

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2024-25)
(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)**

**Action taken by the Government on the
Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report
(Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of
Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2025/ Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

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Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 11.8.2025



August, 2025/ Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

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Lok Sabha**

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3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
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- | | | | |
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| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Banani Sarker Joshi | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Ninth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2024. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 23.04.2025. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 06.08.2025.

3. An analysis of the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) is given in Appendix.

4. For facility of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
06th August, 2025
15 Shravana, 1947 (Saka)

P.C. MOHAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

1.2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2024. It contained 16 observations/recommendations. Action Taken Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been **(Total: 14, Chapter: II)** accepted by the Government: - **Rec. Para No. 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25, 3.26, 4.17, 4.19, 4.20, 5.15, 6.18, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11 and 8.4.**
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the **(Total: 00, Chapter: III)** Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: - **NIL**
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which **(Total: 02, Chapter: IV)** replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: - **Rec. Para No. 2.18 & 4.18.**
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which **(Total: 00, Chapter: V)** replies of the Government are interim in nature: - **NIL**

1.3. The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final action taken notes in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of this Report.

1.4. The Committee will now deal with the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.18)

1.5. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee observe that from 2021-22 to 2023-24, there has been a consistent trend of under spending compared to both Revised Estimates (RE) and Budget Estimates (BE), with actual expenditures falling short across various schemes of the Department. While the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has locked both the allocations and physical targets for the schemes under the Department, including ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships, for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the Department must address the recurring shortfalls in fund utilization. The Committee urge the Department to conduct a thorough review of the factors contributing to the underutilization of funds and take immediate and focused remedial actions. The Committee are also of the opinion that proactive engagement with stakeholders is essential to address delays in proposal submissions from State Governments, NGOs, and implementing agencies, ensuring timely and complete proposals to facilitate smooth fund release. Streamlining fund disbursement processes, particularly for skill training programs and capital expenditure, is crucial to mitigating delays

and enhancing program delivery. Furthermore, given the challenges in meeting the fixed targets for schemes like SIPDA and DDRS, the Department should reassess the targets setting to ensure they are realistic and achievable while maintaining flexibility in adjustments based on performance trends. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department should take decisive actions to improve fund utilization and achieve the intended outcomes of all the schemes in the remaining years of the current financial cycle (2023-2026). This will ensure that the resources allocated for the welfare of persons with disabilities are utilized effectively, enabling the Department to meet the targets set under various Schemes.”

1.6. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“ADIP scheme: The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the ADIP Scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	235.00	230.00	242.29
2023-24	245.00	305.00	290.60
2024-25	315.00	350.00	348.81
2025-26	316.70		

Under the ADIP Scheme, BE for FY 2025-26 is ₹316.70 crores that will be utilized in various activities under ADIP Scheme. For FY 2025-26, requirement of funds has been projected by ALIMCO which is the major Implementing Agency of ADIP Scheme. Apart from this, demand for funds has also been raised by National Institutes for pilot projects on TLM Kits.

Scholarship scheme: The budget allocation fixed by EFC for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 is ₹560 Crore and the number of slots are fixed as per EFC. The Department has utilized more than the RE funds under the Scholarship scheme during FY 2024-25. The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the Scholarship scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	105.00	145.00	142.00
2023-24	155.00	155.00	130.07
2024-25	142.68	80.00	89.63
2025-26	145.00		

The Department is actively organizing meetings with State Nodal Officers (SNOs) to ensure effective implementation of the schemes. The Department is also taking necessary steps to sensitize the States/UTs to clear the pendency at various levels of the State Nodal Officers and other Stakeholders. The Department has published advertisements in leading Newspapers across the country twice to increase awareness of these schemes amongst students and other stakeholders. All other types of media and social media platforms are also used for spreading awareness. The Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of the States are also addressed

to spread awareness of the schemes through various mediums of communication in their respective States/UTs.

DDRS scheme: The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the DDRS scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	125.00	105.00	114.69
2023-24	130.00	130.00	129.98
2024-25	165.00	139.00	139.39
2025-26	165.00		

Under the DDRS scheme, the remedial measures taken by this Department for smooth utilization of funds are as under:

- Model projects have been conceptualized to cover all 21 disabilities as per RPwD Act, 2016.
- Maximum age limit of the ID beneficiaries has been increased from 18 to 23 years.
- Grant-in-aid to the Implementing Agencies is being released on Advance-cum-reimbursement basis.
- With effect from 2023-24, the implementing agencies are required to submit UDID cards of all the eligible beneficiaries. The data regarding UDID cards is being directly fetched through API from UDID Portal (Swavlamban Portal).
- With effect from 01.10.2024, if the proposal submitted by the PIAs/NGOs on e-anudaan portal is pending at District level for one month without any action, then it will automatically be forwarded to the State Government. Further, if the same proposal is pending with the State Government for

one month without any action, then it will automatically be forwarded (without recommendation of State Government) to the Department. However, this will not be applicable in case of supplementary grant being given by the State Government to the PIAs/NGOs.

- CPMU consultants and young professionals of the Department are conducting video inspections to monitor the smooth functioning of the organizations and the timely submission of grants-in-aid proposals.

SIPDA scheme: The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the DDRS scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	240.39	100.00	65.59
2023-24	150.00	67.00	76.79
2024-25	135.33	111.00	44.16*
2025-26	115.10		

**Due to implementation of TSA module from 2024-25, some States could not onboard on TSA module and make expenditure of sanctioned amount of about ₹40 crore.*

It has been observed that certain issues led to underutilization of funds, some of which are:

- **Delayed and Incomplete Proposals:** A significant cause of underutilization has been submission of late or incomplete proposals from State Governments, UTs, and implementing agencies.
- **Pendency of Utilization Certificates (UCs):** Release of further funds is contingent upon receipt of UCs for earlier releases. Delays in submission of the same by States/UTs have directly hindered timely disbursement.

- **Systemic Changes:** The introduction of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) models led to transitional delays.
- **Inadequate Proposals from Certain Regions:** Particularly from North-Eastern States, the number of proposals received has been insufficient, further affecting overall utilization.

In order to address the shortfalls in fund utilization and to facilitate full appropriate utilization of funds, the Department is actively pursuing several redressal mechanisms, such as:

A committee consisting of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director/Deputy Secretary (SIPDA), and two experts in the field of disability duly examine the proposals for release of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

- The Department conducts regular follow ups with the concerned stakeholders through meetings/VCs to expedite the release of GIA under the Barrier Free (CBFE)/ Accessible India Campaign (AIC) component of the Umbrella Scheme SIPDA, which includes frequent communications by the Department for obtaining the requisite documents and/or proposals for consideration.
- The Department is currently in the process of reviewing and further simplifying the fund release process in respect of the 2nd instalment under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment (CBFE) Scheme for prompt fund disbursal.
- A dedicated online portal for receiving proposals under Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) Scheme has been launched. For the events/initiatives to be taken up through National Institutes, the Department has planned to work out a model to make advance payments

to the NIs in anticipation of those activities, which would improve the fund utilization and timely program execution.

Further, the suggestions of the Committee have been noted for compliance.”

1.7. The Committee, in their earlier recommendation, had drawn attention to the recurring mismatch between budgetary allocations and actual expenditures under key schemes of the Department—including ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships—despite clearly defined targets and financial ceilings under the EFC framework. The Committee had called for a systematic review of implementation bottlenecks, delays in proposal submissions, and procedural rigidities that continue to undermine the effectiveness of these schemes.

In response, the Department has outlined a set of administrative measures and procedural adjustments, including auto-forwarding of proposals, video inspections, stakeholder sensitization, and simplification of the second instalment release process. However, these responses fail to account for the deeper structural issues impeding the schemes, particularly under SIPDA, where expenditure continues to lag far behind allocations year after year. The persistence of delayed and incomplete proposals, inadequate capacity at the State level, and the inability to adapt swiftly to systemic transitions like the Treasury Single Account (TSA) model point to weak institutional preparedness and a reactive, rather than anticipatory, mode of functioning. The Committee are of the view that the Department’s interventions remain fragmented, lacking the urgency and coherence required to address chronic underperformance. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their

recommendation that the Department should take decisive actions to improve fund utilization and achieve the intended outcomes of all the schemes in the remaining years of the current financial cycle (2023-2026) and recommend that the Department move beyond generic procedural actions and initiate a time-bound, scheme-wise corrective action plan, supported by real-time performance monitoring, region-specific diagnostics, and greater accountability mechanisms for implementing partners.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.22)

1.8. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee find that the ADIP Scheme has consistently demonstrated commendable performance in empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) through efficient financial management, exceeding physical targets, and adopting innovative measures. The utilization of funds has been robust, surpassing revised estimates. The scheme's ability to achieve 121.5 per cent, 140.0 per cent and 160.0 per cent of its physical targets in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, respectively, reflects its effectiveness. The Committee are confident that the target in 2024-25 would be easily met.”

1.9. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The physical target of 3.15 lakh beneficiaries for FY 2024-25 was set based on the assumption of cost incurred per beneficiary at ₹10,000/-. However, due to increasing demand of costlier items among beneficiaries

such as Motorized Tricycle, Accessible Smart Phones and High-end Prosthesis, the cost incurred per beneficiary during FY 2024-25 came around ₹14,120.29/- (Total funds utilized in 2024-25: ₹354. 61 crore; number of beneficiaries = 2,51,136). Due to increase in average cost of devices per beneficiary, the physical target of 3.15 lakh beneficiaries for 2024-25 could not be achieved and only 2.51 lakh beneficiaries were given assistance.”

1.10. The Committee had appreciated the notable performance of the ADIP Scheme over the years, particularly its effective financial management and consistent overachievement of physical targets during 2021–22 to 2023–24. Given this positive trajectory, the Committee had anticipated that the target of covering 3.15 lakh beneficiaries in 2024–25 would also be comfortably achieved.

In its response, the Department has clarified that although the entire budgetary allocation was utilized, the physical target could not be met due to a significant increase in the average cost per beneficiary. This was attributed to rising demand for cost-intensive aids and appliances such as motorized tricycles, accessible smartphones, and high-end prosthesis. The Committee acknowledge this shift in beneficiary preferences and understand that the quality and relevance of support are equally critical as is the number of beneficiaries covered. The Committee, therefore, recommend that while formulating future targets, the Department may adopt a more flexible and cost-sensitive approach, taking into account emerging trends in assistive technology and user needs, to ensure optimal and inclusive outcomes.

Recommendation (Para No. 4.17)

1.11. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee find that the SIPDA scheme has made significant stride in enhancing the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Collaborative initiatives, such as training programs with IIT Kharagpur and the Council of Architecture, have strengthened professional expertise in accessibility auditing and design. Non-financial MoUs with prominent companies like Amazon, Flipkart, and Zomato have successfully expanded the employment opportunities for PwDs, utilizing models such as Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD). The PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal has emerged as a one-stop digital platform for skill training and employment tracking, offering a more integrated approach to empowering PwDs. The Committee believe that issuance of over 1.13 crore Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards and the launch of a revamped portal have improved accessibility and streamlined the identification process for PwDs. The Committee recommend leveraging the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal, establishing regional training hubs, and deepening industry collaborations to enhance skill training and placement opportunities for PwDs.”

1.12. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The recommendation of the Committee in respect of NAP-SDP Scheme/PM-Daksh-DePwD Portal has been noted. This Department implements National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) with the objective of providing skill training to

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for enabling them to become self-reliant and productive members of the society and to integrate them with the mainstream of the society. Several initiatives have been taken from time to time by the Department since its inception, for proper implementation of the scheme as well as to achieve the objective of the scheme.

PM-DAKSH-DePwD Portal has been developed for monitoring of NAP-SDP Scheme. This portal is providing a vast pool of empaneled training partners and the PwDs have the opportunity to apply for skill training as per their choice of training partner, place of training centre and desired job role. This Department has signed MOUs with Non-Government Organization like Youth4jobs, Saarthak, Volvo, Zomato to increase the placement opportunities of trained PwDs. This Department is also taking up Special Projects under NAP-SDP Scheme for providing skill training and employment.”

1.13. The Committee, in their original Report, had observed the notable progress achieved under the National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) scheme in advancing accessibility, skill development, and employment opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). They noted the collaborative training initiatives with institutions such as IIT Kharagpur and the Council of Architecture, as well as non-financial MoUs with private sector companies like Amazon, Flipkart, and Zomato to promote employment through the Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD) model. The PM-DAKSH-DePwD portal was also recognized as a valuable digital platform for facilitating skill training and employment tracking. In view of these developments, the Committee had stressed the

importance of building on these initiatives to ensure wider impact and inclusion.

In response, the Ministry has highlighted its ongoing efforts under the National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP), including the operationalization of the PM-DAKSH-DePWD portal, partnerships with NGOs and corporates, and implementation of special projects to support skill training and job placement. While appreciating the initiatives outlined by the Department, the Committee are of the opinion that efforts must now focus on expanding the reach of these programmes by establishing regional training hubs and further strengthening industry partnerships. The Committee also reiterate that the portal should be utilized more effectively to provide customized training options and job opportunities, ensuring greater accessibility and empowerment of PwDs across the country.

Recommendation (Para No. 4.18)

1.14. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee note that the scheme faces challenges, particularly in fund utilization. Allocated budgets have often gone underutilized due to delays in receiving project proposals and incomplete utilization certificates, especially under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC). Efforts to create a barrier-free environment remain slow, with limited participation from States and UTs. Given that SIPDA is one of the largest umbrella schemes administered by the Department, such underperformance raises concerns about the adequacy of planning and execution by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should emphasize

improved coordination with States/UTs to ensure timely submission of proposals and optimal fund utilization, supported by a real-time tracking mechanism for project milestones. The Committee urge the Department to scale accessibility efforts by forging partnerships with NGOs and private players to accelerate retrofitting initiatives and provide training in universal design principles.”

1.15. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“Certain issues led to underutilization of funds, some of which are:

- Delayed and Incomplete Proposals:** A significant cause of underutilization has been due to the late or incomplete submission of proposals from State Governments, UTs, and implementing agencies.
- **Pendency of Utilization Certificates (UCs):** Release of further funds is contingent upon receipt of UCs for earlier releases. Delays in submission of the same by States/UTs have hindered timely disbursement.
 - **Systemic Changes:** The introduction of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) models led to transitional delays.
 - **Inadequate Proposals from Certain Regions:** Particularly from North-Eastern States, the number of proposals received has been insufficient, further affecting overall utilization.

In order to address the shortfalls in fund utilization and to facilitate full appropriate utilization of funds, the Department is actively pursuing several redressal mechanisms, such as:

Screening Committee: A committee consisting of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director/Deputy Secretary (SIPDA), and two experts in the field of disability duly examine the proposals for release of Grants-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

- **Regular follow ups:** The Department conducts regular follow ups with the concerned stakeholders through meetings/VCs to expedite the release of GIA under the Creation of Barrier Free (CBFE)/ Accessible India Campaign (AIC) component of the Umbrella Scheme SIPDA, which includes frequent communications by the Department for obtaining the requisite documents and/or proposals for consideration.
- **Reassessment of fund release procedure:** The Department is currently in the process of reviewing and further simplifying the fund release process in respect of the 2nd instalments under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment (CBFE) Scheme for prompt fund disbursal.

In addition to the above, the Department also engages with private players for furthering the agenda of increased accessibility for Divyangjans in the nation by the following activities:

- **Signing of MoU with the Council of Architecture (CoA):** The Department has collaborated with CoA and developed a training course on accessibility under the MoU; furthermore 41 access auditors have been trained under the MoU.
- The Department signed an MoU with Enable Me Access for providing training to stakeholders on existing accessibility standards in India.
- The Department has signed an MoU with Association for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to enable the Department to use 'Yes to Access' app for

conducting accessibility evaluation by stakeholders during the Sugamya Yatra under which a total of 588 users have conducted audit of 1040 public buildings/premises across 18 States and 05 Union Territories.

- The Department has empaneled 59 accessibility auditors in Built Environment and 10 accessibility auditors in web environment; applications are open throughout the year for empaneling more number of web accessibility auditors.
- Sugamya Bharat App-a crowdsourcing app that registers infrastructure accessibility related issues and escalates the same to the concerned authorities for prompt redressal-has been revamped by involving technocrats from within the Divyangjan community. The app is compatible with both iOS and Android platforms.”

1.16. Recognizing the pivotal role of the Accessible India Campaign scheme in advancing accessibility and inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the Committee had earlier drawn attention to its uneven performance, particularly in terms of fund utilization and project execution. While the scheme holds considerable potential—especially through initiatives like accessibility training collaborations, skill development platforms, and private sector engagement—the Committee expressed concern over procedural delays, limited participation by States/UTs, and slow implementation of the Accessible India Campaign (AIC). They had urged the Department to strengthen coordination mechanisms, adopt real-time project monitoring, and forge broader partnerships to accelerate progress and ensure that allocated funds translate into tangible outcomes on the ground.

The Committee are not satisfied with the reply furnished by the Department as it largely reiterates ongoing processes without

providing substantive evidence of their effectiveness in resolving the structural bottlenecks. For instance, despite empanelment of accessibility auditors and partnerships with private stakeholders, the pace of retrofitting and accessible infrastructure creation remains slow. Furthermore, the reliance on crowdsourcing apps and volunteer-led initiatives cannot substitute for systematic policy-driven execution and financial accountability.

The Committee are, therefore, constrained to reiterate their concern that unless the Department takes firm steps to reform its implementation strategy, the objectives of the scheme will remain only partially fulfilled. They recommend that the Department adopt a mission-mode approach to the Accessible India Campaign with fixed timelines, strengthen real-time project monitoring systems, and introduce performance-based incentives or disincentives for State Governments. Furthermore, measurable outcomes must be periodically reviewed and reported to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds meant for the empowerment of Divyangjan.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 3.22)

The Committee find that the ADIP Scheme has consistently demonstrated commendable performance in empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) through efficient financial management, exceeding physical targets, and adopting innovative measures. The utilization of funds has been robust, surpassing revised estimates. The scheme's ability to achieve 121.5 per cent, 140.0 per cent and 160.0 per cent of its physical targets in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, respectively, reflects its effectiveness. The Committee are confident that the target in 2024-25 would be easily met.

Reply of the Government

The physical target of 3.15 lakh beneficiaries for FY 2024-25 was set based on the assumption of cost incurred per beneficiary at ₹10,000/-. However, due to increasing demand of costlier items among beneficiaries such as Motorized Tricycle, Accessible Smart Phones and High-end Prosthesis, the cost incurred per beneficiary during FY 2024-25 came around ₹14,120.29/- (Total funds utilized in 2024-25: ₹354. 61 crore; number of beneficiaries = 2,51,136). Due to increase in average cost of devices per beneficiary, the physical target of 3.15 lakh beneficiaries for 2024-25 could not be achieved and only 2.51 lakh beneficiaries were given assistance.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.23)

The Committee find that while Digital innovations like the Arjun ADIP- MIS Portal have enhanced data management, the challenges like network issues in remote areas and difficulties faced by beneficiaries with low literacy must be addressed. The Committee in this regard would like to recommend that, offline data collection mechanisms that sync with the portal when connectivity is available which can bridge this gap may be explored by the Department. Additionally, user-friendly features and multilingual support can make the portal more accessible.

Reply of the Government

To address challenges such as network issues in remote areas for beneficiary registration under the ARJUN Portal, provision for offline data collection has been initiated. Additionally, beneficiaries facing difficulties due to low literacy can visit the nearest ALIMCO center (AAPCs/RMCs/PMDKs/AASRA), where trained staff are available to assist them in availing the benefits of the ADIP scheme. ALIMCO has 6 production facilities, 8 Regional Marketing Centres (RMCs), 70 Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDKs) and 60 ALIMCO Authorized Service & Repair Agency (AASRA) where beneficiaries can walk-in & avail benefits.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.24)

The Committee note that the Department has taken a major step to establish Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) of ALIMCO, the walk-in centers, where eligible beneficiary can directly avail required aids and appliances free of cost. The Committee find that expansion of Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) provides greater accessibility to services. The Committee commend the Department on the establishment of 64 functional PMDKs in the country and hope that the plan of the Department of scaling this initiative to the planned 300 centers over the next two years will improve accessibility and reduce dependency on ADIP camps. The Committee recommend that the Department ensure that these centers are equipped with adequate staff and resources for same-day fitments to the beneficiaries.

Reply of the Government

With the objective of extending the benefits of the ADIP and RVY (Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana) Schemes of the Government of India, Department through ALIMCO has been actively establishing Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs). Till date, 70 PMDKs have been made functional covering all States and Union Territories across the country and Department plans to open total 300 PMDKs by 2029. Further, ALIMCO ensures Same-Day Delivery for all Ready-to-Use (RTU) items. For customized fabricated appliances, measurement and casting are conducted on the same day, while delivery is typically completed within 7-10 days after ensuring proper fitment, trial, and Gait Training. Efforts are underway to further reduce this lead time progressively. As on date, ALIMCO has 130 P&Os (Prosthetic and Orthotic professionals) & 31 Audiologist on roll deputed at various PMDKs. More rehabilitation staff will be added to meet the requirements.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.25)

The Committee find that the production capacity of ALIMCO has enhanced by 2.5 times and its turnover increased from ₹350 crore in 2021-22 to ₹634 crore in 2023-24 after modernization. The Committee would like to commend the Department on the performance and efficiency of ALIMCO. The Committee are of the opinion that there is a requirement of Leveraging ALIMCO's Modernization. They feel that ALIMCO's enhanced capacity and European certifications open opportunities for global partnerships and exports. Encouraging ALIMCO to adopt cutting-edge technologies and explore newer product lines tailored to diverse disabilities can further elevate its impact. The Committee would like the Department to further explore this aspect.

Reply of the Government

Following modernization, ALIMCO has established an SMT (Surface Mount Technology) assembly line for manufacturing PCBs for electronic products at its Faridabad unit. This facility is capable of producing PCBs for Smart Cane and BTE (Behind the Ear hearing aid), trial production has been successfully commenced. Additionally, 3D printing machines for manufacturing of customized sockets have been installed at ALIMCO.

In its efforts to strengthen innovation, ALIMCO has forged strategic partnerships with leading government organizations and institutes to develop advanced assistive devices. These collaborations include CSIR-CSIO, Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), the National Institute of Design, IIT Chennai, CDAC Thiruvananthapuram, MIDHANI Hyderabad, AMTZ Vizag, SBMT Bangalore, and NSIC. These partnerships focus on the design, development, and manufacturing of cutting-edge assistive technologies. Products so produced under tie ups shall be promoted exclusively in Private and for Exports Market.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.26)

The Committee find that many eligible beneficiaries may remain unaware of the scheme or its benefits. They therefore recommend that the Department may explore collaborations with local governments, NGOs, and media platforms for extensive awareness campaigns which can enhance enrollment.

Reply of the Government

The following measures have been undertaken by ALIMCO which is the major implementing agency of the ADIP Scheme:

(a) **Establishment of PMDKs:** ALIMCO, in collaboration with National Institutes (NIs), Composite Regional Centers (CRCs), NGOs, AIIMS, and State Governments, have been setting up Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) across the country to enhance accessibility.

(b) **Localized Awareness Campaigns:** To ensure effective communication, advertisements in vernacular languages are scheduled for publication in leading local dailies across all States and Union Territories. Further, Social Media platform of ALIMCO shall be utilized more efficiently through special campaigns to disseminate awareness about the scheme. Instruction videos of usage of most running items like MTC (Motorized Tricycle), Hearing Aid etc. are uploaded on ALIMCO social media handles.

(c) **Collaborations with Stakeholders:** ALIMCO is actively working towards collaborations with District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs), Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Voluntary Organizations (VOs) to strengthen outreach efforts.

(d) **Inclusion of Special Schools and National Trust Beneficiaries:** Efforts are underway to ensure coverage of beneficiaries from Special Schools and Regional Offices of the National Trust, thereby expanding the reach of the scheme to children and individuals in need.

2. Further, the suggestions of the Committee have been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.17)

The Committee find that the SIPDA scheme has made significant stride in enhancing the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Collaborative initiatives, such as training programs with IIT Kharagpur and the Council of Architecture, have strengthened professional expertise in accessibility auditing and design. Non-financial MoUs with prominent companies like Amazon, Flipkart, and Zomato have successfully expanded the employment opportunities for PwDs, utilizing models such as Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD). The PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal has emerged as a one-stop digital platform for skill training and employment tracking, offering a more integrated approach to

empowering PwDs. The Committee believe that issuance of over 1.13 crore Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards and the launch of a revamped portal have improved accessibility and streamlined the identification process for PwDs. The Committee recommend leveraging the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal, establishing regional training hubs, and deepening industry collaborations to enhance skill training and placement opportunities for PwDs.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee in respect of NAP-SDP Scheme/PM-Daksh-DEPwD Portal has been noted. This Department implements National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) with the objective of providing skill training to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for enabling them to become self-reliant and productive members of the society and to integrate them with the mainstream of the society. Several initiatives have been taken from time to time by the Department since its inception, for proper implementation of the scheme as well as to achieve the objective of the scheme.

PM-DAKSH-DEPwD Portal has been developed for monitoring of NAP-SDP Scheme. This portal is providing a vast pool of empaneled training partners and the PwDs have the opportunity to apply for skill training as per their choice of training partner, place of training centre and desired job role. This Department has signed MOUs with Non-Government Organization like Youth4jobs, Saarthak, Volvo, Zomato to increase the placement opportunities of trained PwDs. This Department is also taking up Special Projects under NAP-SDP Scheme for providing skill training and employment.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.19)

To simplify the disability certification process, the Committee recommend deploying mobile certification teams and utilizing digital tools to improve access for underserved areas. The Committee further recommend organizing awareness campaigns, such as Divya Kala Melas, and conducting stakeholder workshops to improve outreach and implementation. The Committee urge the Department to allocate dedicated R&D funding and foster collaborations with premier institutions to develop assistive devices and innovative solutions tailored to PwD needs.

Reply of the Government

The Department has advised the States/UTs to facilitate disability assessment and certification through mobile vans in island and hilly areas to ensure coverage of genuine Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Divya Kala Melas are being organized in the various parts of the country regularly. Since December, 2022, 25 Divya Kala Melas have been organized. Through these Divya Kala Melas awareness campaigns for sensitization of Local Level Officials such as Sarpanch/Village Level workers, Anganwadi Workers etc.

about the various schemes being offered by the Department for welfare of the Divyangjans is done. Collaboration with premier institutions for R&D on assistive devices has been strengthened, with increased budget allocations under SIPDA for technological innovation benefiting PwDs.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.20)

The Committee recommend incentivizing States/UTs with performance-linked grants for achieving significant progress under SIPDA and providing targeted support to underperforming regions. The Committee urge the Department to integrate universal accessibility principles into education curriculums and establish a National Center for Accessibility to serve as a hub for research, training, and policy advocacy. The Committee recommend strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms, using AI and digital tools like the Sugamya Bharat App to enhance real-time tracking, optimize training outcomes, and address accessibility challenges effectively, advancing SIPDA's mission to empower PwDs.

Reply of the Government

Specialised courses on accessibility have been developed in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur in B. Planning and B. Architecture programs to integrate universal accessibility principles into educational curriculums.

The Department also engages with private players for furthering the agenda of increased accessibility for Divyangjans in the nation by the following activities:

- Signing of MoU with the Council of Architecture: The Department has collaborated with CoA and developed a training course on accessibility under the MoU; furthermore 41 access auditors have been trained under the MoU.
- The Department signed an MoU with EnableMeAccess for providing training to stakeholders on existing accessibility standards in India.
- The Department has signed an MoU with Associations for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to enable the Department to use 'Yes to Access' app for conducting accessibility evaluation by stakeholders during the Sugamya Yatra under which a total of 588 users have conducted audit of 1040 public buildings/premises across 18 States and 05 Union Territories.
- The Department has empaneled 59 accessibility auditors in Built Environment and 10 accessibility auditors in web environment; applications are open throughout the year for empaneling more number of web accessibility auditors.

- Sugamya Bharat App-a crowdsourcing app that registers infrastructure accessibility related issues and escalates the same to the concerned authorities for prompt redressal-has been revamped by involving technocrats from within the Divyangjan community. The app is compatible with both iOS and Android platforms.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.15)

The Committee find that while the Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) has made progress in reaching its targets, there are significant challenges in fund utilization and physical achievements. The Committee note that there were variations in actual expenditure, as only 56 per cent utilized in 2022-23 and 15 per cent utilized as of November 2024 for 2024-25, indicating inefficiencies in fund disbursement and implementation. The Committee would like to recommend that the Department enhance fund utilization efficiency by streamlining the disbursement process and implementing real-time tracking mechanisms. The Committee urge the Department to expedite the approval of new project proposals, particularly those targeting cross-disabilities and specific learning disabilities, to meet the consistent target of 40,000 beneficiaries. To address delays in project implementation, the Committee recommend strengthening the monitoring and reporting systems, alongside introducing automatic escalation for pending proposals. The Committee also recommend that the Department should incentivize timely project proposals, expand collaborations with NGOs, and provide capacity-building support to all the stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of the scheme. These steps will help overcome current bottlenecks, ensuring DDRS achieves its objectives and impacts the lives of persons with disabilities more effectively.

Reply of the Government

Details of financial and physical achievements during the last three years are as under:
(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure	Beneficiaries
2022-23	125.00	105.00	114.69	35349
2023-24	130.00	130.00	129.98	30589
2024-25	165.00	139.00	139.39	34898

(Note: It may be noted from the above table that the complete allotted fund or more than allotted fund has been utilized during the year 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.)

Regarding the Committee's recommendation to streamline the disbursement process and implement real-time tracking mechanisms, Department is already working on enhancing these systems. This will ensure regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects, allowing the Department to track progress and address any delays or issues in a timely manner.

In response to the Committee's suggestion to expedite the approval of new project proposals, the Department is committed to prioritizing projects, particularly those addressing cross-disabilities and specific learning disabilities, to meet the target of 40,000 beneficiaries per year.

The Department established a Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU) in 2022-23 to enhance oversight and ensure effective implementation and monitoring of DDRS projects. The Department also coordinates with National Institutes/CRCs for supervising and monitoring District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs), working with implementing agencies and officials.

Furthermore, the Department is taking steps to incentivize timely project proposals and collaborate more with NGOs. These measures will improve the overall effectiveness of the DDRS scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 6.18)

The Committee find that while the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Scholarship for Students with Disabilities has made commendable efforts in empowering students with disabilities, several challenges persist in achieving its full potential. The Committee note that, despite an increase in budgetary allocations over the years, utilization rates have been inconsistent, and physical achievements have fallen short. Challenges such as delays in application verifications, insufficient awareness, and technical issues with UDID and Aadhaar-based systems have hampered effective implementation. The Committee would like to recommend strengthening the verification process at the State Nodal Officer level, enhancing the capacity of the National Scholarship Portal to address technical bottlenecks, and expanding the scope of outreach programs through targeted awareness campaigns. The Committee emphasize the need for timely disbursement of funds, regular monitoring through physical inspections, and improved coordination with State/UT Governments to reduce pendency and duplication. The Committee further recommend revising the scholarship guidelines to ensure adequate flexibility for addressing emerging needs and streamlining the documentation process for applicants.

These measures will enhance the effectiveness of the scheme and better serve the educational aspirations of students with disabilities.

Reply of the Government

Under the Scholarship Umbrella Scheme, applications are received on NSP online portal for the Pre-matric, Post-matric and Top Class Education Scholarship Scheme. Aadhaar and UDID have been made mandatory to get the benefits of Scholarships. The Aadhaar details of beneficiaries are collected through the National Scholarship Portal and Fellowship Management Portal. UDID has also been integrated and beneficiary's information is fetched through API without any manual intervention for correct and accurate data.

The applications are verified at various levels such as from the school or institute level to the domicile State or UT level. The State Nodal Officer verifies the application form and uploaded documents. The Nodal Officer can verify, defect, reject, or mark the application as fake. Once the application is verified at these levels, the National Scholarship Portal runs the Sanity checks and generates Red Flags. The doubtful applications are again sent to the State Nodal Officers for re-validation. The Department releases the scholarship amount only for those applications which are duly verified and approved by all verification authorities. The scholarship is disbursed only to the Aadhaar-seeded bank account of the beneficiary. Beside of this, the data verification works are assigned to the CPMU team for the Post Matric/Top Class Education applications and National Fellowship Scholarship Schemes on regular basis. The Department has revised the scholarship guideline for the year 2024-25 to ensure adequate flexibility for addressing emerging needs and streamlining the documentation process for applicants.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 7.9)

The Committee note with appreciation that the establishment of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABVTCDS) in Gwalior as a landmark initiative to empower Divyangjan athletes and foster inclusivity in sports. The Centre's state-of-the-art infrastructure and focus on disciplines such as athletics, football, swimming, badminton, table tennis, and Bocce provide significant opportunities for athletes with disabilities. The Committee find that the Centre has already hosted several national and State-level events, benefiting a substantial number of participants and showcasing its potential as a hub for para-sports in the country. The Committee recommend regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms to ensure the continuous

improvement of the Centre's programs and infrastructure, making ABVTCDS a model institution for nurturing talent and promoting inclusivity in para-sports.

Reply of the Government

The Department assures that regular review for periodic assessments, athlete performance evaluations, and infrastructural reviews are being conducted to ensure the Centre's continuous development. Moreover, a structured reporting system is being institutionalized to maintain high standards and incorporate stakeholder feedback for further improvements.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 7.10)

The Committee would like to recommend that efforts be intensified to ensure universal accessibility at the Centre, catering to athletes with diverse disabilities. Additionally, the Committee underscore the need for expanding outreach. The Committee also recommend the creation of a structured framework for talent identification and development, supported by a transparent ranking system to nurture promising athletes. The inclusion of emerging sports such as wheelchair rugby, para-yogasana, and Bocce should be further encouraged with targeted funding and the development of adaptive sports equipment.

Reply of the Government

The Department is committed to ensuring universal accessibility at ABVTCDS. The Centre is being upgraded with additional accessibility features to accommodate a broader range of disabilities. ABVTCDS is actively implementing various initiatives to enhance its impact on para-sports development. Several major national and state-level para-sports events have already been conducted, and many more are planned to increase visibility and outreach. The Department remains committed to scaling up these initiatives with targeted funding to further improve accessibility, participation, and competitive performance in emerging para-sports disciplines.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 7.11)

The Committee further note that partnerships with global disability sports organizations and international athlete exchange programs may provide valuable exposure and elevate the standards of para-sports in India. Furthermore, the integration of sports with education through initiatives like the proposed National University for Divyangjans in Assam is essential to holistically support athletes. The Committee emphasize the importance of community engagement through awareness campaigns and workshops to foster societal inclusion and reduce stigma around disabilities.

Reply of the Government

The Department is actively engaging with global disability sports organizations to foster international collaborations, providing Indian para-athletes with greater exposure. Moreover, awareness campaigns and stakeholder workshops are being scaled up to promote inclusivity and address social stigma associated with disabilities. Large-scale awareness campaigns, including participation in Divya Kala Mela, Purple Fest, and Swachhata Rallies are being done to promote social inclusivity and reduce stigma associated with disabilities. Through these measures, the Department aims to elevate the standards of para-sports in India while ensuring that athletes receive comprehensive educational, infrastructural, and social support to excel at national and international levels.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 8.4)

The Committee find that the Department's efforts in implementing and monitoring its schemes through the development of various portals such as ARJUN, PM-DAKSH, NSP, e-Anudaan, and UDID are commendable, reflecting a strong commitment to improving accessibility, transparency, and efficiency. The meticulous approach to tracking beneficiary data, ensuring compliance through timely audits, and regular inspections demonstrates a solid foundation for effective implementation. The Committee also feel that the incorporation of biometric attendance, online verification, and de-duplication mechanisms further enhances accountability. However, it is essential for the Department to continue refining these systems, addressing any gaps in proposal submissions or delays, and ensuring greater engagement with all the stakeholders to ensure that the persons with disabilities, receive the full benefit of these initiatives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should focus on strengthening communication and capacity-building efforts with State Governments, NGOs, and other

implementing agencies to ensure timely and complete proposals. The Department should also prioritize regular, real-time monitoring to identify and address any discrepancies promptly.

Reply of the Government

The Department notes the recommendation.

The monitoring mechanism under different schemes is as below:

ADIP scheme: Regarding the ARJUN Portal, online verification of beneficiaries is conducted exclusively through the UDID API under the ADIP Scheme. Additionally, a unified database of all implementing agencies, including NGOs and trusts, has been developed to prevent duplication of beneficiaries receiving the same benefits.

Furthermore, the Department has removed the requirement for State Government recommendations in processing NGO proposals submitted through the e-Anudaan Portal. This decision was made to ensure the timely release of Grant-in-Aid to implementing agencies and to simplify the application process under the ADIP Scheme.

Additionally, the Department will keep refining these portals to meet evolving requirements, enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency.

Scholarship schemes: The monitoring of the National Fellowship program is done by DEPwD. The award of Senior Research Fellowships is done after an appropriate evaluation by the committee of institutes in respect of performance in the research work of the candidate in the Junior Research Fellowship phase.

Under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, the bi-annual progress report of the student is obtained from the concerned College/Institute/University through the Indian Embassy/ High Commission before the release of further annual maintenance, tuition fees, and other allowances.

The Department also takes necessary steps to sensitize the States/UTs to reduce the time lag at various levels of the State Nodal Officers and other Stakeholders by conducting review meetings with State Nodal Officers of the States/UTs, through VCs and monitors the progress and sort out the discrepancies promptly with the coordination of NSP-NIC/PFMS Team.

DDRS scheme: Under DDRS, proposals are received on e-Anudaan portal. One of the key challenges is the delay in receiving proposals at the Central Ministry level in e-Anudaan portal. To address this issue, a new process has been implemented on e-Anudaan portal. Now, if the proposal of PIAs/NGOs on the e-Anudaan portal remains

pending at the District level for one month without action, it will be automatically forwarded to the State Government. Further, if the proposal is left pending with the State Government for another month without action, it will be forwarded directly to the Department at the Central level, without the State Government's recommendation. This change is expected to resolve delays in the release of funds.

The UDID integration with e-Anudaan helps in verifying the data of the beneficiaries. Further, through RCI integration with e-Anudaan, staff CRR number is also being verified and has been made mandatory in the e-Anudaan portal.

Regarding monitoring of the DDRS - In the Department's monitoring system, a Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU) was established in the financial year 2022-23 to enhance oversight and ensure the effective implementation of projects under DDRS. The Department also coordinates with the National Institutes/ CRCs for supervision and monitoring of District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs) by coordinating with the implementing agencies, district/state officials etc. NI/CRCs play a critical role in identifying areas for improvement, ensuring transparency, and promoting accountability in the management and utilization of funds.

UDID: The following monitoring mechanism is in place:

At central level, the UDID Project is managed by the Department. At state level, UDID project is managed by the State Social Welfare Departments in consultation with the State Health Departments. Also there is provision to appoint one state coordinator in each State/UT for smooth implementation of the UDID project in the country.

NAP-SDP scheme: The Department is striving to take various initiatives like, preparation of courses/ curriculum based on contemporary job demand in coordination with Sector Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD), signing of MOUs with Non-Government Organization like Youth4jobs, Saarthak, Volvo, Zomato to increase the placement opportunities of trained PwDs.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

CHAPTER- III

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

NIL

CHAPTER-IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.18)

The Committee observe that from 2021-22 to 2023-24, there has been a consistent trend of under spending compared to both Revised Estimates (RE) and Budget Estimates (BE), with actual expenditures falling short across various schemes of the Department. While the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has locked both the allocations and physical targets for the schemes under the Department, including ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships, for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the Department must address the recurring shortfalls in fund utilization. The Committee urge the Department to conduct a thorough review of the factors contributing to the underutilization of funds and take immediate and focused remedial actions. The Committee are also of the opinion that proactive engagement with stakeholders is essential to address delays in proposal submissions from State Governments, NGOs, and implementing agencies, ensuring timely and complete proposals to facilitate smooth fund release. Streamlining fund disbursement processes, particularly for skill training programs and capital expenditure, is crucial to mitigating delays and enhancing program delivery. Furthermore, given the challenges in meeting the fixed targets for schemes like SIPDA and DDRS, the Department should reassess the targets setting to ensure they are realistic and achievable while maintaining flexibility in adjustments based on performance trends. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department should take decisive actions to improve fund utilization and achieve the intended outcomes of all the schemes in the remaining years of the current financial cycle (2023-2026). This will ensure that the resources allocated for the welfare of persons with disabilities are utilized effectively, enabling the Department to meet the targets set under various Schemes.

Reply of the Government

The replies in respect of different schemes are as under:

ADIP scheme: The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the ADIP Scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	235.00	230.00	242.29
2023-24	245.00	305.00	290.60
2024-25	315.00	350.00	348.81
2025-26	316.70		

Under the ADIP Scheme, BE for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 316.70 crores that will be utilized in various activities under ADIP Scheme. For FY 2025-26, requirement of funds has been projected by ALIMCO which is the major Implementing Agency of ADIP Scheme. Apart from this, demand for funds has also been raised by National Institutes for pilot projects on TLM Kits.

Scholarship scheme: The budget allocation fixed by EFC for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 is ₹ 560 Crore and the number of slots are fixed as per EFC. The Department has utilized more than the RE funds under the Scholarship scheme during FY 2024-25. The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the Scholarship scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	105.00	145.00	142.00
2023-24	155.00	155.00	130.07
2024-25	142.68	80.00	89.63
2025-26	145.00		

The Department is actively organizing meetings with State Nodal Officers (SNOs) to ensure effective implementation of the schemes. The Department is also taking necessary steps to sensitize the States/UTs to clear the pendency at various levels of the State Nodal Officers and other Stakeholders. The Department has published advertisements in leading Newspapers across the country twice to increase awareness of these schemes amongst students and other stakeholders. All other types of media and social media platforms are also used for spreading awareness. The Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of the States are also addressed to spread awareness of the schemes through various mediums of communication in their respective States/UTs.

DDRS scheme: The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the DDRS scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	125.00	105.00	114.69
2023-24	130.00	130.00	129.98
2024-25	165.00	139.00	139.39
2025-26	165.00		

Under the DDRS scheme, the remedial measures taken by this Department for smooth utilization of funds are as under:

- Model projects have been conceptualized to cover all 21 disabilities as per RPwD Act, 2016 .
- Maximum age limit of the ID beneficiaries has been increased from 18 to 23 years.
- Grant-in-aid to the Implementing Agencies is being released on Advance-cum-reimbursement basis.
- With effect from 2023-24, the implementing agencies are required to submit UDID cards of all the eligible beneficiaries. The data regarding UDID cards is being directly fetched through API from UDID Portal (Swavlamban Portal).
- With effect from 01.10.2024, if the proposal submitted by the PIAs/NGOs on e-anudaan portal is pending at District level for one month without any action, then it will automatically be forwarded to the State Government. Further, if the same proposal is pending with the State Government for one month without any action, then it will automatically be forwarded (without recommendation of State Government) to the Department. However, this will not be applicable in case of supplementary grant being given by the State Government to the PIAs/NGOs.
- CPMU consultants and young professionals of the Department are conducting video inspections to monitor the smooth functioning of the organizations and the timely submission of grants-in-aid proposals.

SIPDA scheme: The details of BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the DDRS scheme for the years 2022-23 to 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 are as under:

(₹ in Cr)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2022-23	240.39	100.00	65.59
2023-24	150.00	67.00	76.79
2024-25	135.33	111.00	44.16*
2025-26	115.10		

**Due to implementation of TSA module from 2024-25, some States could not onboard on TSA module and make expenditure of sanctioned amount of about ₹ 40 crore.*

It has been observed that certain issues led to underutilization of funds, some of which are:

- **Delayed and Incomplete Proposals:** A significant cause of underutilization has been submission of late or incomplete proposals from State Governments, UTs, and implementing agencies.
- **Pendency of Utilization Certificates (UCs):** Release of further funds is contingent upon receipt of UCs for earlier releases. Delays in submission of the same by States/UTs have directly hindered timely disbursement.
- **Systemic Changes:** The introduction of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) models led to transitional delays.
- **Inadequate Proposals from Certain Regions:** Particularly from North-Eastern States, the number of proposals received has been insufficient, further affecting overall utilization.

In order to address the shortfalls in fund utilization and to facilitate full appropriate utilization of funds, the Department is actively pursuing several redressal mechanisms, such as:

- A committee consisting of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director/Deputy Secretary (SIPDA), and two experts in the field of disability duly examine the proposals for release of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.
 - The Department conducts regular follow ups with the concerned stakeholders through meetings/VCs to expedite the release of GIA under the Barrier Free (CBFE)/ Accessible India Campaign (AIC) component of the Umbrella Scheme SIPDA, which includes frequent communications by the Department for obtaining the requisite documents and/or proposals for consideration.
 - The Department is currently in the process of reviewing and further simplifying the fund release process in respect of the 2nd instalment under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment (CBFE) Scheme for prompt fund disbursal.
 - A dedicated online portal for receiving proposals under Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) Scheme has been launched. For the events/initiatives to be taken up through National Institutes, the Department has planned to work out a model to make advance payments to the NIs in anticipation of those activities, which would improve the fund utilization and timely program execution.
2. Further, the suggestions of the Committee have been noted for compliance.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

(Recommendation Para No.4.18)

The Committee note that the scheme faces challenges, particularly in fund utilization. Allocated budgets have often gone underutilized due to delays in receiving project proposals and incomplete utilization certificates, especially under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC). Efforts to create a barrier-free environment remain slow, with limited participation from States and UTs. Given that SIPDA is one of the largest umbrella schemes administered by the Department, such underperformance raises concerns about the adequacy of planning and execution by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should emphasize improved coordination with States/UTs to ensure timely submission of proposals and optimal fund utilization, supported by a real-time tracking mechanism for project milestones. The Committee urge the Department to scale accessibility efforts by forging partnerships with NGOs and private players to accelerate retrofitting initiatives and provide training in universal design principles.

Reply of the Government

Certain issues led to underutilization of funds, some of which are:

Delayed and Incomplete Proposals: A significant cause of underutilization has been due to the late or incomplete submission of proposals from State Governments, UTs, and implementing agencies.

- **Pendency of Utilization Certificates (UCs):** Release of further funds is contingent upon receipt of UCs for earlier releases. Delays in submission of the same by States/UTs have hindered timely disbursement.
- **Systemic Changes:** The introduction of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) models led to transitional delays.
- **Inadequate Proposals from Certain Regions:** Particularly from North-Eastern States, the number of proposals received has been insufficient, further affecting overall utilization.

In order to address the shortfalls in fund utilization and to facilitate full appropriate utilization of funds, the Department is actively pursuing several redressal mechanisms, such as:

Screening Committee: A committee consisting of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director/Deputy Secretary (SIPDA), and two experts in the field of disability duly examine the proposals for release of Grants-in-Aid(GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

- **Regular follow ups:** The Department conducts regular follow ups with the concerned stakeholders through meetings/VCS to expedite the release of GIA under the Creation of Barrier Free (CBFE)/ Accessible India Campaign (AIC) component of the Umbrella Scheme SIPDA, which includes frequent communications by the Department for obtaining the requisite documents and/or proposals for consideration.

- **Reassessment of fund release procedure:** The Department is currently in the process of reviewing and further simplifying the fund release process in respect of the 2nd instalments under the Creation of Barrier Free Environment (CBFE) Scheme for prompt fund disbursal.

In addition to the above, the Department also engages with private players for furthering the agenda of increased accessibility for Divyangjans in the nation by the following activities:

- Signing of MoU with the Council of Architecture (CoA): The Department has collaborated with CoA and developed a training course on accessibility under the MoU; furthermore 41 access auditors have been trained under the MoU.
- The Department signed an MoU with EnableMeAccess for providing training to stakeholders on existing accessibility standards in India.
- The Department has signed an MoU with Association for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to enable the Department to use 'Yes to Access' app for conducting accessibility evaluation by stakeholders during the Sugamya Yatra under which a total of 588 users have conducted audit of 1040 public buildings/premises across 18 States and 05 Union Territories.
- The Department has empaneled 59 accessibility auditors in Built Environment and 10 accessibility auditors in web environment; applications are open throughout the year for empaneling more number of web accessibility auditors.
- Sugamya Bharat App-a crowdsourcing app that registers infrastructure accessibility related issues and escalates the same to the concerned authorities for prompt redressal-has been revamped by involving technocrats from within the Divyangjan community. The app is compatible with both iOS and Android platforms.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.1/4/2024-25/Budget/DEPwD dated 23rd April, 2025)

CHAPTER-V

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE**

NIL

**NEW DELHI;
06th August, 2025
15 Shravana, 1947 (Saka)**

**P.C. MOHAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment**

APPENDIX-I

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 06TH AUGUST, 2025

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, E-PHA, Block 'B', Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT
SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS Lok Sabha

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijayalakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
6. Shri Murari Lal Meena
7. Shri Bhojraj Nag
8. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
9. Shri Rajkumar Roat
10. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
11. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
12. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki

Rajya Sabha

13. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
14. Shri Narayana Koragappa
15. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
16. Shri Rameswar Teli
17. Smt. Mamata Thakur
18. Shri Abdul Wahab
19. Shri Niranjana Bishi

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the following draft Reports:

(i) Draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

(ii) *** **

(iii) *** **

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses during the ensuing session.

The Committee then adjourned.

***** Does not pertain to this Report.**

APPENDIX-II

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN SECOND REPORT (EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)' OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	16	
II. Observations/ Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government- Rec. Para No.3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25, 3.26, 4.17, 4.19, 4.20, 5.15, 6.18, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11 & 8.4	14	87.5%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: - NIL	00	00
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: - Rec. Para No. 2.18 & 4.18	02	12.5%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature: - NIL	00	00
		100%