

INTRODUCTION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

A. CONSTITUTION

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment came into existence w.e.f. 5.8.2004 after bifurcation of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. This Committee is one of the 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) constituted during the 17th Lok Sabha w.e.f. 13th September, 2019 vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 13th September, 2019 **(Para No. 556)**. It is serviced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Committee consists of 31 Members, 21 nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, from amongst the Members of Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha from amongst the Members of Rajya Sabha. Smt. Rama Devi is the Chairperson of the Committee. At present, the Committee consists of 21 Members from Lok Sabha and 9 Members from Rajya Sabha (one seat from Rajya Sabha is vacant).

B. JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The under-mentioned Ministries/Departments fall under the jurisdiction of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:-

- (i) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (ii) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (iii) Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (iv) Ministry of Minority Affairs.

C. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

3. Under Rule 331(E) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the functions of the Committee are:-

- (a) to consider the **Demands for Grants** of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a Report on the same to the House. The Report shall not suggest anything of the nature of **cut motions**;
- (b) to examine such **Bills** pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be and make Reports thereon;
- (c) to consider **Annual Reports** of Ministries/Departments and make Reports thereon; and
- (d) to consider **national basic long term policy documents** presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be and make Report thereon;

D. EXAMINATION OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

4. Every year after the general discussion on the Budget in the House is over, the Houses are adjourned for a fixed period. During the aforesaid period the Committee consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and submit their Reports within the given time. The Demands for Grants are considered by the House in the light of the Reports presented by the Committee.

E. EXAMINATION OF BILLS

One of the functions of the Committee is to examine Bills. The Committee consider such Bills introduced in either of the Houses as are referred to them by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be. The Committee consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to them and make Report thereon. The Committee make Reports on the Bills in the given time.

F. EXAMINATION OF POLICY MATTERS

As in the case of Bills, the national basic long term policy documents presented to the House, if referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha have to be examined by the Committee on priority basis.

G. EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Besides consideration of Demands for Grants, Bills and Policy documents referred to them, the Committee may also select other subjects for examination on the basis of Annual Reports of the Ministries/Departments within their jurisdiction.