020-21 for National Creche Scheme is Rs.75.00 crore which is in compliance with these observations.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

The B.E. for 2020-21 is as per the observations regarding implementation of the scheme during previous years and are more in tune with the implementation on ground and also due to dissemination of media campaigns/creative, as far as possible, on pro-bono basis and through new age social media platforms with minimum expenditure.

Media

Expenditure for 2019-20 under Media Head was Rs.72.68 crores and accordingly, B.E. 2020-21 for Media Head is Rs.100.00 crore which is in compliance with these comments in so far as Media Division is concerned.

Gender Budgeting, Research, Publication and Monitoring.

In so far as the scheme is concerned, there is no gap between projected demand and its allocations. Allocation of budgets has been done judiciously and optimally.

Working Women Hostel (WWH)

To bridge the gap between the fund allocation and release continuous measures are taken by holding regular meeting, video conferences, written/telephonic communication with the State officials for timely dispatch of the requisite documents for release of funds for New projects and on-going projects under Working Women Hostel Scheme.

Ujjawala & Swadhar

In so far as Swadhar and Ujjawala schemes are concerned, there is no gap between projected demand and its allocations. Allocation of budgets has been done judiciously and optimally.

SAG

The projected demand and allocation under SAG is same. There is no further financial demand under SAG.

Observations/Recommendations

3. *That the Ministry to be more vigilant in preparing their Annual Action Plan and presenting their proposals before the Ministry of Finance in a structured manner so that variations in budget allocations are observed.*

(Para-3.5)

Action Taken

Budget

Due care shall be taken in future while preparing the Annual Action Plan and presenting the proposal before the Ministry of Finance in a structured manner so that the variations in budget allocation are not observed

WOMEN WELFARE SCHEMES

Observations/Recommendations

4. *“ The Committee while noting the reply of the Ministry observes that safety and security of women is of utmost importance and there is a need for effective implementation of the schemes meant for providing immediate institutional relief to women in distress. It would be a complete irony that on the one hand crime against women is rising and on the other hand fund allocated to enhance the safety and security of women remaining underutilized. The Committee, recommends optimum utilization of funds under both the schemes and better implementation by States/UTs in coordination with Ministry of Women and Child Development.”*

(Para-9.4)

Action Taken

Women Welfare

MWCD has noted the observations of the PSC for compliance. Further, the Women Welfare Division has been undertaking multifarious methods for procuring Utilisation Certificates (UC) and Statements of Expenditure (SOE) from Districts for the One Stop Centre (OSC) and Women Helpline Schemes for expediting release of funds. Review meetings have been held from time to time on 10.10.2019, 02.01.2020, 03.01.2020, 24.01.2020 and 28.01.2020 for procuring UC-SOEs from districts. Meetings with officers of individual States and UTs have been held from time to time on regular basis to pursue for UC-SoEs and other implementation issues of these Schemes. OSC visits have been conducted across the country by MWCD officials from time to time at the level of Under Secretary and above. Apart from this State Women Helplines have also been requested telephonic support for following up with all remaining districts where UC-SOEs have not been received. Video conferences are held on regular basis with State, UT and district officers for this purpose. Nine Rounds of Video Conferences have been undertaken with District Nodal Officers covering over 225 districts for review of submission of UCs and SOEs in May, 2020 and the remaining are in process. Apart from all the above, frequent telephonic follow up is done from WW Division of MWCD with District Nodal Officers for this purpose, as well as to sort out issues and guide and handhold them in preparation of UCs & SOEs.

CHAPTER-II

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

BUDEGATORY ALLOCATION

Observation/recommendation

1. *That the Ministry to exercise financial prudence and make endeavour to utilize the allocated funds optimally and judiciously. The Ministry may devise a framework for cent percent utilization of funds and fix responsibilities for any lapse at any level. The Ministry may re-appropriate under utilised funds for other schemes facing shortage of fund after taking orders of the appropriate authorities at revised stage.*

(Para-2.17)

Action Taken

Budget

Utmost care is taken to observe fiscal discipline while implementing the schemes and programmes of the Ministry. The Ministry aims to invest carefully in social expenditure and fully utilize the funds allocated for a specific purpose. The excess or savings of budget is required to be explained. Detailed review of requirement under various schemes and programmes vis-a-vis the rate of expenditure is conducted at the RE stage and funds are re-appropriated as and when required.

ICDS

The Government of India, under Anganwadi Services of umbrella ICDS provides grants in aid to the States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio as per the guidelines approved by the Cabinet. The scheme is implemented by States/UTs and funds are released on the basis of SoEs and UCs submitted by them.

SAG

The Division takes exercise for optimal use of resources through revised estimate and re-appropriation as and when necessary

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

Observations/Recommendations

2. *That since the Anganwadi Services aim at improving the nutritional and health status of children and women Anganwadi services be delivered to the targeted beneficiaries in rural and remote areas in a mission mode and sustainable manner.*

(Para-3.8)

Action Taken

States/UTs have been advised to re-assess their requirement of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and relocate AWCs considering the need. While relocating, the aspect of availability of adequate land, building, water facilities, ease of access of pregnant women and children besides maximum travel distance not being more than 5 km in case of urban areas, 3 km in rural areas and

1.5 km in tribal areas for the AWWs is to be kept in view. Besides, improved water and sanitation facilities, Pre-school education and Medicine Kits are provided at the AWCs.

Most of the habitats across the country have been covered under the Anganwadi Services. If there is any habitat left without Anganwadi Centers, those will be covered in due course of time.

Observations/Recommendations

3. *That the Ministry to take up the matter of gap between sanctioned and operational Anganwadi centres in some States with the respective State Governments and make concerted efforts in removing the bottlenecks hindering the operationalisation of sanctioned AWCs/Mini AWCs in these States and also assess the need to have more Anganwadi centres in the urban areas and take steps to sanction and operationalize them.*

(Para-3.10)

Action Taken

ICDS

From time to time, this Ministry issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to operationalize the non- operational Anganwadi Centres. This has been discussed in various National Level Review meetings as well. Currently, there are approximately 13.81 lakh operational AWCs across the country out of the total of around 14 lakh sanctioned AWCs.

States/UTs have been advised to re-assess their requirement of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and relocate AWCs considering the need. While relocating, the aspect of availability of adequate land, building, water facilities, ease of access of pregnant women and children besides maximum travel distance not being more than 5 km in case of urban areas, 3 km in rural areas and 1.5 km in tribal areas for the AWWs is to be kept in view. Besides, improved water and sanitation facilities, Pre-school education and Medicine Kits are provided at the AWCs. Most of the habitats across the country have been covered under the Anganwadi Services. If there is any habitat left without Anganwadi Centers, those will be covered in due course of time.

Observations/Recommendations

4. *That more remuneration is paid to the AWWs/AWHs and Union Government to impress upon the States/UTs, which are paying nominal amounts to the AWWs and AWHs, to increase remunerations of AWWs/AWHs adequately.*

(Para-3.19)

Action Taken

Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), being honorary workers, are paid a monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time. The Government has, recently, enhanced honorarium to AWWs from ₹ 3,000/- to ₹ 4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini-AWCs from ₹ 2,250/- to ₹ 3,500/- per month; AWHs from ₹ 1,500/- to ₹ 2,250/- per month; and introduced performance linked incentive of ₹ 250/- per month to AWHs effective from 1st October, 2018. Further, the AWWs are allowed performance linked incentive of ₹ 500/- per month for using ICDS-CAS under POSHAN Abhiyaan.

In addition to the honoraria paid by the Government of India, most of the States/UTs are also giving monetary incentives to these workers out of their own resources.

National Nutrition Mission (NNM)

Observations/Recommendations

5. *That wide-spread publicity must be given to POSHAN Abhiyaan so that beneficiaries may avail the benefits of the scheme.*

(Para-4.9)

Action Taken

Jan Andolan is the core component of the POSHAN Abhiyaan and Jan Andolan activities are being organized with great enthusiasm. IEC Campaigns are conducted both by the Central Government and State Governments. Community Based Events (CBEs) are conducted twice in a month at Anganwadi Centres involving community and local leaders. During the “Poshan Maah-2019”, 3.66 crore activities were organized in a period of 30 days. In addition to the Poshan Maah, 3.29 crore Community Based Events (CBEs) have been organized so far under the POSHAN Abhiyaan at the Anganwadis. “Poshan Maah-2019”echoed well in the social media platforms. More than 34 lakh impressions were generated on Twitter and 8.6 lakh impressions were generated on Facebook. Informative messages were also circulated among groups on WhatsApp.

To give a further push to the Jan-Andolan, the Ministry has got a “Poshan Anthem” prepared which has been written by noted lyricist Shri Prasoon Joshi and composed by Shri Shanker Mahadevan. The Anthem was launched on 3rd December, 2019 by the Hon’ble Vice President of India and was rolled out for awareness.

PRADHAN MANTRI MATRITVA VANDAN YOJNA (PMMVY)

Observations/Recommendations

6. *The scheme is picking up the pace slowly and States/UTs have started taking benefits of the scheme. However, there are States/UTs which have not been taking advantage of the Scheme in true letter and spirit. The details reveal that in case of Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar no disbursal of fund has taken place as on 31.12.2019 even though a number of beneficiaries have been listed in these States under the scheme. Telangana show zero fund disbursal and not even a single beneficiary is listed under the scheme. Odisha also has zero fund disbursal and shows five beneficiaries. Further, in respect of some other States such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc. where reported number of beneficiaries are huge, reported fund disbursal in comparison appears to be quite low. The Committee would like to know from the Ministry the reasons for such slow pace of implementation in these States/UTs. The Committee feels that it is the implementation of the scheme which is lacking and there is need to plug in the loopholes in implementation process. The Committee, accordingly, recommend that loopholes in the implementation of the scheme be removed in coordination with the States/UTs to make the scheme result oriented and more awareness programme to be conducted in far flung and rural areas so that the benefits of the scheme percolate down to the intended beneficiaries.*

(Para-6.4)

Action Taken

Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandan Yojna (PMMVY)

It is true that the no fund was released to the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar during the year 2019-20 (as on 31.12.2019). However, the beneficiaries were being paid by these States during the aforesaid period from the unspent balance of previous years available with them. Similarly, in other cases also where the reported number of beneficiaries are huge in comparison to the funds released during 2019-20 (as on 31.12.2019) is due to the beneficiaries being paid from the unspent balance of previous years. The details of total number of beneficiaries paid and funds released to various States/UTs during the year 2019- 20 are **Annexed**. As far as implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) in the States of Odisha and Telangana is concerned, both these States are implementing their own Maternity Benefit Programmes and have not yet started implementation of PMMVY in their respective States.

The Ministry reviewing the implementation of the scheme periodically through Video Conferences with States/UTs and through National and Regional level workshops. Consequently, the uptake of the scheme has increased and more and more beneficiaries are brought under the ambit of the scheme.

The Ministry is also providing financial assistance to all States/UTs for carrying out Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in their respective State/UT.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION SCHEMES

Observations/Recommendations

7. That more efforts are required to be made in the States/UTs having lower SRB than the National average of 931. The Ministry to conduct socio economic study at District level in this States/UTs to understand the cause of low SRB and frame suitable strategies to get effective results. Best practices of well performing States/UTs may also be replicated in low performing States/UTs.

(Para-8.5)

Action Taken

SRB data is received on annual basis from MoH&FW. Currently out of 405 multi-sectoral intervention Districts 214 Districts from 26 States/UTs are below the National average of 931 (2018-19). After receiving the latest data of SRB of F.Y. 2019-20 from MoH&FW, the same will be analysed to identify Districts having SRB below National average.

A letter will be sent to Districts having low SRB for conducting a study to identify District specific gaps and plan strategies for addressing the same, using budget under evaluation, monitoring and Documentation head.

Ministry has already carried out a third party evaluation of BBBP, recommendations and findings of which will be shared with the Districts for better planning.

Districts will also be requested to engage other line Departments for developing comprehensive District Action Plan to address the issue.

Ministry has also developed a compendium of best practices to encourage Districts to take innovative actions pertaining to their local need, which could be replicated.

UJJAWALA SCHEME

Observation/recommendation

8. *That besides optimum utilization of funds there should be effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that concerned NGOs are implementing the Ujjawala scheme effectively and the scheme is implemented in the border, rural and remote areas which are more prone to trafficking of women and children in a focused manner.*

(Para-11.5)

Action Taken

Ujjawala

There is a 3 tier monitoring mechanism at District, State and Central level. In addition to this, separate periodic evaluations of the projects are also undertaken by reputed institutions, Panchayati Raj institutions, Block level institutions at district level. At central level several meetings, video conferences, communication with State officials/Stakeholders take place for monitoring and effective implementation of the scheme and to pursue new proposals from the State/UT so that all the area/ region is covered.

CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AGENCY (CARA)

Observation/recommendation

12. *The Ministry to look into the issues of post adoption well-being of the children especially in case of children adopted by parents living abroad so that the Children's safety can be ensured.*

(Para-14.5)

Action Taken

Child Welfare

Section 59(11) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides for the Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA), or Central Authority, or the concerned Government department, as the case may be, to ensure that the progress report about the child in the adoptive family are submitted on a timely basis.

Apart from this, Regulation 19 of the Adoption Regulations , 2017 stipulates that the AFAA or the Central Authority or Indian Diplomatic Mission or Government Department concerned, as the case may be, shall report the progress of the adopted child for two years from the date of arrival of the adopted child in the receiving country, on a quarterly basis during the first year and on six monthly basis in the second year.

Furthermore, Regulation 40 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017 mandates the Indian Diplomatic Mission to liaise with Central Authorities concerned to ensure safeguards of children of Indian origin adopted by NRIs, OCIs and foreign parents against neglect maltreatment, exploitation or abuse and organise or participate in get- togethers of the adopted children and their parents.

CHAPTER-III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NMEW)

Observation/recommendation

1. *That women empowerment and protection schemes also given equal attention and priority, greater allocation, full utilization and focused implementation of various schemes related to women and their universalisation.*

(Para-2.14)

Action Taken

Creche

Not concerned with National Creche Scheme directly since the main objective of this scheme is to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months- 6 years) of working mothers including an integrated package of the following services:

- i. Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
- ii. Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
- iii. Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced)
- iv. Growth Monitoring.
- v. Health Check-up and Immunization.

MSK

Regular follow-up with States/UTs (telephonic and email/letters) undertaken to expedite recruitment of contractual staff wherever pending.

Format developed & circulated to all States/UTs to enable monthly monitoring of scheme implementation.

State/district level structures under MSK directed to book funds for activities undertaken from MSK Budget head.

Special efforts in States having larger number of aspirational districts taken through regular Whatsapp/Video Conferencing and letters to respective district nodal officers to facilitate engagement and awareness generation through student volunteers

Research, Publication and Monitoring.

The Research Scheme under the women empowerment and protection schemes is given equal attention and priority. The scheme tries to utilize the fund by sponsoring good projects that are useful for the programmes and policy formulation of the Ministry.

Working Women Hostel (WWH)

The Scheme is being implemented with full attention and utmost priority.

Swadhar and Ujjawala

The Schemes are being implemented with full attention and utmost priority.

Further Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised about the status of the District Level Centres for Women (DLCW) under the MSK Scheme. It is noted by the Committee that only 24 districts have functional DLCWs so far. Of the most backward districts in India, ten which are situated in Bihar, not a single DLCW has been set up yet. Similarly, of the 19 districts of Jharkhand and in Chhattisgarh no DLCW has been made operational. The status on the number of DLCWs set up and the number of women who benefitted from them shows that the scheme was not properly implemented. Further, the Committee would like to know the status of the Central Sector Scheme Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) and the list of NGOs involved in funding the scheme.

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SCHEME (ICDS)

Observations/Recommendations

2. *That all the sanctioned Anganwadi centres must be run with proper infrastructure if quality services are to be rendered to the beneficiaries.*

(Para-3.13)

Action Taken

At present there are 14 lakh (approx.) sanctioned AWCs of which approximately 13.81 lakh AWCs are operational as on 31.12.2019. Under the existing Anganwadi Services Scheme, there is a provision for construction of AWC buildings in rural areas under convergence with MGNREGS @ Rs. 7.00 lakh per AWC building. Under this component, Rs. 5.00 lakh are provided by MoRD under MGNREGS, Rs. 1.00 is provided by the respective State/UT and Rs. 1.00 lakh is provided by MWCD after completion of construction work of AWC building.

Under the existing scheme, there is provision for up-gradation and maintenance of AWC buildings. Funds under both the components are released to States/UTs @ Rs. 2.00 lac per AWC building for up-gradation and Rs. 3,000/- per AWC for maintenance in the prescribed cost sharing ratio.

Further Comments of the Committee

The Committee notes that the Anganwadis are quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education and as a result, they tend to contain fewer children from 4-6 years of age range. Further, there are still shortage of toilet facilities and drinking water facilities in AWCs across the country. The Committee therefore would like to be apprised about the specific interventions made by the Ministry in this regard.

Observation/recommendation

3. *That the Ministry must take up the recruitment of Anganwadi functionaries with the States/UTs in a mission mode manner so that vacant positions are filled up expeditiously and quality services are rendered to the beneficiaries.*

(Para-3.16)

Action Taken

States/UTs have been advised from time to time for filling up the vacant posts of Anganwadi Services functionaries for proper implementation of the scheme and to ensure functioning of scheme without any hindrance. The State Governments/UT Administrations have also been requested to consider services rendered as AWWs as additional qualifications for being recruited as Primary School Teachers, ANMs & other such village based posts; and to recruit at least 50% of supervisors under ICDS Scheme from matriculate AWWs with 10 years' experience. Further, the revised guidelines issued by this Ministry provide for filling up of 50% vacancies in the posts of Supervisors from amongst AWWs with requisite qualifications and ten years' service as AWWs.

Observations/Recommendations

4. *That the Ministry to ensure that its advisory of exercising the diligence is followed by the States and the UTs and registration and final selection of the Anganwadi functionaries alongwith their qualifications and experience is made digital so as to include an element of fairplay in the selection of Anganwadi functionaries.*

(Para-3.17)

Action Taken

The administration, management & monitoring including recruitment/ selection of anganwadi functionaries for implementation of the Anganwadi Services Scheme are being done by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. In case any grievance/complaint is received for corruption in recruitment of Anganwadi Services' functionaries, the same is forwarded to the concerned State Government/UT Administration for necessary action. Further, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to recruit at least 50% of supervisors under ICDS Scheme from matriculate AWWs with 10 years' experience.

As regards promotion of AWWs to the post of Supervisors, the revised guidelines issued by this Ministry provide for filling up of 50% vacancies in the posts of Supervisors from amongst AWWs with requisite qualifications and ten years' service as AWWs.

Further Comments of the Committee (Paras 3.16 & 3.17)

The Committee, would like to know about the outcome of delegating the power to recruit AWWs/AWHs and Supervisors (against promotion quota) to the District Magistrates/District Collectors in 115 districts of the country for filling up of vacancies of Anganwadi functionaries. The Committee may also be appraised about the status of such recruitments and the number of vacancies filled so far. The Committee feels that it is of utmost importance to redress the shortage of adequate manpower so as to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION (NNM)

Observation/recommendation

5. *That there is optimum utilization of funds under the POSHAN Scheme and better co-ordination between the Centre and the States/UTs for its effective implementation. The Members of Parliament should also be included in the implementation of the scheme.*

(Para-4.7)

Action Taken

Top leadership in the States has been associated with the POSHAN Abhiyaan. In the last one year, Hon'ble Minister, Women & Child Development has reviewed the progress of POSHAN Abhiyaan with the Chief Ministers of 16 States. She has also written letters to the Governors, Chief Ministers, Lt. Governors and Administrators of all States/UTs to join PoshanMaah activities. Responding to her call, Governors/ Lt. Governors/Administrators and Chief Ministers of 23 States /UTs joined Poshan Maah activities. Subsequently, Hon'ble Minister also wrote letters to them to continue their association with the POSHAN Abhiyaan. Regular Video Conferencing with States/UTs is being carried out by Secretary, MWCD to review the progress of the Abhiyaan

Observation/recommendation

6. *That focused implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan is ensured in the remote and inaccessible areas where the presence of SC, ST, Minority Communities and other disadvantaged communities is relatively high and which need institutional support from the Government. Availability of regional food items and cultural preferences may also be integrated with this abhiyaan to make it inclusive.*

(Para-4.8)

Action Taken

POSHAN Abhiyaan is implemented in all the States/UTs and includes the remote and inaccessible areas where the presence of SC, ST, Minority Communities and other disadvantaged communities is relatively high. West Bengal is yet to implement the Abhiyaan.

The Ministry in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is documenting traditional dietary practises and traditional Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategies across the states. The best states practices and strategies will be disseminated through national, regional and State workshops and through the media.

Further Comments of the Committee (Paras 4.7 & 4.8)

The Committee observes that although in Financial Year 2020-21 Budget Estimates (BEs), allocated 3,700 crore for the Mission, which is a 9 per cent increase from previous year's Revised Estimates (REs), the utilization of funds under the scheme has been consistently low. On average, only 34 per cent of fund was spent over the cumulative period from FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20. Further, there are differences in the quantum of funds received by States. The variance in utilisation of funds is also serious concern, specifically due to stunting of children less than 5 years in 267 districts across 22 states which is higher than the national average.

ICT-RTM is one of the largest activities within Poshan Abhiyaan. However, 74 per cent of the total expenditure incurred under ICT-RTM was on the procurement of mobile phones. This was followed by 11 per cent for recharge and maintenance of mobile phones and 7 per cent for training. In this context, the Committee strongly feels that the mission calls for an evidence-based research and planning at a grassroots level in order to employ resources on a need-based framework.

SABLA

Observations/Recommendations

7. That there is a need to strengthen the non nutrition component of the scheme especially integrating out of school adolescent girls into the schooling fold and vocational skill based training given to them which will help them integrate with the society and enable them to work for their livelihood.

(Para-5.5)

Action Taken

Sabla

It is the non nutrition component of the scheme which may prove to be helpful to the adolescent girls in mainstreaming their lives in society. Concerned efforts are being made for effective convergence with line departments/state governments for proper implementation of Non-Nutrition component of the scheme.

The monitoring and supervision mechanism set up under the ICDS Scheme at National level, State level and Community level is used for the Scheme. The Monitoring Committees at all levels are set up to check and take stock of the progress of the Scheme and also for strengthen the coordination and convergence between concerned departments. In addition to Review meetings/Field visits are undertaken by the senior officers of the Ministry. Analysis of the Progress Report given by the States/UTs is undertaken in the Ministry to identify gaps and for follow up action.

Non Nutrition services under SAG are provided @ Rs. 1.1 lakh per project per annum. Non-nutrition component of the Scheme involves convergence with Health Departments for various health related services viz. IFA supplementation, deworming, Nutrition and Health Education and with mainstreaming the out of school girls to formal education. In addition, effective convergence with other ministries such as Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs & Sports etc. has strengthened the activities under the non- nutrition component of the scheme resulting in array of services coverage of adolescent girls benefited by the scheme.

The Scheme for Adolescent Girls covers only out of school girls between 11-14 years. As per the provision of The Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act 2016 under Section 2 Clause 3 (I) **No Child shall be employed or permitted to work in any occupation or process.** As per the Section 2 of the principal Act (b) for clause (ii) of The Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act 2016 shall be substituted namely:-

‘(ii)”child” means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age or such age as may be specified in the right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which is more;

So Vocational training for Adolescent Girls in the age group of 11-14 is not applicable.

Further Comments of the Committee

The Committee doesn't accept the reply stated by the Ministry regarding the Vocational Training for adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years, that it is not feasible due to the provisions under the Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act 2016. The vocational training programmes are constituted to help the young girls to build a wide set of soft skills, such as conflict resolution, team building, and communication, which they can use in a variety of jobs. The Committee's specific recommendation is mainly integrating out of school adolescent girls into the schooling fold and vocational skill based training for enabling them to work for their livelihood in future. The Committee strongly feels that vocational training can change the life of an adolescent girl by helping them to gain financial independence, establish good saving habits, and improve their future job prospects for participation in the labour force. Therefore the Committee reiterates its recommendation that there is a need to strengthen the non-nutrition component of the scheme to prepare adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years.

INTGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME (ICPS)

Observation/recommendation

8. *That Ministry to impress upon the States/UTs to ensure that living conditions of juvenile homes improve.*

(Para-7.5)

Action Taken

Child Welfare-II

The Central Government is administering the Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme to implement the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), in which State Governments/UT Administrations have major role to play. The Ministry has been requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to identify and register all Child Care Institutions (including Juvenile Homes) under relevant provisions of JJ Act and set up functional inspection and other Committees to ensure that children in all the CCIs receive the best of care, and are not subject to any kind of abuse and neglect. The JJ Rules inter-alia specify standards for physical infrastructure, clothing, bedding, nutrition & diet, as well as rehabilitation measures such as education, vocational training, counseling etc. The State

Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to ensure, through regular inspection and monitoring, that the institutions are run as per the provisions of the Act and the Rules framed there-under.

Further Comments of the Committee

During any crisis situation, be natural disaster or pandemic, children, especially those who belong to socio-economically backward and marginalised communities, end up becoming the most vulnerable demographic. Amongst them, the children in the conflict settings are at considerable risk. The Committee feels that there are persistent problems of inadequate and trained staff, cramped space, lack of basic amenities etc. that make the living conditions in the child care institutions miserable. The Committee, accordingly, reiterates that besides strengthening institutional framework, the Ministry should provide for proper space with basic amenities and training and counselling to the staff to handle children in such homes with care and cautions so that the aim of mainstreaming these children to society may be achieved. The Committee also desires to be briefed about the measures taken to tackle the challenges that children are facing or likely to face amidst the current pandemic of novel corona virus.

BET BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP)

Observation/recommendation

9. *The cause for under utilization of funds under BBBP may be identified and remedial measures undertaken immediately.*

(Para-8.4)

Action Taken

Cause: The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme's budgetary allocation at revised estimate stage is Rs. 200 Crore, out of this, Rs.85.78 Crore, 42.89 % of funds has been spent during the F.Y. 2019-20. This is due to lesser demand from districts under BBBP during 2019-20 and promotion of BBBP with zero budget/minimum expenditure for media awareness generation campaign, besides promoting BBBP by co-branding with other programmes and initiatives of the Government.

Measure taken: Strengthen the monitoring mechanism (rigorous) and track Districts especially those have with low utilization. Video conferences with the districts (category wise) to ensure timely demand of budget (both installments) and optimum utilization of funds. DCs persuaded for timely submission of financial and physical report. Review meeting at State level with identified Districts with low fund utilization and not seeking second installment)

Further Comments of the Committee

The Committee takes note of the reply and would like to assess the status of delay while it consider next year's Demands for Grants.

NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NMEW)

Observation/recommendation

10. *That obstacles that inhibit States/UTs in making their proposals for working women hostels are removed and more publicity to the scheme is given so that women can avail this facility.*

(Para-10.5)

Action Taken

Working Women Hostel (WWH)

Since the current pattern of funding does not encourage many States for submitting proposals for the same; hence it has been proposed to convert the scheme from a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to Central Sector Scheme. Further, this Ministry has been requesting time and again all the State Governments/UTs to encourage their agencies, local bodies, Universities etc. for construction of more and more buildings for working women and also encourage the State Commissions for Women to take part in this endeavour.

Observation/recommendation

11. *That the Ministry to take steps to increase the number of Swadhar Greh and also increase their capacity gradually as per the need. The inmates of Swadhar Greh may be trained for livelihood earning under the skill India mission.*

(Para-12.4)

Action Taken

Swadhar

Meeting/video conferences with States/UTs officials were held to promote the importance of the scheme and pursue new proposals. There is provision for skill development training for the beneficiaries under the scheme. These trained beneficiaries can earn their livelihood.

Further Comments of the Committee (Paras 10.5 &12.4)

The Committee desires that the Ministry should pursue the matter with the States/Union Territory Administrations vigorously so that financial timelines are adhered to. The Committee may also be appraised about the scope and possibilities of running of Working Women Hostels in rented premises for facilitating accommodation to the working women.

Observation/recommendation

12. *That the Ministry to take up the matter of approval of Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme with the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal having a large number of backward and rural districts for its implementation. That Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) scheme to be integrated with skill India scheme for empowering the rural women economically.*

(Para-13.6)

Action Taken

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK)

Efforts at the highest level being undertaken in these States. Bihar Government has recently (February 2020) given approval for MSK Scheme implementation. Inter-sectoral convergence efforts to empower rural women through awareness generation and linkage as per entitlement through community participation of college student volunteers is being undertaken.

Further, National Conference on Policy Framework for Skilling of Women and Children organised on 14th February, 2020 to strategize future course of action.

Further Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised about the roadmap for implementing the Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. It is noted by the Committee that amongst the most backward districts in India, ten which are situated in Bihar, not a single DLCW has been set up yet. Further, the Committee would like to be briefed about inculcation of community engagement in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CHAPTER-IV

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT IS STILL AWAITED.**

NIL

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS — AT A GLANCE

NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NMEW)

The Committee would like to be apprised about the status of the District Level Centres for Women (DLCW) under the MSK Scheme. It is noted by the Committee that only 24 districts have functional DLCWs so far. Of the most backward districts in India, ten which are situated in Bihar, not a single DLCW has been set up yet. Similarly, of the 19 districts of Jharkhand and in Chhattisgarh, no DLCW has been made operational. The status on the number of DLCWs set up and the number of women who benefitted from them shows that the scheme was not properly implemented. Further, the Committee would like to know the status of the Central Sector Scheme Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) and the list of NGOs involved in funding the scheme.

(Para-2.14)

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SCHEME (ICDS)

The Committee notes that the Anganwadis are quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education and as a result, they tend to contain fewer children from 4-6 years of age range. Further, there are still shortage of toilet facilities and drinking water facilities in AWCs across the country. The Committee therefore would like to be apprised about the specific interventions made by the Ministry in this regard.

(Para 3.13)

The Committee, would like to know about the outcome of delegating the power to recruit AWWs/AWHs and Supervisors (against promotion quota) to the District Magistrates/District Collectors in 115 districts of the country for filling up of vacancies of Anganwadi functionaries. The Committee may also be apprised about the status of such recruitments and the number of vacancies filled so far. The Committee feels that it is of utmost importance to redress the shortage of adequate manpower so as to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme.

(Paras 3.16 & 3.17)

NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION (NNM)

The Committee observes that although in Financial Year 2020-21 Budget Estimates (BEs), allocated 3,700 crore for the Mission, which is a 9 per cent increase from previous year's Revised Estimates (Res), the utilization of funds under the scheme has been consistently low. On average, only 34 per cent of fund was spent over the cumulative period from FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20. Further, there are differences in the quantum of funds received by states. The variance in utilisation of funds is also serious concern, specifically due to stunting of children less than 5 years in 267 districts across 22 states which is higher than the national average.

ICT-RTM is one of the largest activities within Poshan Abhiyaan. However, 74 per cent of the total expenditure incurred under ICT-RTM was on the procurement of mobile phones. This was followed by 11 per cent for recharge and maintenance of mobile phones and 7 per cent for training. In this context, the Committee strongly feels that the mission calls for an evidence-based research and planning at a grassroots level in order to employ resources on a need-based framework.

SABLA

The Committee doesn't accept the reply stated by the Ministry regarding the Vocational Training for adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years, that it is not feasible due to the provisions under the Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act 2016. The vocational training programmes are constituted to help the young girls to build a wide set of soft skills, such as conflict resolution, team building, and communication, which they can use in a variety of jobs. The Committee's specific recommendation is mainly integrating out of school adolescent girls into the schooling fold and vocational skill based training for enabling them to work for their livelihood in future. The Committee strongly feels that vocational training can change the life of an adolescent girl by helping them to gain financial independence, establish good saving habits, and improve their future job prospects for participation in the labour force. Therefore the Committee reiterates its recommendation that there is a need to strengthen the non-nutrition component of the scheme to prepare adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years.

(Para-5.5)

INTGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME (ICPS)

During any crisis situation, be natural disaster or pandemic, children, especially those who belong to socio-economically backward and marginalised communities, end up becoming the most vulnerable demographic. Amongst them, the children in conflict settings are at considerable risk. The Committee feels that there are persistent problems of inadequate and trained staff, cramped space, lack of basic amenities etc. that make the living conditions in the child care institutions miserable. The Committee, accordingly, reiterates that besides strengthening institutional framework, the Ministry should provide for proper space with basic amenities and training and counselling to the staff to handle children in such homes with care and cautions so that the aim of mainstreaming these children to society may be achieved. The Committee also desires to be brief about the measures taken to tackle the challenges that children are facing or likely to face amidst the pandemic.

(Para-7.5)

BET BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP)

The Committee takes note of the reply and would like to assess the status of delay while it consider next year's Demands for Grants.

(Para-8.4)

NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NMEW)

The Committee desires that the Ministry pursue the matter with the States/Union Territory Administrations vigorously so that financial timelines are adhered to. The Committee may also be apprised about the scope and possibilities of running of Working Women Hostels in rented premises for facilitating accommodation to the working women.

(Paras 10.5 &12.4)

The Committee would like to be apprised about the roadmap for implementing the Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. It is noted by the Committee that amongst the most backward districts in India, ten which are situated in Bihar, not a single DLCW has been set up yet. Further, the Committee would like to be briefed about inculcation of community engagement in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(Para-13.6)

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

VII

SEVENTH MEETING

The Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports met at 2.00 P.M. on Thursday, the 21st January, 2021 in Committee Room 'A', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudde - *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Smt. Arpita Ghosh
3. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
4. Dr. Sasmit Patra
5. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
6. Shri Gopal Narayan Singh
7. Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh

LOK SABHA

8. Shri Rajendra Agarwal
9. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
10. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
11. Shri Balak Nath
12. Shri Chandeshwar Prasad
13. Shri Ratansinh Magansinh Rathod
14. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
15. Shri Vishnu Dutt Sharma
16. Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma
17. Shri S. Venkatesan

SECRETARIAT

Dr. Shikha Darbari, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor

Shri Ashok K. Sahoo, Director

Shri Mohit Misra, Committee Officer

Smt. Suman Khurana, Committee Officer

Witnesses

Jnana Prabodhini, Pune

1. Shri Prashant Diveknar
2. Ms. Madhura Lunkade
3. Mr. Nachiket Nisture
4. AVM KP Palsule (Retd.)

Pratham Education Foundation, New Delhi

5. Shri Shailendra Sharma
6. Dr. Faiyas Ahmed

Central Square Foundation, New Delhi

7. Shri Ashish Dhawan, Chairman
8. Smt. Romonika D Sharan, Director

Vidya Bharti Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Sansthan, New Delhi.

9. Shri D. Ramakrishna Rao, President
10. Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Secretary
11. Shri Gobinda Chandra Mohanta, Joint Organization Secretary

Department of School Education and Literacy

12. Smt. L.S. Changsan, Joint Secretary
13. Dr. Sridhar Srivastava, Director, NCERT

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Members present in the sitting and informed about notification of Subjects identified by the Committee in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Bulletins on 18th January, 2021. He apprised that four organizations have been invited for consultations on the Subject – “Reforms in Contents and Designs in School Textbooks”. The Committee thereafter took up for consideration three draft Reports relating to Action Taken Notes of Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education and Ministry of Women and Child Development on their respective Demand for Grants (2020-21). The Committee adopted those Reports without any modifications. The Committee then decided to present those Reports

along with three other Reports which were presented to Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 24th December, 2020 on virtual mode, to both the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021.

3. The Committee authorised its Chairman and in his absence Dr. Sasmit Patra to present those Reports to the Rajya Sabha and Shri Vishnu Dutt Sharma and in his absence, Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu to present those Reports to the Lok Sabha.

4. Thereafter, Jnana Prabodhini, Pune was invited to submit their views. Commencing their presentation that organization highlighted that the virtues of tolerance, open and fair mindedness, peaceful co-existence, nation building need to be inculcated in the minds of the students for their attitude formation. Students should be taught history in such a manner that they should be able to appreciate the underlying values behind the ideals of 'unity in diversity' and other constitutional values for the sake of the national integration and social harmony. Continuing further they mentioned that current contents of history textbooks happen to be distorted leading to confusion in the young minds; those are also deficient about ancient india and warriors and heroes, women achievers from different parts of the Country. They advocated reforms in the history textbook to give proportionate presentation of ancient indian knowledge in medicine, mathematics and architecture, etc. and remove regional imbalances. They also emphasized the need for comprehensive continuous teaching training programme with focus on innovative pedagogy with project/activity and technology based learning.

5. Elucidating their presentation, they suggested that special digital platform like DISHA may be created for dissemination of supplementary reading material on history which is not covered in the main textbook. Artificial intelligence and related technology may be utilized for evaluation/assessment of educational achievement of the students. For the purpose of reform of textbooks domain experts may be involved for deciding contents load and framework and expertise of software engineers and artists from film and art and culture may be utilized for reform in design of the textbook, they emphasized.

6. Some Members pointed out that discourse of regional history are not covered properly in the textbooks developed by NCERT; many facets of regional history including 'Paika Rebellion' and their contribution to freedom struggle is not known to many people in the country. It was also suggested that course content of history should engender critical thinking and inquisitiveness in the young minds besides providing information about facts of war and invasion. Some Members were of the view that pictorial presentation of course content is required to make it more appealing.

7. Thereafter the Pratham Education Foundation was invited to make their presentation. They in their deposition referred to the target of New Education Policy, 2020 to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary school by 2025 for which reading, writing and arithmetic are fundamental requirements to achieve the target but their survey conducted in some of the States found that students in primary level have deficiency in the ability of reading textbooks particularly in Government schools. Therefore, they emphasized that the curriculum design should be made in such a way that it becomes interesting for a child to read and learn. In that context graded learning programme adopted by some of the States was referred to.

8. While clarifying certain points raised by Members on the issue of methodology adopted for conducting nation wide survey, they mentioned that the methodology is widely accepted and globally recognized and they have agreed to sent a copy of the report for perusal of Members which contains the description of methodology adopted by them to reach the findings. On the issue of curriculum they refer to a study conducted on negative consequences of over ambitious curriculum conducted by Harvard Kennedy School which has examined six countries including India. That study mentioned that lengthy curriculum hampers the learning process of the child in that context comparative analysis of learning ability of children of India and Vietnam was adduced.

9. At that point, some Members held that emphasis might be laid on the pedagogical process with focus on learning by experiment rather than learning by rote; There should be continuous assessment of learning losses/gains; proportionate representation of issues from global to local and continuous updation of facts and figures in textbooks particularly Economics and Geography textbooks were stressed upon by them.

10. Thereafter Vidya Bharti Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Sansthan put forth their views on the subject and pointed out certain factual distortions about vedic tradition, incompatibility of certain facts with constitutional ideals and values in the textbook. To the query of Committee about their teachers training programmes they informed the Committee that their programme has been assimilated in the training programme for teachers in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha by their respective SCERTs. The Committee was unanimous that the stakeholder may be consulted by NCERT while framing National Curriculum Framework under New Education Policy, 2020.

11. Central Square Foundation, New Delhi was the last stakeholder of the day and made their presentations covering the issues of learning poverty amongst the children in primary schools,

structured pedagogy, quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). He appreciated the Nipun Bharat Scheme envisioned under new National Education Policy 2020.

12. Clarifications about the outcome of Amma Vodi Scheme in Andhra Pradesh, quantum of learning loss and ways to recover that loss; problems of students having Dyslexia, Autism, and other disabilities to cope up with online learning; comparison of school education in the U.K., Australia, Peru and Chile with ours were sought by Chairman and Members of the Committee.

13. Clarifying those queries they submitted that their organization have not developed any scientific methodology to gauge learning loss, however, intense and focused teaching for three to four months could recover the loss of nine to ten months.

14. The Chairman requested the stakeholders to submit their queries together with additional points to the Committee within a period of seven days. The Chairman apprised the Committee that Hon'ble Chairman has allowed Committees to undertake study visits. He suggested that the Committee may visit some of the schools in tribal areas, slum areas and urban areas to interact with the students and their parents to get their feedback about the curriculum and other related problems. The Chairman announced the dates for consideration of Demand for Grants (2021-22) of related Ministries/Departments under its purview during forthcoming Budget Recess from 13th February to 7th March, 2021.

15. The Verbatim record of proceedings of the meeting was kept.

16. The meeting adjourned at 4.30 PM.