

Summary of important recommendations

- **Financial management and control of the educational schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be strengthened by greater attention to utilisation of funds, adjustment of unspent balances, prevention of diversion of funds etc.**
- **Issues such as inter-state imbalances in allocation of funds and lack of initiative on the part of state governments should be addressed by adopting a pro-active approach.**
- **The reasons for short, delayed, deficient delivery of benefits should be identified and corrective action taken.**
- **Systems for the selection of beneficiaries, establishment of book banks etc should be streamlined in order to eliminate deficiencies such as delivery of benefits to ineligible persons, excess payments, purchase of outdated/irrelevant books, etc.**
- **The quality of hostels, which lacked basic facilities like toilets, water and power supply, adequate staff etc should be improved. Likewise, the quality of special coaching where infrastructure was inadequate and the required number of sessions were not held also merit attention.**
- **The implementation of schemes through NGOs needs to be reviewed in order to ensure that intended benefits are realised and to prevent misuse of funds.**
- **Effective monitoring mechanisms need to be set up and implemented at both the Union and the State levels in order to enhance the effectiveness of schemes.**