

THIRTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(2011-2014)**

FIFTEENTH REPORT

(Presented on 26th June, 2012)



SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
2012

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On

**Paragraphs relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
Development Department contained in the Reports of
the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for
the years ended 31st March, 2005 (Civil)
and 31st March, 2007 (Civil)**

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*Resigned on 29th March 2012.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts, having been authorised by the Committee to present this Report on their behalf, present the Fifteenth Report on Paragraphs relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department contained in the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the years ended 31st March, 2005 (Civil) and 31st March, 2007 (Civil).

The Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the years ended 31st March, 2005 (Civil) and 31st March, 2007 (Civil) were laid on the Table of the House on 16th February, 2006 and 26th February, 2008 respectively.

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 28th March, 2012.

The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them by the Accountant General in the examination of the Audit Report.

Thiruvananthapuram,
26th June, 2012.

DR. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC,
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts.

REPORT
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

AUDIT PARAGRAPH

Inadequate healthcare facilities to the tribal population

A hospital building constructed at a cost of ₹ 82.43 lakh could not be used for inpatient treatment as infrastructure facilities were not provided.

Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Government sanctioned (July 1986) a Health Project for detection, prevention and control of diseases among the tribal population in Wayanad District. The Project started functioning by providing outpatient treatment to the tribals. In order to provide Inpatient (IP) treatment, the Government sanctioned (July 1986) setting up of a 50-bedded hospital with X-ray plant and staff quarters at an estimated cost of ₹ 78.87 lakh. This included funds for organising health education camps and mass scale immunisation programmes. The construction of hospital building and other facilities entrusted (1990) to Kerala State Construction Corporation Limited (KSCC) dragged on for more than 10 years and was completed only in January 2002 at a cost of ₹ 82.43 lakh. The Tribal Development Officer (TDO) took over the buildings in May 2002. In the meantime, the Wayanad Tribal Health Care Society (Society) was established (July 1995) under the Societies Regulation Act, 1860 with the District Collector, Wayanad as Chairman and TDO, Mananthavady as Secretary for efficient functioning of the Project.

Audit scrutiny (January 2004) of the records of the District Collectorate, Wayanad revealed the following:

- (i) The IP wing started functioning in July 2002 for the limited purpose of observing the patients during day time with the assistance of Medical Officers/Staff employed on contract basis. It was discontinued in January 2003 as the Medical Officers left the service. Thus, the IP ward, operation theatre, X-ray machine, etc., were idling since January 2003 and were not put to use (August 2005).
- (ii) Meanwhile, the State Government released the central assistance of ₹ 1.20 crore (₹ 75 lakh in March 2003 and ₹ 45 lakh in January 2004) to the Society for setting up of infrastructure facilities such as laboratory equipment, purchase of ambulance, furniture, etc., to the hospital. The Society did not take any action to provide the required facilities for the functioning of the hospital. The Society diverted

₹ 73.81 lakh during 2003-04 for payment of salary to staff (₹ 10.44 lakh), reimbursement of cost of medicine (₹ 59.58 lakh) and other routine expenses (₹ 3.79 lakh).

In spite of spending ₹ 86.26 lakh for the construction of building (₹ 82.43 lakh) and purchase of X-ray machine, etc., (₹ 3.83 lakh), the facilities could not be used for providing IP treatment to the tribals.

The Society also diverted ₹ 73.81 lakh, which was meant for creating infrastructure facilities. The IP ward, operation theatre, X-ray machine, etc., were not put to use as of August 2005. Thus, the health project, approved by the Government of India about 20 years ago, aimed at setting up of a 50-bedded hospital with X-ray plant, organisation of health education camps and mass immunisation programme had not benefited the tribal population despite availability of funds.

The matter was referred to the Government in July 2005; reply had not been received (September 2005).

[Paragraph 4.4.7 contained in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2005 (Civil).]

(Government Note on the above audit paragraph is included as Appendix II of this Report.)

With regard to the inadequate health care facilities to the tribal population, the Committee wished to know the reason for the delay of 4 years in entrusting the construction work of a 50-bedded hospital in Wayanad under Central Government Scheme, although administrative sanction had been issued in 1986. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department submitted that usually, works under the Central Government Schemes were done through Public Works Department which in turn entrusts to Kerala State Construction Corporation and the delay occurred because of lapses from the part of PWD. He added that from the previous year onwards some changes had been made in the construction works related to SC/ST Development Department. He apprised the Committee that currently the works are being done through three agencies of which KITCO had been entrusted with the construction of five schools and six works were being done through KSCC. There had been instances where money provided to KSCC for the construction of a school in Noolpuzha, Wayanad had been diverted to disburse the salaries of their employees. The Committee opined that due to shortage of required staff in the Architecture wing of PWD, inordinate delay occurred in the construction of various Government buildings; and it stated that Government should have considered the earlier recommendation of the Committee that investigation works of Government buildings should be entrusted

to LBS or Government Engineering Colleges. The Secretary, Finance (Expenditure) Department informed that Government had identified 9 agencies for this purpose.

2. At this juncture the witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department brought to the notice of the Committee, the problems faced by the Department in getting approval of project plans from the PWD. He added that ever since KITCO came to the scene, some positive changes had occurred. They were very co-operative in understanding the needs of the departments and in providing adequate investigation works. Under this, the drawings of the projects are first designed after a comprehensive discussion with the teachers and students through the visit to the existing schools. Revised drawings are presented incorporating the feedback given by them. Estimates are prepared only after this stage. The new system had already started in March 2009 and it got approval from the Finance Department also.

3. The Committee enquired the witness the reason for not posting medical officers on permanent basis instead of appointing on contract basis. The witness informed that the hospital which was a 25-bedded one, had been transferred to the Health Department in 2007 and that the duty of medical treatment is vested with the Health Department. He added that even though the hospital was transferred to Health Department, the employees working there were not absorbed by them.

4. The Committee observed that the ST Development Department conducted a review of its programme in Wayanad only after a prolonged gap of 16 years. The hospital is now functioning like a Primary Health Centre and one doctor appointed by PSC, three doctors posted under NRHM, five Staff Nurses and 4 other staff are currently working in the hospital. On an average 2275 outpatients are treated in the hospital and the X-ray unit is not functioning. Subsequently, the Committee sought the clarification from the witness regarding the diversion of ₹ 73.81 lakh which was allotted by the Central Government for the setting up of infrastructure facilities like Laboratory equipment, purchase of furniture, ambulance etc. towards payment of salary to staff and related expenses. The Committee opined that had the State Government provided enough money in the budget for disbursement of salary and routine expenses, such a situation could have been avoided. Opining that the Government should have reimbursed such expenses, the Committee recommended the department to set-up infrastructure facilities such as Laboratory, ambulance and enough furniture in the hospital at the earliest.

5. The witness replied that since the hospital had been transferred to Health Department, the SC/ST Development Department had no responsibility to set-up the infrastructure facilities in the hospital. This reply was not tenable to the

Committee and it opined that the department had the responsibility to supervise the expenditure of money transferred through the department which was intended to benefit the Scheduled Tribe population in Wayanad. The witness submitted that the hospital was governed by a society under the District Collector, and because of the lack of fund, the Central Government assistance was diverted for the purchase of medicines and institutional expenses like salary. He added that there was no wilful misappropriation of money by the society and diversion was done in good faith. To this, the Committee asked whether any disciplinary action had been taken against the official responsible for this. The witness replied that charge sheet had been issued to the concerned officer and explanation was sought. But the department later decided not to enforce strict action since the amount was diverted in good intention and that the District Collector was also involved in the case. The Committee recommended the Government to re-transfer the amount diverted by the society for salary, purchase of drugs and institutional expenses to the Government account and urged to provide infrastructure facilities such as laboratory equipments, ambulance and furniture to the hospital at the earliest. To a query of the Committee regarding the position of the X-ray machine and laboratory, the witness submitted that as per the report received, X-ray machine was not functional though lab technician was available. The Committee objected the statement and stated that it had been known from reliable sources that the lab technician was not available. The witness clarified that doctors were available and I.P. was functional in the hospital.

6. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction over the non-utilisation of crores of rupees available for the benefit of Scheduled Tribe population and commented that it was a criminal offence. The Committee asked the witness to submit a report stating the number of days for which the X-ray machine functioned in the hospital properly. The witness answered that he would check it and report.

Conclusion/Recommendation

7. The Committee understands that the health project approved by Government of India about twenty years ago, aimed at setting up of a 50-bedded hospital with X-ray plant, organisation of health education camps and mass immunisation programme had not benefited the tribal population for years, despite availability of funds. The Committee is displeased with the fact that it took four years to entrust the construction work to KSCC and opines that the shortage of staff in the Architecture Wing of PWD caused much delay in the construction of Government buildings and recommends that investigation works of Government buildings should be entrusted to LBS or Government Engineering Colleges.

8. Knowing that the hospital envisaged to establish as a 50-bedded one, was functioning like a Primary Health Centre without having any

infrastructural facilities, Committee comments that the instance of non-utilisation of crores of rupees intended for the benefit of ST population is a criminal offence. Committee expresses its displeasure over the non-compliance of its direction to furnish the details regarding the functioning of X-ray machine in the hospital.

9. Regarding the diversion of ₹ 73.81 lakh allotted by Central Government for the setting up of infrastructure facilities like laboratory equipment, purchase of furniture, ambulance etc., towards payment of salary and related expenses, the Committee opines that, had the State Government allotted enough money in the budget for the disbursement of salary and other routine expenses, such a situation could have been avoided. The Committee could not accept the contention of the department that it had no responsibility to set-up the infrastructure facilities in the hospital as it had been transferred to Health Department and opines that the SC/ST Development Department had the responsibility to supervise the expenditure of money transferred through it for the benefit of ST population in Wayanad. The Committee strongly recommends the Government to retransfer the amount which is diverted by the society for the payment of salary, purchase of medicines and other institutional expenses to the Government account for the purpose of providing infrastructure facilities to the hospital at the earliest.

AUDIT PARAGRAPH

Educational Development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes

Highlights

Union/State Governments have been implementing various schemes for enabling the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes to upgrade their educational standards and skills to generate self-confidence and self-reliance among them. A review of the major schemes viz., scheme for financial assistance to SC/ST students, financial support to selected talented SC/ST students, coaching classes for candidates writing competitive examinations, establishing residential schools and hostels, etc., revealed various shortcomings such as delay in availing of central assistance, delay in utilising funds provided by Central/State Governments, delay in disbursement of assistance to beneficiaries and lack of monitoring and evaluation. Some of the more important points are given below:

Huge shortfall (₹ 78.20 crore) in utilisation of budget provision during 2002-03 to 2006-07 in respect of seven schemes. Assistance aggregating ₹ 76.77 lakh was released to the beneficiary students during the Succeeding academic years.

Assistance of ₹ 13.22 crore for improving hostel facilities for SC/ST students, implementing “Guaranteeing Quality Education Scheme” and for starting para medical courses remained unutilised.

Central assistance of ₹ 28.41 crore for Post Matric Scholarship Scheme was yet to be reimbursed by GOI and ₹ 5.54 crore was pending payment to students as of March 2007.

Implementation of schemes like upgradation of merit, Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search and Development Scheme, etc. was flawed and not according to the guidelines.

No effective action was taken to obtain Central assistance of ₹ 2.41 crore for construction of Ashram schools and to utilise ₹ 2.50 crore received for construction of residential school for tribal students.

Central assistance of ₹ 3.10 crore for construction of hostels was not availed of and ₹ 1.45 crore received had not been fully utilised. Four hostels completed at a cost of ₹ 1.05 crore had not been put to use even when 79 hostels were accommodated in rented buildings and the hostels were over crowded.

No effective monitoring and evaluation system to assess the implementation of the schemes had been evolved by the Department.

Introduction

State has a constitutional responsibility of promoting the education and economic interests of weaker sections of the society and in particular of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). As per the 2001 Census, SCs and STs constituted 9.81 per cent and 1.14 per cent respectively of the total population in the State. The literacy rate of SCs and STs was 82.66 and 64.35 per cent respectively as against the overall State literacy rate of 90.86 per cent.

Union and State Governments are implementing various schemes for enabling the SCs/STs to upgrade their educational levels and skills to generate self confidence and self reliance. These include schemes for giving financial assistance to SC/ST students, additional financial support to the selected talented SC/ST students, coaching for appearing in competitive examinations, establishing residential schools including sports school, etc. These schemes also aim to increase enrolment and retention of SCs/STs in educational institutions, to reduce drop out rates and to increase their representation in higher educational/ professional institutions and in jobs.

Organisational set-up

The Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Development Department is headed by the Principal Secretary. The Director of Scheduled Castes Development and the Director of Scheduled Tribes Development look after the matters relating to SCs and STs respectively. They are assisted by Regional Deputy Directors, District Development Officers, SC Development Officers in the former department and Project Officers/Tribal Development Officers and Tribal Extension Officers in the latter.

Audit objectives

The performance audit was conducted with a view to ascertain whether:

- planning for implementation of various schemes launched for the educational development of SCs/STs was efficacious and based on reliable and acceptable data.
- the allocation, release and utilization of funds earmarked for various schemes were judicious, adequate and effective.
- the efforts of Government resulted in improving the educational indicators, i.e., gross enrolment ratio, gross drop out rate etc., and in upgrading the skills and standard of education of SC/ST students.
- the monitoring system at various levels was functioning effectively.

Audit Criteria

The following criteria were adopted for assessing the performance:

- Census data for the State.
- Prescribed guidelines/directions/instructions issued by the concerned Ministries/Directorates.
- Prescribed norms of funding of each scheme.
- Prescribed norms for implementation of the schemes.
- Prescribed eligibility criteria fixed for various categories of beneficiaries.

Scope of Audit

The Performance Audit covered implementation of selected schemes meant for the educational development of SCs/STs implemented by the State and Central Governments during the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07. These include

the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and Pre Matriculation Studies, Scheme for assisting brilliant and talented SC/ST students, Model Residential Schools and Sports Schools, Coaching Centres, hostels for boys and girls, financial support to parents of ST students, etc.

Audit methodology

Details on implementation of various schemes were collected through scrutiny of records, data and information in the Directorate of Scheduled Castes Development and the Directorate of Scheduled Tribes Development. Five districts (Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram) were selected for detailed scrutiny by PPSWR*. Within the selected districts, one Regional Deputy Directorate for Scheduled Castes, five District Development Offices for Scheduled Castes, three Integrated Tribal Development Project Offices, three Tribal Development Offices, twenty one Scheduled Caste Development Offices, six Tribal Extension Offices, three Universities, thirty four Colleges, forty Schools, ten Hostels, five Model Residential Schools, a Centre of Excellence, a Residential Sports School and two Para Medical Institutes were selected by Simple Random Sampling. Details were also collected by issuing questionnaires to various institutions. An entry conference was held with the Principal Secretary, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department in July 2006.

Educational indicators during 2002-03 to 2006-07

In the State, financial assistance was given to all the SC/ST students from first standard to postgraduate level including professional courses. Besides, there were schemes to improve the educational standards and the competency of the students. Educational indicators are a measure of the impact of the schemes.

Audit scrutiny revealed that:

- The gross enrolment ratio in classes I-VIII (Age six to below 14 years) of SC and ST students was fairly high during the period 2002-03 to 2006-07, the percentage of which ranged between 91.43 and 106.91† in SC sector and 82.76 and 108.99† in ST sector.
- The percentage of drop out is an indicator of socio-economic and educational backwardness. In the case of Scheduled Tribes students the drop out ranged from 3.47 to 5.26 per cent. Drop out among the SC students was 0.42 to 2.40 per cent during 2002-03 to 2004-05.

*

†

* Probability Proportional to Size With Replacement.

† Including overaged students admitted in classes I to VIII.

- Even though the performance of SC/ST students in the SSLC examination was not at par with that of the State as a whole, the pass percentage showed steady increase from 39.32 per cent in 2002-03 to 65.03 in 2006-07 in the case of SC students and 37.72 per cent in 2003-04 to 60.28 per cent in 2006-07 in respect of ST students.
- The literacy rate of SCs and STs increased from 79.66 to 82.66 and 57.22 to 64.35 per cent respectively from 1991 census to 2001 census as against the overall increase in literacy rate from 89.81 to 90.86 per cent.
- These would indicate that the various schemes had benefited the SC/ST students to a large extent despite the laxity of the department in timely utilising the Central/State funds.

AUDIT FINDINGS

Funding pattern

Funds for implementing various Central and State schemes are provided in the State Budget and allotted to District SC/ST offices from the concerned Directorate based on requirements. It was seen that the annual budget was prepared without considering the actual number of beneficiaries under each scheme. Budget provision and expenditure for the selected Central and State schemes from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are given in Appendix-III.

Major shortfall (₹ 78.20 crore) in spending was noticed in respect of the following schemes:

<i>Name of scheme</i>	<i>(Rupees in crore)</i>		
	<i>Budget provision</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Savings</i>
Improving facilities in Hostels	23.09	6.22	16.87
Model Residential School [Article 275(1)]	19.51	13.48	6.03
Model Residential School	88.77	69.72	19.05
Hostels (50 per cent CSS)	19.41	9.91	9.50
Centre for Excellence	7.5	1.59	5.91
Paramedical studies	21.00	5.45	15.55
Tutorial grant	8.05	2.76	5.29

According to the Department of SC and ST Development, savings was mainly due to delay in getting administrative sanction for works connected with the institutions.

Delay in release of funds

Timely release of assistance is necessary to ensure that students are not put to financial hardship. Audit scrutiny revealed long delays in disbursement of assistance under various schemes. Assistance amounting to ₹ 76.77 lakh in respect of the Central schemes Post Matric Scholarship (₹ 33.05 lakh), Book Bank (₹19.93 lakh), upgradation of merit (₹ 1.50 lakh), and State scheme of incentive to parents of Tribal Students (₹ 6.77 lakh) and special incentive to brilliant ST Students (₹ 15.52 lakh) was disbursed only during the next academic year and delay of four to nine months occurred in the disbursement of assistance of ₹ 57.50 lakh under Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search and Development Scheme during the years 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Government stated (August 2007) that constraints of funds and delay in getting details from the institutions were the main reason for delay in release of funds for disbursement of assistance.

Non-utilisation/delayed utilisation of funds

Abnormal delays in utilisation of GOI/State funds released for specific schemes were noticed, as detailed below:

- Out of ₹ 13 crore released by the GOI for improving/providing facilities in the SC/ST hostels during 2004-05 and 2005-06, ₹ 6.62 crore remained unutilized as of 31st March, 2007.
- Under the 'Guaranteeing Quality Education' scheme meant for tribal students GOI had released Rupees five crore in 2003-04. The State Government accorded sanction (March 2004) to implement the scheme selecting KIRTADS* as the nodal agency. As of May 2007, only Rupees one crore was released (February 2007) to KIRTADS* and the balance Rupees four crore was retained by the State Government.
- State Government released ₹ 2.70 crore in January 2004 for starting two year Para Medical Diploma Courses for SC/ST students in three Medical Colleges. According to Government orders three courses were to be started in each Medical College, admitting twenty students for each course. Only an amount of ₹ 0.10 crore had been utilised for purchase of books and lab equipment and the balance ₹ 2.60 crore remained unspent as of May 2007.

* Kerala Institute of Research, Training and Development for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Government stated (August 2007) that delay in utilisation of funds was on account of delay in issue of administrative sanction, non-availability of land, delay in arrangement of works, etc.

Excess release of Central assistance

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Post Matric Scholarship Scheme" cent per cent assistance over and above the committed liability of the State was to be received. The total committed expenditure for the four years 2002-03 to 2005-06 was ₹ 3.42 crore. As against the expenditure figures of ₹ 7.27 crore booked in the Appropriation Accounts, the expenditure reported by the Department to GOI was ₹ 8.51 crore. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs released funds based on these proposals. This resulted in excess release of ₹ 1.24 crore under the scheme during 2002-03 to 2005-06.

Government stated (August 2007) that payment of post matric scholarship was met from both plan and non-plan funds and there were chances of non-plan expenditure being included under Plan expenditure resulting in excess claiming of Central assistance. Government added that this would be avoided in future.

Implementation

Planning and identification of beneficiaries

The departments of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been implementing a number of schemes for the educational development of SCs/STs. But the department has not conducted any survey to assess the targeted population under any of the schemes. Proper planning and identification of beneficiaries is essential for the implementation of the schemes. Scrutiny of the records revealed that the system of identifying the beneficiaries is deficient resulting in the benefits not reaching the targeted population or overlapping of benefits as described in the succeeding paragraphs.

Government stated (August 2007) that though a survey to identify the targeted group had not been conducted the department could extend the benefits to the targeted population as educational concessions were extended to all ST students irrespective of income.

Schemes for providing financial assistance for education

Financial assistance is provided in the form of scholarship and lump sum grant to all SC/ST students under two schemes 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme' and 'Pre Matriculation Studies' scheme. Contrary to GOI guidelines prescribing income limit of Rupees one lakh for granting financial assistance under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, the scheme was implemented without any income

limit in the State. As a result, expenditure in excess of Central norms required for Post Matric Scholarship Scheme was met from State funds. ₹ 2.68 crore and ₹ 2.86 crore were pending payment to SC and ST students respectively under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme as on 31st March, 2007.

Government stated (August 2007) that the pending payment would be cleared during 2007-08.

The Central Government had not reimbursed ₹ 28.41 crore as on 31st March, 2007 in SC sector.

Government stated (August 2007) that arrears of Central assistance to be received was reported to GOI along with the proposal for 2007-08.

Schemes for improving the academic standard of SC/ST students

Audit scrutiny of three schemes intended for the academic improvement of selected SC/ST students revealed the following:

Upgradation of merit of SC and ST students

A scheme for upgrading the merit of SC/ST students by providing them remedial and special coaching in Classes IX to XII, to help them clear competitive examinations for admission to professional courses like engineering and medicine was being implemented in the State from period prior to 1997-98 for SC students and from 2000-01 for ST students. It envisaged a package grant of ₹ 15,000 per student per year, of which ₹ 5,000 was for meeting boarding expenses and ₹ 3,000 for pocket money and books to be given to 10 new students annually and ₹ 7,000 to Principal, teachers, etc., as honorarium for taking classes.

Audit revealed that:

- For the Scheduled Castes only students in Model Residential Schools who were already entitled to free board were selected. The boarding charges to be paid to students were utilised for meeting the general expenditure of the schools. Selection of students who were already enjoying free board indicated that the selection process was flawed.
- No honorarium was paid to Principal, teachers, etc., in SC sector except during 2004-05 and 2006-07.
- No fresh ST students were selected in 2006-07.
- Students once selected in Standard IX were to be paid assistance for the next three years till they complete Standard XII. During 2002-03 to 2006-07, 24 ST students were removed before completing three years defeating the very objective of the scheme.

There was no monitoring at the Directorate level to ascertain whether students who were provided assistance under the scheme had secured admission for professional courses. As such impact of the scheme could not be assessed.

Government stated (August 2007) that steps would be taken to ascertain whether students were getting admission to professional courses.

Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search and Development Scheme

This scheme seeks to provide assistance to brilliant SC/ST students in classes V to X. The beneficiaries are to be selected from Government/aided schools through a competitive examination. Each year the SC beneficiaries are required to obtain five per cent more marks than they had in the previous annual examination, in order to remain eligible.

The assistance includes grant for books (₹ 750 per month), special tuition fees for English, Mathematics and Science (₹ 225 per month for SC's, and ₹ 240 per month for STs), a monthly stipend (₹ 150 per month), furniture for study (₹ 2,000 for SC students whose annual income is below ₹ 12,000 and ₹ 750 for ST students upto 2004-05 and ₹ 1,000 from 2005-06) and nutritional support (₹ 100 per month for SC students whose annual income is below ₹ 12,000).

Audit scrutiny revealed the following:

- 1100 students belonging to scheduled castes were selected during 2002-03. But no new students were selected during 2003-04 to 2006-07, thus depriving the benefits to SC students. The department stated that this was due to some practical difficulties in implementation like attaining of five per cent more marks in subsequent years, conducting of competitive examination for selection, etc. However, a proposal to amend the scheme was sent only in July 2007. It was seen that ST students were selected under the scheme by conducting competitive examination every year.
- All the eligible students (Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes) were not paid the full entitlements.
- SC students were selected based on marks in the class examination instead of competitive examination as prescribed.
- An unrealistic criterion of securing five per cent marks more than those obtained in the previous annual examination was fixed for making students eligible for getting continued assistance in Scheduled Castes sector. In respect of students who had initially got high marks this was unreachable. As a result, 353* students out of 590 were denied assistance under the scheme during 2003-04 to 2006-07 in the test checked districts.

* 2003-04:32, 2004-05:96, 2005-06: 176 and 2006-07:49

- As per guidelines a seminar was to be held with the participation of selected students, parents, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe promoters etc., after initial selection of students to create awareness among them. No such seminar was conducted in four out of five districts selected in Scheduled Castes sector and in two out of five districts in Scheduled Tribes sector.
- A review meeting was to be held each year after the second terminal examination to ascertain the performance of the students. No such meetings were held in the five test checked districts.
- SC students with annual family income below ₹ 12,000 were eligible for assistance under nutritional support at the rate of ₹ 100 per month. Though 128 students were recommended for such support in two test checked districts by the Scheduled Caste Development Officers the assistance was not paid to any of them.

Due to flaws in selection of students and implementation, and in the absence of any evaluation by the Department the impact of the scheme in raising the standards of the students could not be assessed.

Government stated (August 2007) that non-payment of entitlements under the scheme from 2002-03 to 2006-07 was being examined and whole components would be implemented in future.

Tutorial grant

The scheme formulated (December 2003) for betterment of ST students provides for starting special coaching centres for giving intensive residential coaching to SSLC and Plus Two students for preparing them for the examination and to increase the pass percentage in those examinations. The parents who do not wish to send their children to the residential coaching centres owing to special reasons were also to be provided assistance.

But this assistance (₹ 300 and ₹ 400 monthly for three months and TA of ₹ 200 and ₹ 300 to parents of SSLC and Plus Two students respectively) was not paid to any student under the scheme during 2003-04 to 2006-07. No specific reasons were reported by the department for non-implementation of the scheme which led to denial of benefits to ST students.

Establishment of Residential Schools for SCs and STs

Central and State Governments have formulated schemes for starting Model Residential Schools for the SC and ST students for imparting quality education and providing better accommodation. In the State there are four categories of such schools:

1. Ashram schools for tribal students (Centrally sponsored scheme)
2. Residential schools funded under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution (Central scheme)
3. Model Residential Schools for SC/ST students (State scheme)
4. Residential Sports School for SC/ST students (State scheme)

Ashram schools

The objective of the scheme was to promote and extend educational facilities in tribal areas in the pattern of the old Gurukul type of education. Fifty per cent of the expenditure for construction of school buildings (the land was to be provided by the State Government) from the primary stage to the senior secondary stage and for upgradation of the existing primary Ashram schools was to be borne by GOI. There were four Ashram schools in the State. Out of these, land had been transferred only for two (Ashram schools at Noolpuzha and Manjeri). Though ₹ 3.31 crore was to be received as central share for these schools, only ₹ 0.90 crore was received and no amount was received from 2000-01 due to sending of defective proposals. No effective action was taken by the department to get the balance central share of ₹ 2.41 crore. As no land was provided for the other two schools the State was not eligible for the central assistance.

Government stated (August 2007) that action was being taken for getting the central share admissible.

Residential schools

There were three schools* in the State under the central scheme of providing residential schools for tribal students under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution with classes from Standards VI to XII. Each school was provided with a central grant of ₹ 2.50 crore for construction and ₹ 0.30 crore for non-recurring expenditure. Scrutiny of records revealed that:

- The school at Njaraneeli provided residential accommodation to students in classes from standard I, though the scheme was applicable to schools having classes from standards VI to XII.
- ₹ 2.50 crore was released (Rupees one crore in 1997-98 and ₹ 1.50 crore in 2002-03) for construction of school at Pookot in Wayanad District. However, no expenditure was incurred as of May 2007. It was stated that the land identified was not suitable and hence construction could not be started.

* Ekalavya Model Residential School, Pookot (Wayanad), Ekalavya Model Residential School, Munnar (Idukki) and CBSC School, Njaraneeli (Thiruvananthapuram).

Government stated (August 2007) that alternate land had been identified and construction had since started.

Hostels for SC/ST Students

Under the scheme formulated by GOI to provide hostel facilities for SC/ST students around the educational centres, GOI would reimburse 50 per cent of the estimated cost of construction provided land was made available free of cost by the State Government. There were 105 hostels in SC sector and 111 hostels in ST sector, of which 79 were in rented buildings. Scrutiny in audit revealed that:

For ST Students

- Construction of seven hostels for which Central assistance at the rate of ₹ 7.35 lakh each was received for the period from 1997-98 to 2001-02 had not been started as of May 2007 and for four of these hostels even the land to be provided by the State Government was not made available.
- Though an amount of ₹ 14.70 lakh was sanctioned by GOI during 2001-02 for the construction of two girls' hostels (Marayur in Idukki and Padiyur in Kannur) the amount released was only ₹ 0.59 lakh, as the Department did not furnish information to GOI on whether sufficient provision was made in the State budget for the construction of the above hostels.
- Up to 2001-02, GOI had been releasing assistance at the rate of ₹ 7.35 lakh per hostel for the construction of five hostels each year. For the years 2002-03 and 2004-05 to 2006-07, the Department did not forward any proposals to GOI and during 2003-04, a proposal had been forwarded without transferring land for the construction of the hostels. As 43 hostels were functioning in rented buildings the State should have sent necessary proposals to GOI. Inaction by the State resulted in non-availing of Central assistance of ₹ 1.84 crore.
- Large overcrowding was noticed in the hostels. In Palakkad district twenty one hostels were overcrowded to the extent of 105 to 258 per cent of their capacity.
- Though four* pre-matric hostels for ST students were completed at a cost of ₹ 1.05 crore during 1995-2001 they could not be utilized due to lack of drinking water, electricity, and defects in construction. The students were therefore accommodated in rented buildings.

*

* Pre-matric hostels at Blanthode (Kasaragode), Odakkayam, Mampad and Pookkottupadam (Malappuram).

Government stated (August 2007) that steps were being taken for submission of proposals to GOI on regular basis. Government also stated that of the four completed hostels one hostel at Pookkottupadam had since started functioning and two others at Blanthode and Mampad would be put to use shortly.

For SC Students

- Construction of three hostels, for which Central assistance of ₹ 92.50 lakh was received during 2002-03 and 2004-05 two* were incomplete and the third† had not been started as of May 2007. It was seen that even the required land was not made available to the department in the latter case.
- Government accorded administrative sanction (January 2003) for the construction of pre-matric hostel for boys at Pazhayangadi, Kannur at a cost of ₹ 48 lakh. It was seen that the Director, Scheduled Castes Development had deposited ₹ 72 lakh with Public Works Department. Even after the excess deposit was pointed out by Audit, no action was taken by the department to get the excess amount refunded (May 2007).

While confirming the facts, Government stated (August 2007) that PWD had informed that the estimate had to be revised to ₹ 59 lakh but the revised estimate had not been furnished. Government added that PWD had been directed to furnish the actual estimate amount and expenditure incurred so far.

- Central assistance of ₹ 3.10 crore was to be received for the construction of five hostels in Model Residential Schools for SC students. However, the department sent proposals (₹ 1.84 crore) only for two hostels (Punnapra and Thrithala) and GOI released ₹ 1.28 crore for the hostel at Punnapra. Reason for not sending proposals for the remaining three hostels for which an amount of ₹ 1.26 crore were to be received from GOI were not on record.

Government stated (August 2007) that proposals for Central assistance was not forwarded as there was a confusion as to whether construction of hostels for students of Model Residential Schools could also be included and new proposals were being forwarded timely.

- Pre-matric hostel in Veliyathunad, (Ernakulam) was utilised for running model residential school, Keezhumadu (Ernakulam) till 2004-05 and Post

* Hostels at Nattakom (Kottayam) and Pazhayangadi (Kannur).

† Hostel at Kayamkulam (Alappuzha).

matric hostel in Manjeri (Malappuram)) was utilised for running Ashram school, Nilambur (Malappuram) till 2005-06. After the shifting of the schools to their premises the hostel buildings remained unoccupied till date (May 2007).

Even when 79 hostels were accommodated in rented buildings the Departments had not taken necessary action for availing of the eligible Central assistance or utilising fully the Central assistance received and to complete the construction of long delayed hostel buildings.

SCHEMES FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Book Bank Scheme

The Book Bank Scheme, a Centrally assisted scheme, aims to set up Book Banks in all Medical, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary colleges, Polytechnics and Institutes imparting instruction in Chartered Accountancy, MBA, Law and Bio-Sciences. Under the Scheme, prescribed text books were to be provided to SC/ST students to reduce the drop out from the above mentioned courses.

Audit scrutiny revealed that:

- The Book Bank Scheme had not been implemented in the ST Sector. Though a proposal for ₹ 3.42 lakh was sent during 2003-04, no follow up action thereon was taken to get the Central assistance. No proposals for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 were sent to GOI.
- The State Expert Committee (the Committee) constituted to prescribe text books to be procured did not include representatives from all the Universities leading to purchase of books which were not useful/outdated in the areas covered by Universities which were not represented.
- The Committee did not meet in 2004-05 to 2006-07 to prescribe books. Instead the Heads of Institutions were authorized to purchase books of their preference.
- During 2002-03 and 2003-04, many of the experts nominated did not attend the meeting, instead they deputed librarians/clerical staff.

Special incentive to meritorious SC and ST students

Under this scheme a one time incentive to meritorious SC and ST students ranging from ₹ 750 to ₹ 4,000 and ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 6,000 respectively is paid.

It was seen in audit that though the Government enhanced (October 2005) the rate of incentive to ST students who passed SSLC to PG level examination, the enhanced rates were not paid to 427 students in the five test checked districts.

Government stated (August 2007) that action was being taken for providing sufficient funds for payment of incentive at enhanced rate.

Incentive to parents of Tribal Students

The scheme was intended to give assistance to parents of tribal students who had regularly sent their children to schools. Those who had attendance of 75 per cent or more in an academic year were eligible for assistance of ₹ 100 per annum up to 2003-04 and ₹ 500 per annum thereafter based on a certificate from the Head of the Institution. Audit scrutiny revealed the following:

- As no additional funds were provided in the budgets for enhancement of assistance from the academic year 2004-05, funds amounting to ₹ 3.64 crore required by the district officers were not provided during 2004-05 to 2006-07.
- In the test checked districts assistance amounting to ₹ 32.24 lakh was not paid to 7573 beneficiaries during 2004-05 to 2006-07 due to paucity of funds.
- During 2006-07, in Palakkad district, the incentive was paid to 339 beneficiaries of Muduga and Kurumba communities without collecting certificate of attendance from the school authorities.

Government stated (August 2007) that steps would be taken for providing required funds to clear the pendency.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Both the Directorates had Internal Audit Wings under the Finance Officer with a staff strength of ten for SC and two for ST Department. Scrutiny of records showed that the internal audit was in arrears in the range of 50 to 79 per cent and 63 to 81 per cent in SC and ST Departments respectively during 2002-07. Department attributed the shortfall in internal audit to shortage of staff.

It was seen in audit that the Departments have not so far evolved a system for monitoring the implementation of various Central and State schemes. The funds received from the Central/State Governments were distributed to the field offices and the expenditure statements are collected and compiled by the Directorates. Apart from this the efficiency or effectiveness of the implementation of the schemes were not monitored by the Government/Departments. In February

2004 the SC/ST Development Department constituted four Inspection Teams for inspection of the subordinate Offices under the administrative control of the Department. The details of inspections conducted by these teams had not been furnished (May 2007).

Conclusion

The Department was implementing various Central and State schemes for the educational development of SC/ST students up to postgraduate level including professional courses. However, the Department had not conducted any survey so far to determine the targeted population for each scheme to be covered in each year. The improvement in educational indicators showed that the schemes had beneficial impacts. But, it was noticed that in many schemes like 'Post matric Scholarship Scheme', 'Book Bank Scheme', 'Scheme for Upgradation of merit of SC/ST students', 'Incentive to parents of tribal students', etc., the payment was not made to all the beneficiaries during the academic year itself, though the funds required for the implementation of the schemes were provided in the budget, ₹ 10.62 crore received from GOI for implementation of schemes like 'Improving hostel facilities', 'Guaranteeing Quality Education' etc. had not been utilized. Non submission of proposals to GOI had resulted in non-availing of Central assistance of ₹ 3.10 crore for construction of hostels. Laxity in implementation of the schemes like 'Upgradation of merit', 'Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search and Development Scheme', 'Special incentive to students and parents of tribal students', 'Construction of Hostels' etc. resulted in non achievement of objectives intended of the schemes. Even when 79 hostels are accommodated in rented buildings four completed hostel buildings remained unoccupied and Central assistance of ₹ 1.45 crore received for construction of hostels was not utilized fully. The Department has not evolved an effective monitoring system to ascertain the effective implementation of the schemes.

Recommendations

- The Department should conduct an initial survey to identify the targeted population under various schemes.
- Delay in payment of assistance to the beneficiaries should be avoided so that the intended benefits reach them in time.
- The Departments should evolve a system for timely utilisation of Central assistance received for implementation of various schemes and securing Central assistance for all eligible schemes.
- Instances of denial of eligible benefits due to administrative laxity should be viewed seriously by Government and corrective steps taken to avoid such instances.

- A system of monitoring progress of students assisted or trained for improving standards or skills should be put in place so as to assess the effectiveness of the efforts put in and take remedial steps.
- A monitoring system at Government level should be set up with a view to ensure that proper proposals are sent to GOI for securing eligible Central assistance, oversee implementation of various schemes, assess the impact of schemes and for effective coordination with other departments.

[Paragraph 3.4 contained in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2007 (civil)]

Note furnished by Government on the above audit paragraph is included as Appendix II.

10. Regarding the educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee observed that there was a major shortfall of ₹ 78.20 crore in respect of funds allotted for various Central and State Government Schemes from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and asked the witness to furnish the reason for the same. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department explained that except for two items in the audit paragraph ie, improving Hospital facilities and tutorial grants all the other Heads of Account are under the control of PWD and delay in getting plan and estimate regarding the works from PWD resulted in delay in issuing Administrative Sanction from the SC/ST Development Department. He added that inordinate delay occurred in works entrusted with PWD and therefore the departmental works have been allotted to KITCO and Kerala State Construction Corporation. The Committee opined that many of the schemes aimed at providing amenities and infrastructural facilities to the Scheduled Tribe population are not yielding desired results and the laxity on the part of the department was the main reason for this. The witness submitted that most of the heads mentioned in the audit paragraph except improving hospital facilities and tutorial grant were under capital head. Administrative Sanction could be given only after the submission of the estimate by PWD. With regard to the housing scheme for ST population, the amount is transferred to local bodies and the department did supervision only. At this juncture, the Committee asked whether the Finance Department had any system to monitor the cases which had not been issued with Administrative Sanction and for which budget allocation was available. To this, the Secretary, Finance (Expenditure) Department replied that from the previous year onwards, a special working group had been formed to monitor the issuance of administrative sanction within 3 months of the presentation of the budget. The department heads have been authorised to issue administrative sanction to works amounting below ₹ 3 crore and for works above this limit, the special working group would issue administrative sanction. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department

reiterated that in order to cover the delay in getting estimate from PWD, the Department was enabling the services of KITCO, Construction Corporation, Nirmiti Kendra and such other agencies as suggested by Finance Department. The Committee sought the explanation of the witness regarding the increased shortfall in spending the funds in the case of Centre of Excellence and Paramedical studies. The witness submitted that budget provision for paramedical studies involved construction work which was being done by Construction Corporation in Alappuzha. He admitted that there was savings in the fund allotted for Centre of Excellence. The Committee viewed that although some of the shortfall in construction works could be excused but shortfall in the case of tutorial grant and improving facilities in the Hostel etc. occurred was due to laxity on the part of the SC/ST Development Department. The Committee commented that the Centre of Excellence in Kozhikode is doing an excellent job by preparing students for competitive exams and such institutions should be encouraged by the Government. The witness stated that the Government was giving ₹ 1 crore to the institution every year but the construction of campus was yet to be done.

11. The Committee enquired the reason for the delay in disbursing financial assistance under various schemes to the SC/ST students. The witness could not provide any satisfactory explanation for the query of the Committee and stated that ₹ 112 crore had been disbursed in the previous year as scholarship. He admitted that during the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 delay was occurred in disbursing post metric and pre-metric scholarship, but all the dues were cleared in 2007-08 and currently the financial assistance is being disbursed at the right time. He added that desirable improvement has been made in the case and arrears from 2001-02 worth ₹ 55 crore was availed from Central Government. ₹ 81.32 crore was obtained as reimbursement of scholarship amount of the previous year.

12. The Committee opined that the poor students belonging to SC/ST were entitled to get the scholarship amount in advance and if the amount is not disbursed in time, the very purpose of the scheme would be defeated. It urged the department to expedite measures to clear the back arrears and to apply more attention in timely disbursement of financial assistance to these students. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department admitted that a new scheme had been chalked out for the timely disbursement of assistance.

13. The Committee then enquired as to why the budget provision was not made available to give assistance of ₹ 500 to parent of each ST student who attended 75% of the classes regularly. The witness answered that the scheme was to give ₹ 50 per month to the parents of ST students and as it was a meagre amount, the department once tried to discontinue the scheme. But later because

of pressure from outside, the scheme was re-introduced. The Committee pointed out that the ST children needed to be provided with breakfast in order to ensure their attendance in schools and this was successfully experimented in the tribal areas of Nilambur Assembly Constituency. Then the Committee asked the department to disclose the procedure adopted to disburse the pre-matric, post matric Scholarships.

14. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department submitted that the students should apply through the institutions for getting scholarship and the institution forwards the application to the department after processing it. The Department officials scrutinize the papers and the scholarships were granted. The concerned institution could draw the amount from the treasury after getting the monthly claim countersigned by the Officer in the District Office. The Government had introduced a new programme called e-grants in which the students could withdraw money from ATMs using internet banking facility. The Pilot Project was successfully implemented in Alappuzha District. The Committee at this juncture opined that though things had improved in the Directorate but the functioning of District Offices needs much improvement. To this the witness submitted that the staff pattern in the department was based on the funding pattern of the earlier periods when there was only a minimum amount allotted for SC/ST development. Because of this, work load in the department had increased and there had been no sufficient improvement in the infrastructural facilities of the department. He brought to the notice of the Committee that in Idukki District where there was sizeable population of ST, only one vehicle was allotted for supervision purpose. To a specific query of the Committee, the witness deposed that currently 2% of the State Plan is allotted for SC/ST development and also stated that only 15 Tribal Extension Officers were working in Wayanad District. During the discussion, the Director, ST Development Department informed the Committee that as 12 local bodies come under the jurisdiction of a Tribal Extension Officer, implementation of tribal fund allotted to local bodies face hurdles. Regarding the position of disbursement of grants, the witness submitted that pre-matric and post matric scholarships were usually given in advance for a period of 4 months at the time when the educational institutions were opened and that all the grants allotted for the previous year had fully been disbursed. He added that with the advent of e-grants scheme the system would get up-to-date though on-line facility. He informed the Committee that video conference was being held every Monday with the officials in the State Bank, C-DIT and the district level officers of the department to ensure the speedy disposal of applications and enough employees had been deputed for the purpose. It was also added that stipend, pocket money etc. of the students were also planned to be disbursed through on-line facility.

15. The Committee sought the reason for not utilizing an amount of ₹ 6.62 crore out of ₹ 13 crore allotted by Government of India for improving the facilities in SC/ST Hostels during 2004-05 and 2005-06. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department informed that ₹ 11.78 crore had been spent and the delay occurred as the major component of the scheme was construction which was vested with PWD. He admitted that laxity on the part of the department had also contributed to this unhappy situation. The Committee at this juncture remarked that the non utilization of funds for Centrally sponsored schemes is tampering the chances of the State in getting further central assistance. The witness submitted that ₹ 13 crore allotted by the Central Government was a one time grant and Central Government would release further assistance only after producing the utilization certificate. The Committee criticized the laxity on the part of the department in not utilizing the fund allotted for improvement of hostel facilities to SC and ST students whereas 79 (ST hostels-43) hostels were still functioning in rented buildings and lack of commitment from the part of the department was evident in this case. The witness stated that there was problem in getting proper land for the construction of hostels. Some lands, have been selected without proper verification and there were instances where the hostel was built at a distance of 5 km from the school. The Committee opined that construction of hostels in remote and unsuitable places defeated the very purpose of the Scheme and that the Department should exercise caution not to repeat such lapses.

16. The Committee asked the witness to furnish reasons if any, for the non disbursement of ₹ 4 crore out of five crore released under the Government of India Scheme, 'Guaranteeing Quality Education' to KIRTADS and the latest position of ₹ 1 crore allotted to the institution. The witness submitted that ₹ 1 crore allotted to Kerala Institute of Research, Training and Development for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was utilized for providing 'Smart-Class rooms' in 18 Model Residential Schools, and out of the remaining 4 crore, ₹ 1 crore was spent in the previous year. He added that and the remaining is pending with the department. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction over the non-utilization of funds allotted by Planning Commission under 'Guaranteeing Quality Education' Programme. The witness informed the Committee that currently the Department is running the programme directly and works amounting to ₹ 10 crore had been awarded to KITCO for providing 'Smart Class rooms'.

17. The Committee then wanted to know the reason for the non-utilization of ₹ 2.60 crore out of ₹ 2.70 crore released by the State Government for starting two year Para Medical courses for SC/ST students in three Medical Colleges. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department deposed that meanwhile the department accorded sanction for a new scheme of ₹ 4.38 crore in November 2008 to start the Para Medical Institute

in Alleppey Medical College as ₹ 90 lakh provided is very insufficient for starting the Para Medical Course in a Medical College. He clarified that such a decision was taken on the basis of a suggestion put forward by the Medical Education Department, and the work was awarded to Kerala State Construction Corporation. The work was scheduled to be completed in 2010 and the department is reviewing the progress. The Committee recommended to expedite the procedure for starting the Para Medical Courses aimed to benefit the SC/ST students.

18. The Committee sought explanation regarding the reason for excess release of ₹ 1.24 crore from Government of India under the 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme'. The witness replied that there were certain minor shuffling in the figures regarding plan and non-plan accounts which got adjusted in the figures of the succeeding years. He added that the benchmarks and ceiling accepted by the State and Central Governments were different and the State Government was disbursing the boarding and lodging charges to the students who stayed in the Hostel and for this purpose the income ceiling limit was not being insisted upon. The Central Government would reimburse only the committed liability of the plan fund of the previous year. At this point, the Committee invited the attention of the witness to the complaint that ST students studying in self financing colleges were denied the fee exemption. The witness submitted that only those students admitted to self-financing colleges from the rank list of Commissioner for Entrance Examinations would be given fee exemption and it was a policy decision. The Committee then enquired whether the Department could take into account the case of students in the self financing colleges for fees exemption as in the districts like Wayanad there were only very few colleges offering Post graduation education. The witness stated that such a problem existed only in the case of self-financing colleges.

19. The Committee wanted to know whether any survey had been conducted by the department to assess the targeted population and to ensure that the targeted group are benefited by the schemes.

20. The witness replied that Government was aiming at cent per cent saturation and no survey had been conducted so far. At this point, the Committee opined that conducting a survey is mandatory in order to ensure the effectiveness of the schemes intended to benefit the SC/ST population and the Department should conduct a 'Social audit' in this regard. The Director, ST Development Department submitted that though the Department proposed to conduct a survey in the tribal areas with the help of 'KILA', it was abandoned due to objections from certain sections of the society on the allegation that the survey was a move to exclude certain communities from the category of

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Scheduled Tribes. He added that the survey could be completed only in Pathanamthitta district. The Committee remarked that there were still a lot of people living in tribal areas who had never been benefited from the Government Schemes and that such people should be identified and the Government should take earnest steps to ensure that the benefits of the schemes to reach out to them.

21. The Committee sought the reason for not insisting upon the income limit of ₹ 1 lakh while disbursing the Post Matric Scholarships. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department deposed that it was a policy matter of the State Government to provide educational assistance to all ST students irrespective of their income and currently the Government is capable of meeting the financial requirements in this regard. He added that additional authorisation would be required in case that allotment fell short of requirement. The Committee further queried whether all the arrears in respect of Post Matric Scholarship had been cleared. The witness replied that arrears in respect of Post Matric Scholarship had been disbursed while there existed arrears of ₹ 3.5 crore in the incentive scheme of ₹ 50 proposed to be given to the parents of ST children. He informed the Committee that ₹ 81 crore had been obtained as reimbursement from Central Government and ₹ 55 crore was arrears. The Committee pointed out that the Government should take care while disbursing the Post Matric Scholarship in order to give first preference to the eligible class (ie. falling below the income ceiling of ₹ 1 lakh) and the left over money could be utilised for giving the Scholarships to the group whose income falls above the ceiling limit.

22. The Committee wished to know the criteria for selection of SC/ST students for the special coaching classes for competitive examinations to help them for getting admission to professional courses and the number of students provided with financial assistance under this scheme. The Director, ST Development Department informed the Committee that the Central Government Scheme envisaged special Coaching for ST Students after getting admission to private residential schools and provision of boarding, lodging, pocket money and special coaching to the students. As there is better coaching facilities available in the Model Residential Schools, the students prefer MRSs and the programme face shortage of students. He added that currently there are only seven students selected under the scheme. At this juncture, the Committee enquired whether the department had monitored the programme and urged to furnish the number of students who got admission to professional courses. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department deposed that only one or two students were admitted to Medical courses earlier. But as a result of deliberate attempt on the part of the department after getting the approval of Supreme Court to conduct a

special test for ST students, the department could fill up cent per cent seats allotted to ST students for the current year and previous year. He added that those ST students who failed to get 40% marks in the test were given separate coaching and after conducting test they too were given admission. When the Committee enquired as to why special test were not conducted for SC students, the witness disclosed that adequate number of candidates are available in SC category. But in the case of STs the required number is not available and that is why special tests are being conducted.

23. The Committee sought the reason for not conducting competitive examination to select the SC students for Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search Scheme. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department stated that since grading system was introduced, conducting competitive examination on the basis of marks was not practicable and the scheme envisaged separate rules for SCs and STs. The Committee suggested that uniform rules for SCs and STs should be formulated in order to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme. The witness assured to examine the possibility of conducting test for SC students. The Committee then enquired as to why an unrealistic criterion that 5% more marks than the previous annual examination should be obtained in order to remain eligible for assistance to SC students was stipulated. The witness informed the Committee that this criterion was withdrawn through a Government Order issued on 17-4-2009 and that the existing stipulation is to secure marks not below 60% in the examinations. The Committee opined that a competitive examination as conducted for the ST could be applied in the case of SC students also. The witness agreed to examine the feasibility of it. To a query of the Committee regarding the conduct of seminars with the help of students, parents, SC/ST promoters etc., the witness submitted that bringing people from the tribal settlements to the district Head quarters is a difficult task because this involves loss of their hard earned labour. The Committee opined that the audit findings indicated serious lapses on the part of department in implementing the schemes intended to benefit the tribal population. Moreover, schemes for the upliftment of primitive tribes and forest folk which receives 100% Central Assistance were not implemented properly. The Committee opined that the department had committed a serious lapse in not disbursing the nutritional support of ₹ 100 per month to the selected 128 SC students with annual family income below ₹ 12,000. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department admitted the lapses and unconcern on the part of the department in this case. He also stated that the scheme is still going on. The Committee asked the witness to furnish a report stating the number of students selected in other districts where A.G's test audit was not conducted, and state whether nutritional assistance had been given and whether any arrears were pending to be disbursed under the scheme etc., within 2 weeks. The witness assured to do so.

24. The Committee opined that a social audit should be conducted in the department so as to ensure that the schemes intended to benefit the ST population have reached the eligible hands and that a periodical evaluation of the scheme is necessary.

25. Then the Committee focused its attention to the intensive residential coaching scheme aimed at improving the results of SSLC and Plus Two students and enquired as to why coaching assistance to students and T.A to the parents were not disbursed. The witness, informed the Committee that the scheme had since been revised and the Government proposed to give tutorial grant to ST students who opted to go to private tutorial centres. The Committee remarked that since the scheme was envisaged to be a residential coaching programme, providing assistance to students who resorted to private tutorial centres was not in line with the objectives of the scheme. To this, the witness clarified that the children did not want to be identified which hampered the implementation of the scheme and a revised scheme was scheduled to be implemented in the current year. The Committee opined that the special coaching aimed at improving the educational standards of ST children who appear for SSLC and Plus Two examination is very much beneficial to the students but due to lapses from the part of the department, assistance was not provided to the parents who did not wish to send their children to the residential coaching owing to special reason. The Committee stated that the special coaching scheme should continue and that overlapping schemes if any had to be stopped. The witness replied that the modified scheme proposed by the government is expected to have greater off-take of students.

26. The Committee opined that had the department disbursed the incentives to the students in time, there would have been greater off take of students in the scheme. It was also added that lack of awareness in the tribal population about such schemes was one of the main reasons for the failure of the programme and urged the department to have better co-ordination and planning at district level and to give enough publicity to the programme among tribal people with the help of promoters. The Committee was of the opinion that if the funds were transferred to local bodies such as panchayats the programme would have been more successful. According to the Committee a seminar participating the public promoters, the beneficiaries and their parents as envisaged in the project could be helpful in the effective implementation of the scheme but unfortunately such seminars are conducted only for spending money without any fruitful results. The Committee urged the department to ensure the non-recurrence of such flaws.

27. The Committee enquired the latest position of the construction of Ashram Schools at Manjeri and Noolpuzha. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department submitted that construction of school at Nilamboor had

been completed and among the rest four, construction of schools at Malampuzha had been entrusted with KITCO. To a specific query of the Committee, the witness stated that 50% of the cost of land was borne by Central Government and the Department had received ₹ 12.36 crore in September 2009. He added that land acquisition was facing hurdles in Thirunelly and the department approached Priyadarsini Estate to get suitable land. Although 80% work of construction of the school at Noolpuzha assigned to Construction Corporation was completed, financial constraints were hampering the progress of the work. At this point, the Committee opined that the department could have invited pre-qualification tenders for the effective completion of the construction work and enquired whether central share of ₹ 2.41 crore was obtained. The witness replied in the affirmative.

28. While the Committee enquired the status of construction work of residential school at Pookot, Wayanad, the witness replied that ₹ 50.85 lakh had been spent in this regard. He added that the land identified for this purpose near the Veterinary University building was found to be unsuitable and that a meeting would be convened at the level of Hon'ble Minister for SC/ST Development to settle the issue of land. The Committee opined that as 10 acres of land had been identified for the construction of Residential School Building at Pookot, the department should consider alternation of the building plan in accordance with the landscape of the site and this should be done without any time lag. The Committee was of the view that while convening Minister level meetings to resolve such issues, the MLA of the respective constituency should be invited and this would facilitate for speedy resolution of the problem.

29. The Committee sought the explanation of the witness, regarding the non-utilisation of Central Government assistance allotted for construction of Hostel for SC/ST students while 43 hostels for SC students were still functioning in rented buildings. The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department submitted that under the central scheme boys' hostels would receive 50% assistance and girls' hostels would be given 100% assistance. According to him, construction of hostels were in progress in Vettilappara, Padiyur and Thalappuzha while construction of hostel at Nandiyode was yet to begin. He added that the department was finding it difficult to obtain land for the hostel at Marayoor, even though Land Bank and Reveue authorities have been approached many times for this purpose.

30. At this point, the Committee invited the attention of the witness to the pathetic condition of the Hostel at Kuttampuzha and opined that the hostel built by Block Panchayat was without considering the requirements of the SC/ST Development Department and it was idling for want of water supply and other facilities. The Committee recommended the department to take necessary steps to

utilise the building in a fruitful way. The Director, ST Development Department informed the Committee that this could be done only after considering the existing educational facilities in the locality and that 32 hostels were yet to be provided with land for construction. Then the Committee enquired the financial commitment required to complete the construction of the remaining ST Hostels. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department read out the list of Hostels which was as follows:

Padiyoor - ₹ 110 lakh, Kakkavayal - ₹ 61 lakh, Meenangadi - ₹ 32.5 lakh, Mullankolly - ₹ 25 lakh and Valery - ₹ 53.5 lakh. He added that Central Govt. would release ₹ 1.5 lakh per student for construction of ST Hostels. The Committee remarked that the Central Government assistance would be released only if the department submit the utilisation certificate in respect of the assistance availed earlier.

31. To a query of the Committee regarding the non-completion of Hostels proposed for SCs, the witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department submitted that even though the construction of girls' Hostel at Nattakom and Pazhayangadi were completed, the hostel at Nattakom could not be occupied for want of compound wall. He added that there existed problem regarding the land acquisition for the hostel at Kayamkulam.

32. While going through the audit observation that even though the estimate submitted by PWD amounted to ₹ 59 lakh, the department deposited ₹ 72 lakh in the account of PWD. Commenting that the action lacked justification, the Committee suggested to take action against the officer who released the amount. The Committee also reminded that the department had committed serious shortfall in post-matric scholarship, upgradation scheme, Book Bank Scheme, Incentive Scheme etc.

33. The Committee remarked that the audit findings revealed the haphazard state of affairs in the department which was evident from facts such as the expert committee formed for implementing the Book Bank Scheme did not have due representation from the University and the expert committee meeting was attended by clerks of the department.

34. The Committee was strongly critical of the department's inaction in providing special incentives to 427 meritorious SC and ST students at the enhanced rates. The Committee enquired from the witness as to whether any amount had been disbursed in that regard. The witness submitted that 7908 SC students were given the incentives at the enhanced rates in the year 2008-2009. The Committee was particular to know the details regarding the disbursement of incentive to 427 students in the audited period i.e., 2005-06 and 2006-07. The witness assured to submit the same within two weeks.

35. The Committee then enquired as to why sufficient fund was not allotted in the budget for providing incentives to parents of tribal students at the enhanced rate.

36. The witness answered that in the current financial year ₹ 1.5 crore had been allotted for this purpose. But he admitted that ₹ 3.64 crore remained as arrears in the scheme. The Committee expressed its displeasure over the lethargic attitude of the department and opined that if the scheme was part of the budget speech, supplementary grant could have been moved in order to allocate enough provision for the implementation of the scheme.

37. The Committee observed that there had been a shortfall of internal audit to the tune of 50 to 79 per cent and 63 to 81 per cent in SC and ST Development Departments respectively during the period 2002-2007 and sought clarification from the witness. The witness, Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department deposed that there were three teams functioning in the department which comprised of officials of the same department and admitted that are still in arrears. The Committee was of the view that unless very competent officers are posted for the purpose of internal audit, the whole process of evaluation and monitoring would go haywire. The Committee added that vacancies in the internal audit wing had to be filled urgently and the department should consider in giving appropriate training to the officials for this purpose without affecting the promotion scope of the employees of the department. The Committee held the view that training had to be given on a regular basis in order to ensure that the transfers or promotion of the officials deputed for internal audit would not affect the efficiency of the wing.

Conclusion/Recommendation

38. Regarding the educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee understands that though Government have been implementing various schemes to upgrade the educational standards and skills of the SC/ST students the desired result could not be achieved due to the laxity on the part of the department in timely utilising the Central/ State funds.

39. The Committee congratulated the remarkable performance of the Centre of Excellence in Kozhikode in preparing students for competitive examinations and recommends the Government to encourage such institutions. The Committee understands that the financial assistance under various schemes to the SC/ST students for the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is yet to be disbursed. The Committee opines that if the financial

assistance for the poor SC/ST students is not disbursed in time, it would defeat the very purpose of the scheme and recommends the department to expedite measures to clear the arrears and to give much importance to avoid delay in payment of assistance to the beneficiaries so that the intended benefits reach up to them in time.

40. The Committee points out that the Scheduled Tribe children needed to be provided with breakfast to ensure their attendance in schools, by citing the example from the tribal areas of Nilambur Constituency and urges the department to take necessary steps in this regard.

41. The Committee realises that an amount of ₹ 6.62 crore out of ₹ 13 crore allotted by the Government of India for improving the facilities in the SC/ST Hostels during 2004-05 and 2005-06 was not utilised and 79 hostels are still functioning in rented buildings. The Committee remarks that the laxity on the part of the department will tamper the chances of the State in getting further central assistance. The Committee opines that construction of hostels in remote and unsuitable places defeated the very purpose of the scheme.

42. Regarding the non-utilization of ₹ 2.60 crore out of ₹ 2.70 crore released by the State Government for starting para medical courses for SC/ST students in three Medical Colleges, the Committee recommends that the department should be cautious in not repeating such lapses and urges the department to expedite the procedure for starting the para medical courses aimed to benefit the SC/ST students.

43. The Committee observes that the SC/ST Development Department has been implementing a number of schemes for the educational development of SC/STs without conducting any survey to identify the beneficiaries resulting in not reaching the benefits to the targeted population. Hence the Committee recommends that an effective survey is mandatory to ensure that all the schemes intended to benefit the SC/ST population are successfully implemented. The Committee also recommends to identify the people in the tribal areas who have never been benefited from the Government schemes and the department should take earnest steps to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach them.

44. In the case of the disbursement of Post Matric Scholarships, the Committee recommends the Government to give first preference to the eligible class i.e., the students falling below the income ceiling of ₹ 1 lakh and the balance amount should be utilised for those whose income falls above the ceiling limit.

45. Knowing that for the Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search Scheme, SC students are selected based on the marks in the class examination instead of competitive examination, the Committee suggests that uniform rules for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be formulated to ensure effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee urges the department to examine the feasibility of conducting a competitive examination for SC students also, as is being conducted for the ST students.

46. The Committee came to know that the scheme formulated for betterment of ST students in SSLC and Plus Two examination by giving coaching assistance to students and TA to parents had not been implemented and opines that the special coaching scheme shall be continued and overlapping schemes if any had to be stopped. The Committee comments that lack of awareness about such schemes among tribal population was one of the main reasons for the failure of the programme and urges the department to have better co-ordination and planning at district level and to give enough publicity to the programme among tribal people with the help of promoters.

47. Regarding the Construction of Residential School for SCs and STs at Pookot, Wayanad, the Committee suggests to alter the building plan in accordance with the landscape of the 10 acres of land identified by the Department for the purpose. The Committee also recommends that the MLA of the respective constituency should be invited to the Minister level meetings which will facilitate speedy resolution of the problem.

48. The Committee opines that the Hostel for ST students at Kuttampuzha, built by the block panchayat without considering the requirements of the SC/ST Development Department was idling for want of water supply and other facilities. The Committee urges the department to take necessary steps to utilise the building in a fruitful way.

49. In the case of excess amount of ₹ 13 lakh deposited in the account of PWD in connection with the construction of Hostel for SC students, the Committee recommends to take action against the officer who released the amount.

50. Regarding the shortfall in payment of incentive to parents of tribal students the Committee expressed its displeasure over the lethargic attitude of the department and states that if rate enhancement was declared during budget speech, move for supplementary grant could have been done for fund for the implementation of the scheme.

51. Regarding the monitoring and evaluation of the functions of the department, the Committee suggests that unless very competent officials are posted for the purpose of internal audit, the whole process of monitoring and evaluation would become infructuous. The Committee recommends that vacancies in the internal audit wing should be filled urgently and adequate training should be given to the officials without affecting the promotion scope of the employees of the department. The Committee further recommends that training had to be given periodically and on a regular basis to ensure that transfer or promotion of officers in the internal audit wing would not affect the efficiency of the wing.

52. The Committee also recommends to put in place an effective mechanism in the department to formulate suitable plans/projects in tune with the Central Government Schemes to ensure maximum availability and utilisation of Central Government Funds. There should be effective measures to evaluate and monitor the educational schemes and all other schemes and activities covered by the department. The Committee recommends that the Architecture Wing of PWD has to be strengthened to avoid inordinate delay in furnishing approved plans and estimates of buildings for the Central or State Government Schemes. It urges the SC/ST Development Department to take appropriate steps to conduct a social audit covering all the aspects in relation to the schemes intended for the upliftment of SC/ST population. The Committee further recommends the Government to formulate a State Tribal Policy and Action Plan encompassing all the existing Welfare Schemes in the lines of National Policy for Tribal population formulated by Central Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Thiruvananthapuram,
26th June, 2012.

DR. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC,
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts.

APPENDIX I

Summary of Main Conclusion/Recommendation

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Paragraph No.</i>	<i>Department concerned</i>	<i>Conclusion/Recommendation</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	7	SC/ST Development	The Committee understands that the health project approved by Government of India about twenty years ago, aimed at setting up of a 50 bedded hospital with X-ray plant, organisation of health education camps and mass immunisation programme had not benefited the tribal population for years, despite availability of funds. The Committee is displeased with the fact that it took four years to entrust the construction work to KSCC and opines that the shortage of staff in the Architecture Wing of PWD caused much delay in the construction of Government buildings and recommends that investigation works of Government buildings should be entrusted to LBS or Government Engineering Colleges.
2	8	„	Knowing that the hospital envisaged to establish as a 50 bedded one was functioning like a Primary Health Centre without having any infrastructural facilities, Committee comments that the instance of non-utilisation of crores of rupees intended for the benefit of ST population is a criminal offence. Committee expresses its displeasure over the non-compliance of its direction to furnish the details regarding the functioning of X-ray machine in the hospital.
3	9	„	Regarding the diversion of ₹ 73.81 lakh allotted by Central Government for the

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			<p>setting up of infrastructure facilities like laboratory equipment, purchase of furniture, ambulance etc., towards payment of salary and related expenses, the Committee opines that, had the State Government allotted enough money in the budget for the disbursement of salary and other routine expenses, such a situation could have been avoided. The Committee could not accept the contention of the department that it had no responsibility to set up the infrastructure facilities in the hospital as it had been transferred to Health Department and opines that the SC/ST Development Department had the responsibility to supervise the expenditure of money transferred through it for the benefit of ST population in Wayanad. The Committee strongly recommends the Government to retransfer the amount which is diverted by the society for the payment of salary, purchase of medicines and other institutional expenses to the Government account for the purpose of providing infrastructure facilities to the hospital at the earliest.</p>
4	38	SC/ST Development	<p>Regarding the educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee understands that though Government have been implementing various schemes to upgrade the educational standards and skills of the SC/ST students the desired result could not be achieved due to the laxity on the part of the department in timely utilising the Central/State funds.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
5	39	SC/ST Development	The Committee congratulated the remarkable performance of the Centre of Excellence in Kozhikode in preparing students for competitive examinations and recommends the Government to encourage such institutions. The Committee understands that the financial assistance under various schemes to the SC/ST students for the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is yet to be disbursed. The Committee opines that if the financial assistance for the poor SC/ST students is not disbursed in time it would defeat the very purpose of the scheme and recommends the department to expedite measures to clear the arrears and to give much importance to avoid delay in payment of assistance to the beneficiaries so that the intended benefits reach up to them in time.
6	40	„	The Committee points out that the Scheduled Tribe children needed to be provided with breakfast to ensure their attendance in schools by citing the example from the tribal areas of Nilambur Constituency and urges the department to take necessary steps in this regard.
7	41	„	The Committee realises that an amount of ₹ 6.62 crore out of ₹ 13 crore allotted by the Government of India for improving the facilities in the SC/ST Hostels during 2004-05 and 2005-06 was not utilised and 79 hostels are still functioning in rented buildings. The

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			Committee remarks that the laxity on the part of the department will tamper the chances of the State in getting further central assistance. The Committee opines that construction of hostels in remote and unsuitable places defeated the very purpose of the scheme.
8	42	SC/ST Development	Regarding the non-utilization of ₹ 2.60 crore out of ₹ 2.70 crore released by the State Government for starting para medical courses for SC/ST students in three Medical Colleges, the Committee recommends that the department should be cautious in not repeating such lapses and urges the department to expedite the procedure for starting the para medical courses aimed to benefit the SC/ST students.
9	43	„	The Committee observes that the SC/ST Development Department has been implementing a number of schemes for the educational development of SCs/STs without conducting any survey to identify the beneficiaries resulting in not reaching the benefits to the targeted population. Hence the Committee recommends that an effective survey is mandatory to ensure that all the schemes intended to benefit the SC/ST population are successfully implemented. The Committee also recommends to identify the people in the tribal areas who have never been benefited from the Government schemes and the department should take earnest steps to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach them.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
10	44	SC/ST Development	In the case of the disbursement of Post Matric Scholarships, the Committee recommends the Government to give first preference to the eligible class i.e., the students falling below the income ceiling of ₹ 1 lakh and the balance amount should be utilised for those whose income falls above the ceiling limit.
11	45	„	Knowing that for the Sree Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search Scheme, SC students are selected based on the marks in the class examination instead of competitive examination, the Committee suggests that uniform rules for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be formulated to ensure effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee urges the department to examine the feasibility of conducting a competitive examination for SC students also, as is being conducted for the ST students.
12	46	„	The Committee came to know that the scheme formulated for betterment of ST students in SSLC and Plus Two examination by giving coaching assistance to students and TA to parents had not been implemented and opines that the special coaching scheme shall be continued and overlapping schemes if any had to be stopped. The Committee comments that lack of awareness about such schemes among tribal population was one of the main reasons for the failure of the programme and urges the department to

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			have better co-ordination and planning at district level and to give enough publicity to the programme among tribal people with the help of promoters.
13	47	SC/ST Development	Regarding the Construction of Residential School for SCs and STs at Pookot, Wayanad, the Committee suggests to alter the building plan in accordance with the landscape of the 10 acres of land identified by the Department for the purpose. The Committee also recommends that the MLA of the respective constituency should be invited to the Minister level meetings which will facilitate speedy resolution of the problem.
14	48	„	The Committee opines that the Hostel for ST students at Kuttampuzha, built by the block panchayat without considering the requirements of the SC/ST Development Department was idling for want of water supply and other facilities. The Committee urges the department to take necessary steps to utilise the building in a fruitful way.
15	49	„	In the case of excess amount of ₹ 13 lakh deposited in the account of PWD in connection with the construction of Hostel for SC students, the Committee recommends to take action against the officer who released the amount.
16	50	„	Regarding the shortfall in payment of incentive to parents of tribal students

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			the Committee expressed its displeasure over the lethargic attitude of the department and states that if rate enhancement was declared during budget speech, move for supplementary grant could have been done for fund for the implementation of the scheme.
17	51	SC/ST Development	Regarding the monitoring and evaluation of the functions of the department, the Committee suggests that unless very competent officials are posted for the purpose of internal audit, the whole process of monitoring and evaluation would become infructuous. The Committee recommends that vacancies in the internal audit wing should be filled urgently and adequate training should be given to the officials without affecting the promotion scope of the employees of the department. The Committee further recommends that training had to be given periodically and on a regular basis to ensure that transfer or promotion of officers in the internal audit wing would not affect the efficiency of the wing.
18	52	„	The Committee also recommends to put in place an effective mechanism in the department to formulate suitable plans/projects in tune with the Central Government Schemes to ensure maximum availability and utilisation of Central Government Funds. There should be effective measures to evaluate and monitor the educational schemes and all other schemes and activities

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			<p>covered by the department. The Committee recommends that the Architecture Wing of PWD has to be strengthened to avoid inordinate delay in furnishing approved plans and estimates of buildings for the Central or State Government Schemes. It urges the SC/ST Development Department to take appropriate steps to conduct a social audit covering all the aspects in relation to the schemes intended for the upliftment of SC/ST population. The Committee further recommends the Government to formulate a State Tribal Policy and Action Plan encompassing all the existing Welfare Schemes in the lines of National Policy for Tribal population formulated by Central Ministry of Tribal Affairs.</p>
