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**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 Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)



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

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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 Thirteenth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2025. 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 04.07.2025. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 19.08.2025.

3. An analysis of the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' 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;
19th August, 2025
28 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 Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

1.2. The Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2025. It contained 27 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 **(Total: 20, Chapter: II)** been accepted by the Government: - **Rec. Para No. 1.15, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 4.17, 4.19, 4.20, 5.13, 5.14, 5.31, 5.32, 5.33, 5.39, 5.40, 5.41, 5.47, 6.17, 6.18 & 6.19**
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the **(Total: 01, Chapter: III)** Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply: – **Rec. Para No. 7.6**
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of **(Total: 05, Chapter: IV)** which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: – **Rec. Para No. 2.15, 3.20 ,4.18, 5.15 & 5.23**
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of **(Total: 01, Chapter: V)** which replies of the Government are interim in nature: – **Rec. Para No. 8.3.**

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. 2.15)

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

“From a thorough examination of the Demands for Grants (DFG) over the past three years, the Committee observe a persistent trend of underutilization of funds across key schemes such as ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships, with actual expenditures consistently falling short of Revised Estimates (RE) and Budget Estimates (BE). The BE allocations were invariably reduced at the RE stage in 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25, yet the Department was unable to fully utilize even the reduced funds. The Department utilized 97.38 per cent of RE in 2022-23 and 93.39 per cent in 2023-24. However, as of 03.03.2025, only ₹892.68 crore of ₹1,167.27 crore (76.48 per cent) has been spent. This shortfall was primarily due to disruptions from the introduction of the CNA and TSA models. Delays in receiving Utilization Certificates (UCs) from State Governments under SIPDA and a lack of adequate proposals from North-Eastern States further hindered funds utilization. While the Committee were assured by the Department’s representatives that the remaining 2024-25 funds would be fully utilized by 31.03.2025, the Committee strongly urge the Department to adopt targeted remedial measures and strategic interventions to ensure efficient fund utilization in 2025-26. Proactive engagement with State Governments, NGOs,

and implementing agencies is essential to streamline proposal submissions and disbursement process, particularly for skill training programs and capital expenditure. Furthermore, given the challenges in meeting fixed targets for schemes like SIPDA and DDRS, the Department should reassess target-setting methodologies to ensure that they are realistic, flexible, and aligned with performance trends. The Committee recommend decisive action to improve fund utilization and program execution in the remaining year of the 2024-26 financial cycle, ensuring that allocated resources effectively advance the welfare of persons with disabilities and that the Department successfully meets its commitments 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:-

“The suggestions of the Committee has been noted.

In FY 2024-25, the Department has spent ₹1,112.61 crore against the RE of ₹1,167.27 crore *i.e.* 95.32 % of RE allocation. Further, it is also mentioned that approximately ₹47 crore has been returned to CFI from TSA account as various State Governments/Implementing agencies/NGOs/organizations etc have not withdrawn funds by 31.03.2025. The Scheme wise details are given below:

ADIP Scheme: For FY 2024-25, against the RE of ₹350.00 crores, amount of ₹348.81 crores has been spent. The balance amount of ₹1.19 crores was surrendered under the media head due to non-withdrawal of funds by Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for expenditure incurred by them under ADIP Scheme. 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, sufficient demand for funds has been raised 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 teaching/learning materials (TLM) Kits.

SIPDA Scheme: Under SIPDA Scheme, during 2024-25, an amount of ₹44.16 crore has been spent out of RE of ₹111.00 crore, Further, 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.

In order to address the shortfall 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 has been constituted of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director/Deputy Secretary (SIPDA), and two experts in the field of disability to duly examine the proposals for release of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

Strengthening Coordination with States and Implementing Agencies:

The Department engages proactively with State Governments, particularly focusing on improving the timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and correct proposals. Periodic virtual and in-person review meetings are being held to track progress under SIPDA.

Process Optimization Post-CNA and TSA Introduction:

Recognizing the transitional disruptions caused by the adoption of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) systems, the Department has streamlined fund release protocols and updated internal SOPs to minimize delays in disbursement and expenditure.

DDRS Scheme: Under DDRS Scheme, an amount of ₹139.39 crore has been spent during the financial year 2024–25 as against the revised estimate of ₹139.00 crore.

Under the DDRS scheme, the following measures have been taken by this Department for smooth utilization of funds as under:

- a. Model projects have been conceptualized to cover all 21 disabilities as per RPwD Act, 2016.
- b. Maximum age limit of the ID beneficiaries has been increased from 18 to 23 years.
- c. Grant-in-aid to the Implementing Agencies is being released on Advance-cum-reimbursement basis.
- d. 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).
- e. With effect from 01.10.2024 the following procedure has been rolled out for expediting fund release: 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 is being given by the State Government to the PIAs/NGOs.
- f. 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.

Scholarship Scheme: Under Scholarship Scheme, an amount of ₹89.71 crore has been spent during 2024-25 against the RE allocation of ₹80.00 crore. 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.

The Department reiterates its commitment to the efficient and impactful implementation of all its flagship schemes and assures the Committee of sustained efforts to maximize fund utilization, enhance delivery mechanisms, and fulfill its mandate for the welfare of persons with disabilities.”

1.7. In their original recommendation, the Committee had flagged the persistent underutilization of funds across key schemes—namely ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships—despite fixed allocations and physical targets under the EFC framework. The Committee had called for targeted interventions, better coordination with States, and reassessment of planning and implementation processes. However, the Committee are not satisfied with the Government’s reply. While the Department has claimed improved fund utilization in 2024–25, actual figures—especially under the SIPDA scheme—continue to reflect substantial shortfalls, with less than 40% of RE spent and significant funds returned due to procedural delays. This is a recurring pattern which is observed over the past three years. The Committee note that procedural reforms have been introduced, such as automated proposal forwarding and stakeholder outreach. However, these do not adequately address structural issues like weak inter-agency coordination, delayed approvals, and lack of region-specific planning. The Committee reiterate that a more data-driven, accountable, and flexible implementation framework is needed to ensure that available resources are fully leveraged in the remaining years of the financial cycle.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.20)

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

“The Committee recognize that the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme is an important initiative aimed at enhancing mobility, independence, and economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Committee note that fund allocation and utilization under ADIP have shown a steady increase, with actual expenditure surpassing initial Budget Estimates (BE) in multiple years. In 2022-23, the BE was ₹235.00 crore, which was revised to ₹230.00 crore, yet actual expenditure exceeded expectations at ₹242.29 crore. Similarly, in 2023-24, the BE of ₹245.00 crore was significantly revised to ₹305.00 crore, with actual spending at ₹290.60 crore. In 2024-25, the BE was further enhanced to ₹315.00 crore, and the Revised Estimate (RE) increased to ₹350.00 crore, with ₹346.27 crore utilized as of 03.03.2025. The Committee also note that increased financial allocations has been ably matched by the physical performance/targets set under the Scheme. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, the target was exceeded, benefiting 2.89 lakh and 3.15 lakh beneficiaries, respectively. However, in 2024-25, only 2.10 lakh beneficiaries were assisted as of 14.02.2025, accounting for 67 per cent of the target of 3.15 lakh beneficiaries. While the Department has cited the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during General Elections and the transition to the TSA Model-I as reasons for the slower pace of the expenditure, the Committee urge the Department to learn from these experiences and establish contingency plans to ensure uninterrupted service delivery in the future. The Committee however express concern over the reduction of the physical targets for 2025-26 to 2.05 lakh beneficiaries and recommend that the Department continuously assess demand trends and explore possibilities for expanding beneficiary coverage.”

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:-

“It is to apprise the committee that the process of onboarding on TSA module has been streamlined and Grants-in-Aid to Implementing Agencies under ADIP Scheme is being released through TSA module smoothly for financial year 2025-26. However, the physical targets for beneficiaries was fixed considering the budgetary allocation of ₹316.70 cr under the Scheme for financial year 2025-26 *vis-à-vis* RE of ₹350 cr. in 2024-25. Another major reason for decrease in number of beneficiaries is that demand for high end devices including motorised and lithium battery operated tricycles is low in comparison to other low-cost devices.

As regard to beneficiary coverage, regular camps are being organised on basis of requests received from VIPs/other dignitaries. Also, sufficient demand for aids and appliances are being raised at PMDKs. Apart from this, the Department is also encouraging Implementing Agencies for distribution of aids and appliances through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).”

1.10. In their original recommendation, the Committee had acknowledged the positive financial and physical performance of the ADIP Scheme over the years but had expressed concern on the significant drop in beneficiary coverage during 2024–25, alongside the downward revision of physical targets for 2025–26. The Committee had urged the Department to draw plan of action based on their experiences gained from recent administrative and operational challenges and ensure that service delivery remains consistent and demand-driven.

In this context, the Committee find the reply of the Department to be somewhat limited in its scope. While the reasons cited—such as reduced

budgetary allocation and variation in demand for higher-end assistive devices—may partly explain the decline, the reply does not sufficiently elaborate on steps being taken to assess unmet needs or proactively expand outreach. The Committee believe that a more detailed and data-backed explanation would have added clarity, especially given the scheme’s significance in empowering persons with disabilities. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Department must strengthen its planning and monitoring mechanisms to ensure targets remain aligned with field-level demand. They recommend that future beneficiary projections be based on more granular assessments of regional needs and device preferences. Additionally, greater synergy with CSR initiatives and increased involvement of local stakeholders may help broaden the scheme’s reach and improve delivery outcomes.

Recommendation (Para No. 4.18)

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

“The Committee note that physical targets under DDRS have witnessed a downward revision since 2024-25, with the target reduced from 40,000 in 2023-24 to 32,000 in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Department has attributed this to the number of projects supported remaining largely the same over the years, with new proposals being considered only after the release of funds to organizations. The Committee emphasize that rehabilitation services for PwDs should not be constrained due to procedural delays in fund disbursement and recommend that the Department take proactive steps to expedite approvals for new projects. The Committee urge the Department to explore expanding the scope of DDRS to cover more PwDs by identifying underserved areas where rehabilitation services are limited or absent.”

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 observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. In response to the Committee's suggestion, under DDRS scheme, all the new proposals are considered after recommendations of Screening Committee of the Department. Under the scheme, screening committee gives preferences to States and Districts where Model Projects are either not in existence or not adequately represented. Committee considers the proposal based on infrastructure, beneficiaries and service providers.

The Department is committed to taking proactive steps to expedite the approval process for new projects by identifying underserved areas where rehabilitation services are limited or unavailable. This will enable us to reach a larger number of PwDs and improve the overall impact of our programs, ensuring that delays do not affect the delivery of essential services and helping us meet our target of 40,000 beneficiaries."

1.13. The Committee note that physical targets under DDRS have witnessed a downward revision since 2024-25, with the target reduced from 40,000 in 2023-24 to 32,000 in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Department has attributed this to the number of projects supported remaining largely the same over the years, with new proposals being considered only after the release of funds to organizations. The Committee emphasised that rehabilitation services for PwDs should not be constrained due to procedural delays in fund disbursement and recommend that the Department take proactive steps to expedite approvals for new projects. The Committee urged the Department to explore expanding the scope of DDRS to cover more PwDs by identifying underserved areas where rehabilitation services are limited or absent.

The Committee appreciate the Department's efforts in introducing monitoring mechanisms, including video inspections of NGOs and time-bound forwarding of proposals under the revised DDRS. The provision for automatic transmission of pending proposals from the district levels to the State Government and further to the DEPwD if no action is taken within a month of submission is a commendable measure aimed to streamline the approval process and minimize administrative delays. However, the Committee recommend strict enforcement of these provisions to ensure that no proposal remains pending for an unreasonable duration. Further, the Committee support the decision that organizations running both DDRS and National Trust schemes should choose only one to avoid duplication of services, ensuring that funds reach the maximum number of beneficiaries.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.15)

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

"The Committee also find that persistent challenges such as delays in fund disbursement, pending utilization certificates, and incomplete proposals have impacted the effective implementation of SIPDA. Given that SIPDA is the flagship scheme for PwDs, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department strengthen its monitoring and coordination mechanisms by ensuring regular follow-ups with State Governments and implementing agencies. The Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU) should be further empowered to enable realtime tracking of fund utilization, proposal approvals, and physical progress under various sub-schemes. Furthermore, timely clearance of compliance documents such as Utilization Certificates (UCs) and pending proposals should be ensured to prevent underutilization and last-minute fund surrender."

- 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:-

“In order to address the shortfalls in fund utilization and to facilitate full appropriate utilization of funds, the Department is actively pursuing several redressal mechanism, 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 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

Strengthening Coordination with States and Implementing Agencies:

The Department engages proactively with State Governments, particularly focusing on improving the timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and correct proposals. Periodic virtual and in-person review meetings are being held to track progress under SIPDA.

Process Optimization Post-CNA and TSA Introduction:

Recognizing the transitional disruptions caused by the adoption of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) systems, the Department has streamlined fund release protocols and updated internal SOPs to minimize delays in disbursement and expenditure.

The Department reiterates its commitment to the efficient and impactful implementation of all its flagship schemes and assures the Committee of

sustained efforts to maximize fund utilization, enhance delivery mechanisms, and fulfill its mandate for the welfare of persons with disabilities.”

1.16. The Committee, in their earlier recommendation, had drawn attention to persistent issues in both financial and physical performance under the SIPDA scheme. Over the last three years, the Department has witnessed wide fluctuations between Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates, and actual expenditure—indicating inconsistencies in financial planning and inefficiencies in fund absorption.

Despite the Department’s reply outlining multiple redressal measures—such as constitution of a Screening Committee, improved coordination with States, field reviews, and capacity-building initiatives—the Committee find that these responses remain largely procedural and fail to convey how they are addressing the core issues of delayed approvals, underutilization of funds and lapses in monitoring.

Given that SIPDA is a flagship initiative for advancing accessibility and empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Committee reiterate the urgent need for the Department to overhaul its approach by instituting a robust, real-time project tracking system through the Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU), ensuring timely submission of Utilization Certificates, and reducing delays in proposal processing. Financial planning must be made more realistic and performance-driven to avoid unnecessary mid-year revisions and surrender of funds. The Committee expect that the Department will act on the recommendation with greater urgency and accountability to ensure that SIPDA achieves its stated goals in the remaining years of the current financial cycle.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.23)

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

“The Committee note with appreciation the initiatives undertaken under the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) to enhance accessibility in built environments, transportation, and information & communication technology (ICT). However, with the campaign now subsumed under the “Creation of Barrier-Free Environment (CBFE)” sub-scheme under SIPDA, the Committee express concern over the absence of a dedicated budgetary allocation for CBFE and the continued financial support required for sustained accessibility initiatives. The Committee strongly recommend that the Department create a structured financial framework within SIPDA, ensuring that accessibility projects receive adequate funding without dependence on overall SIPDA allocations. Additionally, a long-term accessibility roadmap should be developed to maintain momentum and expand initiatives to underserved regions.”

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

“The Department is engaging with allied Ministries (*e.g.*, Urban Affairs, Railways, and Education) to integrate accessibility components within their infrastructure development programs and explore co-funding opportunities for large-scale accessibility interventions. Demi-Official letters have been sent to Secretaries of different ministries from Secretary, DEPwD for the same.

SIPDA scheme has several sub-components. Notional allocations are made to each scheme sub- component which are reviewed periodically for making adjustments as per requirement.”

1.19. The Committee appreciate the Department’s continued engagement with other Ministries to integrate accessibility into their infrastructure development programs and acknowledge the use of notional allocations under the SIPDA scheme. However, the Committee remain concerned that the current arrangement—relying on internal adjustments and periodic reviews—may not offer the consistency and strategic prioritization needed to scale up and sustain accessibility initiatives, especially following the subsuming of the Accessible India Campaign under the “Creation of Barrier-Free Environment (CBFE)” sub-scheme. The Committee reiterate the need for a clearly delineated financial framework within SIPDA for CBFE, with specific, trackable allocations that do not remain contingent on broader SIPDA funding dynamics. The Committee further recommend that the Department finalize a long-term, outcome-oriented roadmap for accessibility, with a focus on underserved regions and measurable targets, to ensure that the objectives of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan continue to be advanced in a systematic and sustained manner.

CHAPTER-II
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE
GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 1.15)

The Committee appreciate the proactive initiatives taken by various State Governments in establishing dedicated Department for disability affairs and significantly increasing budgetary allocations. They also acknowledge the innovative approach of community-based interventions, such as Karnataka's village-level disability workers and the nationwide Sugamya Yatra initiative, which fosters grassroots accessibility improvements. To build on this momentum, the Committee recommend that the Department actively collaborate with States to institutionalize similar models across the country, ensuring sustainable and community-driven disability inclusion. Additionally, a structured framework should be developed to document and monitor accessibility improvements under Sugamya Yatra, enabling the replication of best practices nationwide.

Reply of the Government

In alignment with the Committee's recommendations, the Department is committed to working closely with State Governments to replicate and institutionalize such successful models. Efforts are already underway to establish structured mechanisms for regular documentation, monitoring, and evaluation of accessibility interventions under the Sugamya Yatra initiative. This will facilitate the identification and dissemination of best practices, ensuring a more inclusive, community-driven, and sustainable approach to disability inclusion across the country. In addition to this:

- a. 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 1257 public buildings/premises across 19 States and 03 Union Territories.

- b. The Department has empanelled 59 accessibility auditors in Built Environment and 10 accessibility auditors in web environment; applications for empaneling more no. of web accessibility auditors are open throughout the year.
- c. 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 4th July, 2025)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.21)

The Committee appreciate the revisions in the ADIP Scheme, effective 26.09.2024, which aim to enhance inclusivity and provide greater financial relief to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The modifications include higher income eligibility ceilings, increased financial support for assistive devices, and expanded coverage for advanced mobility aids and corrective surgeries. The enhancements in subsidies for motorized tricycles, wheelchairs, and high-end prostheses, along with greater financial assistance for cochlear implants and corrective surgeries, are expected to significantly improve accessibility and independence for PwDs. By reducing the financial burden on beneficiaries and ensuring access to better-quality assistive devices, these changes will promote greater social and economic inclusion. The Committee, however, emphasize the need for periodic impact assessments to evaluate whether these modifications are effectively improving the quality of life for PwDs, ensuring that the intended benefits reach the maximum number of eligible individuals.

Reply of the Government

The Impact Evaluation Study was conducted by National Institute of Labour Economic Research and Development (NILERD), an Autonomous Institution under the aegis of the NITI Aayog in respect of ADIP Scheme from the period 2016-17 to 2018-19. The

recommendations were implemented w.e.f April, 2022. The Impact Evaluation for current EFC cycle period of 2021-22 to 2025-26 has already been initiated and would be completed soon.

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

(Recommendation Para No.3.22)

The Committee appreciate the establishment of Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs), which provide walk-in access to assistive aids and have benefitted 35,919 PwDs as of 2024-25. These centers play a crucial role in ensuring last-mile service delivery, and the Committee recommend their expansion to underserved regions, particularly in remote and tribal areas. The removal of the requirement for State Government recommendations in NGO proposals is also a welcome step toward reducing bureaucratic delays and ensuring the timely release of funds. However, the Committee stress the importance of strict monitoring mechanisms to prevent misuse of funds and maintain transparency in implementation.

Reply of the Government

The observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. As of now, the following monitoring mechanism is undertaken :-

- a. The organizations have to furnish an audited utilization certificate in time in respect of the previous grant (s).
- b. Implementing agencies are required to maintain a website and upload details of grants received under the ADIP Scheme, grants utilized and a list of beneficiaries. Proposals of NGOs are being received and processed online on e-Anudaan Portal.
- c. Mandatory Registration of NGOs on NITI Aayog Portal (NGO Darpan).

- d. Arjun Portal facilitates near real-time monitoring of beneficiary data and also prevent and check duplication of beneficiaries.
- e. Sample checking of beneficiaries against the utilization of Grant-in-Aid released to Implementing Agencies by nearest NI/CRC/ALIMCO or by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities if required. Sample Checking covers at least 2% of aids & assistive devices provided to the beneficiaries.
- f. To ensure transparency in distribution through PMDK, mandatory uploading of photograph of beneficiaries alongwith aids and appliances received has been made mandatory. Also, random inspections are conducted by nominated PMDK nodal officers from ALIMCO to verify compliance with operational guidelines and assess service quality. Regular reporting and periodic financial audits further reinforce accountability, ensuring adherence to prescribed norms and preventing discrepancies.

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

(Recommendation Para No.3.23)

The Committee commend the inclusion of Motorized Tricycles with LiIron-Phosphate batteries and Folding Joystick Wheelchairs in the ADIP Scheme, with a subsidy of up to ₹50,000, as a significant step towards improving mobility and independence for PwDs. These modern assistive devices, along with enhanced financial support for high-end prostheses and cochlear implants, will broaden accessibility, lower maintenance costs, and provide financial relief to beneficiaries and their families. The Committee strongly recommend that the Department undertake extensive outreach efforts to ensure that maximum eligible PwDs can avail these benefits and urge collaboration with research institutions and industry partners to continuously enhance and upgrade assistive devices, making them more cost-effective, durable, and efficient.

Reply of the Government

The Department through ALIMCO is making continuous efforts to enhance and upgrade assistive devices in order to make them more cost-effective, durable, and efficient.

Various initiative taken by ALIMCO in this regard is as under :-

- a. ALIMCO has executed an MoU with the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh for various products under which development of high powered glasses for visually impaired persons is underway and subsequently Transfer of Technology (ToT) will be done for same.
- b. ALIMCO has done ToT with IIT-Madras and SBMT, Bangalore for manufacturing and distribution of 'KADAM' Knee Joint.
- c. The Corporation has formalized an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for the development of Programmable Behind-the-Ear (BTE) hearing aids with advanced features.
- d. ALIMCO has also entered into an MoU with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for the development of microprocessor-based knee joints.
- e. Corporation has also signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh Medical Technology Zone (AMTZ) for research and development of assistive technology and medical device and other future collaborations.

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

(Recommendation Para No.3.24)

The Committee appreciate the Department's efforts in enhancing accessibility and mobility for the elderly by distributing over 18,000 assistive devices during the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). Such initiatives play a vital role in reaching vulnerable populations in large public gatherings and ensuring their comfort and dignity. To further strengthen these efforts, the Committee recommend that similar outreach programs be integrated into other major national and

regional events. Additionally, a structured mechanism for pre-event assessment and beneficiary registration should be developed to ensure the distribution of need specific assistive devices, maximizing the impact of such initiatives.

Reply of the Government

In alignment with the Committee's recommendations, the Department through its Implementing Agencies will work towards integrating similar outreach programs into other major national and regional events. Additionally, structured mechanism for pre-event assessment and beneficiary registration will help in streamlining the process of distribution. The Department will make efforts to collaborate with implementing agencies and stakeholders to develop a systematic approach for need-specific identification and advance registration of beneficiaries, optimizing the efficiency of device distribution.

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

(Recommendation Para No.4.17)

The Committee recognize the crucial role of DDRS in providing rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through NGOs and implementing agencies. An analysis of fund utilization trends over the past three years reveals significant fluctuations, with 2022-23 and 2023-24 recording high fund utilization, while in 2024- 25, actual expenditure stood at ₹87.95 crore as of 03.03.2025, despite a Budget Estimate (BE) of ₹165 crore. The Committee note that the transition from the CNA Model to TSA Hybrid Model 1-A led to procedural delays in fund disbursement, impacting the pace of implementation. Additionally, as grants were previously processed on a reimbursement basis, NGOs were required to submit audited accounts by June 30 of the next financial year, further slowing down fund releases. However, with the revised DDRS guidelines effective from 01.10.2024, which allow Grant-in-Aid on an advance-cum reimbursement basis, the Committee expect that fund flow will improve and implementation delays will be minimized. The Committee recommend that the Department ensure timely release of

advances, particularly to NGOs with strong compliance records, while also strengthening the capacity of implementing agencies to meet documentation requirements on time, ensuring efficient utilization of allocated funds. The Committee also urge the Department to ensure a smoother transition in funding mechanisms by streamlining financial procedures and proactively addressing administrative bottlenecks to avoid such shortfalls in future fiscal years.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the disbursement of funds was expedited during 2024-25, resulting in a total disbursement of ₹139.39 crore exceeding the revised estimate of ₹139.00 crore. Further, as per the revised guidelines effective from 01.10.2024, if the organization has not received the full and final GIA of the previous year due to pending proposal at the end of the Department and an advance proposal of the current year has been received, then the GIA up to 25 % of amount released for the previous to previous year may be released to the PIAs as advance GIA, so that the functioning of the organization does not come to a standstill. (for example: For a particular NGO/PIA, if the advance proposal for the year 2024-25 has been received but the proposal for the year 2023-24 is still under examination in the Department, then the advance GIA of up to 25 % of the amount released for the year 2022-23 to that NGO/PIA may be released for 2024-25.)

The Department is committed to streamlining financial procedures and addressing administrative bottlenecks proactively. Measures will be put in place to ensure a smoother process in the future, with the goal of avoiding shortfalls in subsequent fiscal years.

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

(Recommendation Para No.4.19)

The Committee appreciate the Department's efforts in introducing monitoring mechanisms, including video inspections of NGOs and time-bound forwarding of proposals under the revised DDRS. The provision for automatic transmission of pending proposals from the district levels to the State Government and further to the DEPwD if no action is taken within a month of submission is a commendable measure aimed to streamline the approval process and minimize administrative delays. However, the Committee recommend strict enforcement of these provisions to ensure that no proposal remains pending for an unreasonable duration. Further, the Committee support the decision that organizations running both DDRS and National Trust schemes should choose only one to avoid duplication of services, ensuring that funds reach the maximum number of beneficiaries.

Reply of the Government

The Department fully acknowledges the importance of enforcing measures such as introducing monitoring mechanisms, including video inspections of NGOs and the time-bound forwarding of proposals under the revised DDRS, to ensure no proposal remains pending for an unreasonable duration. We are committed to working towards their effective implementation.

The decision requiring organizations running both DDRS and National Trust schemes, to choose only one is crucial to avoid service duplication, ensuring that available funds are optimally utilized to benefit the maximum number of beneficiaries.

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

(Recommendation Para No.4.20)

The Committee note that DDRCs function as decentralized rehabilitation units, providing early identification and intervention, assistive device distribution, therapy services, and skill development for PwDs. While DDRCs were initially planned for 325 districts, only 269 DDRCs were set up, and currently, only 74 are functional. The Committee express concern over the low operational count of DDRCs and recommend that the Department prioritize the revival and expansion of DDRCs in districts lacking rehabilitation facilities. The Committee also welcome the shift to online applications for Grant-inAid (GIA) for DDRCs through the e-Anudaan Portal from 2024-25, which is expected to simplify and expedite the application process.

Reply of the Government

As the committee remarked, only 74 DDRCs are functional, and in recent years, several DDRCs have been shut down, mainly due to the following reasons:

- a. Some DDRCs face funding delays, primarily due to procedural lapses, such as the non-submission of required financial documents to the Ministry on time.
- b. The closure of any DDRC is typically a result of state-level administrative decisions, as the scheme allows state governments flexibility in implementing DDRCs.
- c. Limited involvement of District-level officials in the effective implementation of the centers.
- d. Poor performance of certain DDRCs may be attributed to a lack of proactive state government support, failure to mobilize resources, or inadequate coordination between the District Management Team and implementing agencies.

The Department is committed to addressing these issues and will work towards strengthening the operational capacity of existing DDRCs and establishing new ones in underserved areas. The shift to online applications for Grant-in-aid (GIA) for DDRCs through the e-Anudaan Portal, starting from 2024-25, is expected to simplify and expedite the application process, enhancing both efficiency and transparency.

Additionally, the Department coordinates with National Institutes/CRCs to supervise and monitor the District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs), working closely with implementing agencies and officials.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.13)

The Committee observe significant inconsistencies in the Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE), and actual fund utilization under SIPDA over the past three years. Frequent downward revisions at the RE stage and low actual expenditure despite available allocations indicate systemic inefficiencies in fund absorption. In 2022-23, the BE was ₹240.39 crore, which was reduced by 58.4 per cent at the RE stage to ₹100 crore, with actual expenditure at just ₹65.59 crore. Similarly, in 2023-24, the BE of ₹150 crore was cut to ₹67 crore, yet actual expenditure exceeded the RE at ₹76.79 crore (114.7 percent of RE). In 2024-25, despite an RE of ₹111 crore, only ₹43.90 crore (39.5 percent of RE) had been utilized as of 03.03.2025. These fluctuations indicate inconsistent fund planning and delays in fund utilization, leading to missed opportunities for enhancing accessibility and disability-related initiatives. The Committee strongly recommend that the Department strengthen its financial planning mechanisms by ensuring that BE allocations are realistic, demand driven, and reflective of actual implementation capacity.

Reply of the Government

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

Constitution of Screening Committee:

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

Strengthening Coordination with States and Implementing Agencies:

The Department engages proactively with State Governments, particularly focusing on improving the timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and correct proposals. Periodic virtual and in-person review meetings are being held to track progress under SIPDA.

Process Optimization Post-CNA and TSA Introduction:

Recognizing the transitional disruptions caused by the adoption of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) systems, the Department has streamlined fund release protocols and updated internal SOPs to minimize delays in disbursement and expenditure.

The Department reiterates its commitment to the efficient and impactful implementation of all its flagship schemes and assures the Committee of sustained efforts to maximize fund utilization, enhance delivery mechanisms, and fulfill its mandate for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.14)

In addition to financial inconsistencies, the Committee note a significant shortfall in meeting physical targets under SIPDA. In 2022- 23, against a target of 44,520 beneficiaries, 44,162 were assisted, reflecting 99.2 per cent achievement. However, in 2023-24, the achievement dropped to 29,374 beneficiaries against the same target (65.9 per cent), and as of 16.01.2025, only 11,933 beneficiaries (27.4 per cent) had been covered out of the 43,520 target for 2024-25. This indicates delays in execution and ineffective implementation strategies. The Committee recommend that the Department enhance coordination with State Governments and implementing agencies to ensure faster approval and processing of applications, preventing recurring lapses in achieving physical targets. Furthermore, a robust monitoring framework should be instituted to track real-time progress, ensuring better alignment between financial allocations and physical achievements. The Department must identify and address systemic bottlenecks to ensure that SIPDA meets its intended goals of accessibility, empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Reply of the Government

It is understood that the data of Physical Targets, achievements/shortfalls is related to Scholarship Scheme of the Department which has been included under Para 6.17. A reply against this Para has been answered under the relevant para.

Further the reply to the recommendation of the Committee related to SIPDA Scheme corrective actions is given below:

Enhanced State-Level Coordination Mechanism:

The Department has issued advisories to State Nodal Departments, urging them to expedite the approval and processing of applications under SIPDA. State-level review meetings are being conducted intermittently to monitor project progress and address implementation delays. A special focus has been placed on low-performing states to ensure accelerated action.

Targeted Field Visits and Review Missions:

Field verification by CPMU and state-level reviews are conducted in partnership with State Govt. Officials and Access Auditors to assess on-ground implementation, identify systemic bottlenecks, and recommend remedial actions.

Capacity Building of Implementing Agencies:

Training and orientation programs for implementing officers and partner agencies have been scaled up to improve understanding of SIPDA guidelines, project management, and beneficiary identification and outreach.

The Department is committed to ensuring that SIPDA achieves its intended objectives of accessibility, empowerment, and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. All necessary institutional and operational reforms are being implemented to prevent recurrence of past lapses and to deliver tangible outcomes on the ground.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.31)

The Committee observe that the National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs (NAP-SDP) has consistently underperformed in meeting its physical targets, with achievements ranging from only 12.62 per cent in 2022-23 to 32.25 per cent in 2024-25 (as of January 2025). Given the demand-driven nature of the scheme, the Committee recommend that the Department strengthen its mobilization efforts, improve coordination with training partners, and ensure timely disbursement of funds. Further, efforts should be made to optimize the utilization of the budget allocation by addressing

administrative bottlenecks, improving the training infrastructure, and ensuring a greater alignment of courses with market demand to enhance employment prospects for PwDs.

Reply of the Government

Under the NAP-SDP Scheme, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are provided skill training for enabling them to become self-reliant and productive members of the society and to integrate them with the mainstream of the society. The scheme is being implemented on the common norms prescribed by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Training under the NAP-SDP scheme is being provided through various Government and Non- Government Organizations.

NAP-SDP Scheme is a demand driven scheme and funds are released to implementing agencies based on the proposals received from Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs).

The Department conducts regular review of ETPs and other associated stakeholders for sensitizing them about prerequisite requirement for effective implementation of the scheme. Besides, implementation of the scheme is regularly monitored/reviewed by Department through Inspection of the respective centers of ETP via video conference/ physically etc. The skill training is conducted by ETPs having certain infrastructural & accessibility requirements for PwDs to attend the training courses. Hence center validation is conducted by Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) before starting training at the centre.

SCPwD makes job roles in alignment with market demand from time to time for enhancement of employment for PwDs.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.32)

The Committee however appreciate the Department's efforts in signing MoUs with private firms and job aggregators like Amazon, Youth4Jobs, and Zomato to facilitate employment opportunities for trained PwDs. However, with only 28,000 PwDs employed till date, the Committee recommend a robust strategy to strengthen employment linkages, including expanding industry partnerships, promoting entrepreneurship support programs, and ensuring sector-specific skill training tailored to high-demand job markets. A structured tracking mechanism should also be put in place to monitor the employment status of trained PwDs.

Reply of the Government

The Department has taken 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 Organizations to increase the placement opportunities of trained PwDs. Department has developed PM-DAKSH-DEPwD Portal for proper implementation and monitoring of NAP-SDP Scheme.

This Department is also conducting skill training through its own institutions, namely, National Institutes/ Composite Regional Centres/Regional Centres, Special Schools, Special projects for providing skill training to PwDs.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.33)

Noting the challenges in data tracking and monitoring of training and placements, the Committee welcome the introduction of the PMDAKSH-DEPwD Portal. However, the Committee recommend that the Department ensure its full operationalization with real-time data tracking, performance audits of training partners, and impact assessments of training programs. Further, a feedback mechanism should be established where trained PwDs can report challenges faced in employment, enabling timely interventions and policy adjustments to enhance the scheme's effectiveness.

Reply of the Government

Department has developed the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD Portal for effective implementation of NAP-SDP Scheme which acts as a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment, and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs.

Training partners performance are assessed on the basis of their audited accounts, assessment of the trainees by the SCPwD, centre validation including inspection of the centre by Department/National Institutes(NIs)/Composite Regional Center(CRCs) etc.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.39)

The Committee note that while the UDID project has successfully generated approximately 1.18 crore cards, its implementation continues to face challenges due to a shortage of medical professionals, inadequate hospital infrastructure, and a large backlog of pending applications at hospitals. To address these issues, the Committee recommend that the Department work in close coordination with State Governments to strengthen medical infrastructure, expedite the inclusion of private medical professionals in the certification process, and ensure the availability of well equipped facilities for disability assessment. Additionally, the Department should facilitate specialized training programs for medical authorities to improve efficiency in issuing disability certificates and reduce delays.

Reply of the Government

The Department acknowledges the concerns raised by the Committee regarding the implementation challenges of the UDID (Unique Disability ID) project. While the generation of above 1.21 crore UDID cards marks a significant milestone, we recognize

the existing constraints, particularly the shortage of medical professionals, inadequate infrastructure, and the backlog of pending disability certification applications.

The Department has initiated the following steps to address these challenges:

- a. The Department is actively engaging with State Governments. The district hospitals as well as primary health centers have been on boarded to support timely disability assessments.
- b. Disability assessment Guidelines have been revised and notified on 12.03.2025 to facilitate the inclusion of qualified private medical professionals in the certification process. The State/UT Governments have been asked to empower hospitals with financial budget to hire the services of private medical expert so that certification process can be expedited. In the recent meeting held with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh on 09.05.2025, private medical specialist has been engaged by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in Etawah District to mitigate the gap of non availability of medical professional in this district.
- c. Eight Zonal training programmes have been conducted across the country on revised disability assessment guidelines covering more than 6000 medical professionals.
- d. Details of State/UT wise pendency have been made available in the public domain through the online UDID portal enabling the higher officers in the State/UT Government to monitor the progress of disposal of pendency at their end also.

Regular review meeting with State/UT Governments are being conducted to utilize existing and available resources and infrastructure at its best possible way for expediting disability certificate issuance.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.40)

Recognizing the UDID's critical role in enabling PwDs to access various government benefits and services, the Committee underscore the importance of ensuring full utilization of the allocated budget for 2025-26. This requires robust monitoring of fund disbursement, proactive engagement with State and UT authorities, and the timely clearance of pending UDID applications. A structured and time-bound approach should be adopted to enhance accessibility and ensure that all eligible PwDs receive their UDID cards without unnecessary delays.

Reply of the Government

The Committee's emphasis on the need for optimal utilization of the allocated budget for 2025–26 is noted. Department has been monitoring the progress of disposal of pendency at regular intervals. Further, Since December, 2022 the UDID cards are being dispatched through speed post at the doorstep of the PwDs ensuring speedy and timely delivery of UDID cards.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.41)

The Committee further observe that PwDs in rural and remote areas face difficulties in accessing the UDID system due to limited internet coverage and therefore urge the Department to strengthen the role of Common Service Centres (CSCs) and explore the deployment of mobile service units for on-site registration and certification. The Committee would also like to recommend that awareness campaigns be conducted in collaboration with State Governments to ensure that all eligible PwDs are aware of the benefits of UDID and the process for obtaining it.

Reply of the Government

The upgraded version of UDID portal with advanced new features was launched in the month of May, 2024 making the application and certification process simple and hassle free for the PwDs as well for all users. Any person eligible of UDID card can apply using the portal either himself or with the help of the guardians or legal representatives. Awareness Generation is one of the components under UDID sub scheme. The Department releases grant-in-aid to State/UT Governments to undertake publicity of the UDID cards among the districts. As of now, the Department has disbursed Rs. 8.15 Crore to various State/UT Governments to undertake targeted awareness programmes focusing on educating PwDs and their families about the benefits of the UDID card, the application process, and the support available through various agencies.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.47)

The Committee observe that the Scheme for Financial Assistance to Spinal Injury Centers (ASIC) is vital for providing treatment and rehabilitation to individuals with spinal cord injuries, especially those from economically weaker sections. However, with only eight State Spinal Injury Centers (SSICs) supported so far, the scheme's reach remains limited. To address this, the Committee recommend proactive engagement with State governments to expand SSICs in government hospitals and ensure better accessibility to specialized care. Given that ASIC operates under SIPDA without a separate budgetary allocation, the Department must prioritize its funding needs and streamline proposal approvals to ensure timely disbursement of grants. Strengthening monitoring mechanisms, expediting clearances, and raising awareness among stakeholders will be key to ensuring full utilization of funds and maximizing the scheme's impact.

Reply of the Government

The Department acknowledges the Committee's recommendation to expand the reach and impact of the ASIC scheme. In response, the Department has intensified engagement with State Governments to encourage the establishment of State Spinal Injury Centers (SSICs) in government hospitals. Efforts are being made to earmark dedicated funding within SIPDA to prioritize spinal injury rehabilitation projects. A strong monitoring framework is being developed to ensure regular tracking of implementation, and awareness campaigns and capacity-building sessions are underway to support States and stakeholders in leveraging the scheme effectively. The Department remains committed to expanding access to specialized spinal injury care, particularly for persons from economically weaker sections.

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

(Recommendation Para No.6.17)

The Committee observe significant fluctuations in fund allocation, utilization, and target achievement under the Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities. In 2022-23, the Revised Estimate (RE) was increased to ₹145.00 crore, with 97.9 per cent utilization (₹142.00 crore). However, in 2024-25, the RE was sharply reduced by 43.9 per cent to ₹80.00 crore, and as of 03.03.2025, only ₹58.38 crore (72.9 per cent of RE) had been utilized. Similarly, physical target achievement dropped from 99.2 per cent in 2022-23 to just 27.4 per cent in 2024-25(as of Jan,2025). This underutilization, despite high demand in previous years, indicates the need for better forecasting and planning. The Committee recommend that the Department adopt a more structured approach to fund allocation, ensuring that budgetary provisions align with actual demand. Additionally, efforts should be made to streamline the verification and disbursement process at the State Nodal Officer level to avoid delays and ensure timely financial assistance to beneficiaries.

Reply of the Government

In this regard, it is submitted that the introduction of e-KYC (bio-authentication) in last quarter of 2023-24 and the subsequent adoption of face authentication, OTP procedure and mandate of UDID in 2024-25, has resulted in weeding out of duplicate applications which reduced the number of applications and hence RE was reduced due to the shortfall of expenditure. However, funds of Rs. 89.71 crore was utilised for the year 2024-25. Further, to streamline the verification and disbursement process at the State Nodal Officer level to avoid delays, the department actively organizes meetings with State Nodal Officers (SNOs) to ensure effective implementation of the schemes. The department has also taken necessary steps to sensitize the States/UTs to clear the pendency at various levels of the State Nodal Officers and other Stakeholders.

It may be mentioned that the budget allocation fixed by EFC for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 is Rs. 560 crore. The number of slots is fixed as per EFC and the Department has utilized the funds under the Scholarship scheme as per the proposal/applications received in each year as per recommendation and within the allocation of fund by the EFC. Since the scheme is demand driven and during the initial stage of EFC cycle, the amount spent was in excess of the amount earmarked for each year due to more number of applications. Therefore, for utilizing the remaining funds as per the EFC allocation till 2025-26, the RE of Rs. 80 cr. has been maintained accordingly.

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

(Recommendation Para No.6.18)

Given the low application numbers in certain years, the Committee emphasize the need for a more robust awareness campaign. While steps have been taken, such as newspaper advertisements and communication with State Governments, a more proactive strategy is required. The Department should leverage digital platforms,

collaborate with educational institutions, and engage disability rights organizations to maximize outreach. Special efforts must be made to target students in remote and rural areas who may be unaware of their eligibility for these scholarships.

Reply of the Government

Pre-matric, Post-matric and Top Class Education Schemes for PwDs are implemented through National Scholarship Portal. APIs have also been developed to facilitate seamless data sharing of Heads of Institutions/Institution Nodal Officers (HoI/INO) with States/UTs. Mobile application for face authentication for Nodal Officers has also been designed and developed. In this regard, it is submitted that the low application numbers in certain years is attributable to the introduction of e-KYC (bio-authentication) in last quarter of 2023-24 and the subsequent adoption of face authentication, OTP procedure and mandate of UDID in 2024-25, which has resulted in weeding out of duplicate applications which reduced the number of applications. Also, besides newspaper advertisements, the department actively organizes meetings with State Nodal Officers (SNOs) to ensure effective implementation of the schemes. 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.

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

(Recommendation Para No.6.19)

To prevent recurring issues of low fund utilization, the Committee urges the Department to implement a real-time monitoring mechanism for tracking application processing and fund disbursement. Regular review meetings with State Nodal Officers should be mandated, and timelines should be fixed for application verification and fund release. Additionally, simplifying application procedures and integrating AI-based verification tools can significantly improve efficiency. The Committee stress that every

effort must be made to ensure full utilization of the ₹145 crore allocated for 2025-26, benefiting the maximum number of eligible students with disabilities.

Reply of the Government

In this regard, it may be mentioned that the budget allocation fixed by EFC for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 is Rs. 560 crores. The number of slots is fixed as per EFC and the Department has utilized the funds under the Scholarship scheme as per the proposal/applications received in each year as per recommendation and within the allocation of fund by the EFC. For utilization of Rs. 145.00 crores allocated for the year 2025-26, the Department will regularly conduct review meetings with State Nodal Officers of the States/UTs, through VCs and monitor the progress. 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. On NSP, a chatbot has been introduced for providing assistance to the stakeholders for queries resolution. The amount allocated during 2025-26 will be fully utilized.

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

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

(Recommendation Para No.7.6)

The Committee express satisfaction with the establishment and progress of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABV-TCDS), Gwalior, recognizing its vital role in promoting para-sports in India. The Centre's state-of-the-art facilities, extensive sports infrastructure, and commitment to training Divyangjan athletes at par with international standards are commendable. The Committee are pleased to note the Centre's efforts in organizing national and State-level championships, talent identification programs, and collaborations with reputed institutions and sports federations. While acknowledging the challenges in operationalizing the facility, the Committee are optimistic that with sustained efforts, ABV-TCDS will emerge as a premier institution, significantly enhancing India's representation and success in international para-sporting events.

Reply of the Government

The Department acknowledges the Committee's appreciation of the efforts undertaken to establish and operationalize ABV-TCDS, Gwalior. The Centre is actively conducting training programs and para-sports events, furthering its mission to enhance India's representation in international para-sports. To address the operational challenges, the Department is working in coordination with relevant stakeholders to streamline administrative processes, enhance athlete outreach programs, and strengthen partnerships with national and international sporting bodies. Additionally, efforts are being made to ensure sustained financial and infrastructural support to further improve the training ecosystem at the Centre.

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

CHAPTER-IV

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

(Recommendation Para No.2.15)

From a thorough examination of the Demands for Grants (DFG) over the past three years, the Committee observe a persistent trend of underutilization of funds across key schemes such as ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships, with actual expenditures consistently falling short of Revised Estimates (RE) and Budget Estimates (BE). The BE allocations were invariably reduced at the RE stage in 2022-23, 2023- 24, and 2024-25, yet the Department was unable to fully utilize even the reduced funds. The Department utilized 97.38per cent of RE in 2022-23 and 93.39per cent in 2023-24. However, as of 03.03.2025, only ₹892.68 crore of ₹ 1167.27 crore (76.48per cent) has been spent. This shortfall was primarily due to disruptions from the introduction of the CNA and TSA models. Delays in receiving Utilization Certificates (UCs) from State Governments under SIPDA and a lack of adequate proposals from North-Eastern States further hindered funds utilization. While the Committee were assured by the Department's representatives that the remaining 2024-25 funds would be fully utilized by 31.03.2025, the Committee strongly urge the Department to adopt targeted remedial measures and strategic interventions to ensure efficient fund utilization in 2025-26. Proactive engagement with State Governments, NGOs, and implementing agencies is essential to streamline proposal submissions and disbursement process, particularly for skill training programs and capital expenditure. Furthermore, given the challenges in meeting fixed targets for schemes like SIPDA and DDRS, the Department should reassess target-setting methodologies to ensure that they are realistic, flexible, and aligned with performance trends. The Committee recommend decisive action to improve fund utilization and program execution in the remaining year of the 2024-26 financial cycle, ensuring that allocated resources effectively advance the welfare of persons with disabilities and that the Department successfully meets its commitments under various schemes.

Reply of the Government

The suggestions of the Committee has been noted.

In FY 2024-25, the Department has spent ₹1,112.61 crore against the RE of ₹1,167.27 crore *i.e.* 95.32% of RE allocation. Further, it is also mentioned that approximately ₹47 crore has been returned to CFI from TSA account as various State Governments/Implementing agencies/NGOs/organizations etc have not withdrawn funds by 31.03.2025. The Scheme wise details are given below:

ADIP Scheme: For FY 2024-25, against the RE of ₹350.00 crores, amount of ₹348.81 crores has been spent. The balance amount of ₹1.19 crores was surrendered under the media head due to non- withdrawal of funds by Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for expenditure incurred by them under ADIP Scheme. 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, sufficient demand for funds has been raised 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 teaching/learning materials (TLM) Kits.

SIPDA Scheme: Under SIPDA Scheme, during 2024-25, an amount of ₹44.16 crore has been spent out of RE of ₹111.00 crore, Further, 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.

In order to address the shortfall 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 has been constituted of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director/Deputy Secretary (SIPDA), and two experts in the field of disability to duly examine the proposals for release of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

Strengthening Coordination with States and Implementing Agencies:

The Department engages proactively with State Governments, particularly focusing on improving the timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and correct proposals. Periodic virtual and in-person review meetings are being held to track progress under SIPDA.

Process Optimization Post-CNA and TSA Introduction:

Recognizing the transitional disruptions caused by the adoption of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) systems, the Department has streamlined fund release protocols and updated internal SOPs to minimize delays in disbursement and expenditure.

DDRS Scheme: Under DDRS Scheme, an amount of ₹139.39 crore has been spent during the financial year 2024–25 as against the revised estimate of ₹139.00 crore. Under the DDRS scheme, the following measures have been taken by this Department for smooth utilization of funds as under:

- g. Model projects have been conceptualized to cover all 21 disabilities as per RPwD Act, 2016 .
- h. Maximum age limit of the ID beneficiaries has been increased from 18 to 23 years.
- i. Grant-in-aid to the Implementing Agencies is being released on Advance-cum-reimbursement basis.

- j. 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).
- k. With effect from 01.10.2024 the following procedure has been rolled out for expediting fund release: 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 is being given by the State Government to the PIAs/NGOs.
- l. 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.

Scholarship Scheme: Under Scholarship Scheme, an amount of ₹89.71 crore has been spent during 2024-25 against the RE allocation of ₹80.00 crore. 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.

The Department reiterates its commitment to the efficient and impactful implementation of all its flagship schemes and assures the Committee of sustained

efforts to maximize fund utilization, enhance delivery mechanisms, and fulfill its mandate for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

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

(Recommendation Para No.3.20)

The Committee recognize that the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme is an important initiative aimed at enhancing mobility, independence, and economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Committee note that fund allocation and utilization under ADIP have shown a steady increase, with actual expenditure surpassing initial Budget Estimates (BE) in multiple years. In 2022-23, the BE was ₹235.00 crore, which was revised to ₹230.00 crore, yet actual expenditure exceeded expectations at ₹242.29 crore. Similarly, in 2023-24, the BE of ₹245.00 crore was significantly revised to ₹305.00 crore, with actual spending at ₹290.60 crore. In 2024-25, the BE was further enhanced to ₹315.00 crore, and the Revised Estimate (RE) increased to ₹350.00 crore, with ₹346.27 crore utilized as of 03.03.2025. The Committee also note that increased financial allocations has been ably matched by the physical performance/targets set under the Scheme. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, the target was exceeded, benefiting 2.89 lakh and 3.15 lakh beneficiaries, respectively. However, in 2024-25, only 2.10 lakh beneficiaries were assisted as of 14.02.2025, accounting for 67per cent of the target of 3.15 lakh beneficiaries. While the Department has cited the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during General Elections and the transition to the TSA Model-I as reasons for the slower pace of the expenditure, the Committee urge the Department to learn from these experiences and establish contingency plans to ensure uninterrupted service delivery in the future. The Committee however express concern over the reduction of the physical targets for 2025-26 to 2.05 lakh beneficiaries and recommend that the Department continuously assess demand trends and explore possibilities for expanding beneficiary coverage.

Reply of the Government

It is to apprise the committee that the process of onboarding on TSA module has been streamlined and Grants-in-Aid to Implementing Agencies under ADIP Scheme is being released through TSA module smoothly for financial year 2025-26. However, the physical targets for beneficiaries was fixed considering the budgetary allocation of ₹316.70 cr under the Scheme for financial year 2025-26 *vis-à-vis* RE of ₹350 cr. in 2024-25. Another major reason for decrease in number of beneficiaries is that demand for high end devices including motorised and lithium battery operated tricycles is low in comparison to other low cost devices.

As regard to beneficiary coverage, regular camps are being organised on basis of requests received from VIPs/other dignitaries. Also, sufficient demand for aids and appliances are being raised at PMDKs. Apart from this, the Department is also encouraging Implementing Agencies for distribution of aids and appliances through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

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

(Recommendation Para No.4.18)

The Committee note that physical targets under DDRS have witnessed a downward revision since 2024-25, with the target reduced from 40,000 in 2023-24 to 32,000 in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Department has attributed this to the number of projects supported remaining largely the same over the years, with new proposals being considered only after the release of funds to organizations. The Committee emphasize that rehabilitation services for PwDs should not be constrained due to procedural delays in fund disbursement and recommend that the Department take proactive steps to expedite approvals for new projects. The Committee urge the Department to explore expanding the scope of DDRS to cover more PwDs by identifying underserved areas where rehabilitation services are limited or absent.

Reply of the Government

The observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. In response to the Committee's suggestion, under DDRS scheme, all the new proposals are considered after recommendations of Screening Committee of the Department. Under the scheme, screening committee gives preferences to States and Districts where Model Projects are either not in existence or not adequately represented. Committee considers the proposal based on infrastructure, beneficiaries and service providers.

The Department is committed to taking proactive steps to expedite the approval process for new projects by identifying underserved areas where rehabilitation services are limited or unavailable. This will enable us to reach a larger number of PwDs and improve the overall impact of our programs, ensuring that delays do not affect the delivery of essential services and helping us meet our target of 40,000 beneficiaries.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.15)

The Committee also find that persistent challenges such as delays in fund disbursement, pending utilization certificates, and incomplete proposals have impacted the effective implementation of SIPDA. Given that SIPDA is the flagship scheme for PwDs, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department strengthen its monitoring and coordination mechanisms by ensuring regular follow-ups with State Governments and implementing agencies. The Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU) should be further empowered to enable real time tracking of fund utilization, proposal approvals, and physical progress under various sub-schemes. Furthermore, timely clearance of compliance documents such as Utilization Certificates (UCs) and pending proposals should be ensured to prevent underutilization and last-minute fund surrender.

Reply of the Government

In order to address the shortfalls in fund utilization and to facilitate full appropriate utilization of funds, the Department is actively pursuing several redressal mechanism, 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 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under the Barrier Free and Accessible India component.

Strengthening Coordination with States and Implementing Agencies:

The Department engages proactively with State Governments, particularly focusing on improving the timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and correct proposals. Periodic virtual and in-person review meetings are being held to track progress under SIPDA.

Process Optimization Post-CNA and TSA Introduction:

Recognizing the transitional disruptions caused by the adoption of the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasury Single Account (TSA) systems, the Department has streamlined fund release protocols and updated internal SOPs to minimize delays in disbursement and expenditure. The Department reiterates its commitment to the efficient and impactful implementation of all its flagship schemes and assures the Committee of sustained efforts to maximize fund utilization, enhance delivery mechanisms, and fulfill its mandate for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

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

(Recommendation Para No.5.23)

The Committee note with appreciation the initiatives undertaken under the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) to enhance accessibility in built environments, transportation, and information & communication technology (ICT). However, with the campaign now subsumed under the "Creation of Barrier-Free Environment (CBFE)" sub-scheme under SIPDA, the Committee express concern over the absence of a dedicated budgetary allocation for CBFE and the continued financial support required for sustained accessibility initiatives. The Committee strongly recommend that the Department create a structured financial framework within SIPDA, ensuring that accessibility projects receive adequate funding without dependence on overall SIPDA allocations. Additionally, a long-term accessibility roadmap should be developed to maintain momentum and expand initiatives to underserved regions.

Reply of the Government

The Department is engaging with allied Ministries (*e.g.*, Urban Affairs, Railways, and Education) to integrate accessibility components within their infrastructure development programs and explore co-funding opportunities for large-scale accessibility interventions. Demi-Official letters have been sent to Secretaries of different ministries from Secretary, DEPwD for the same.

SIPDA scheme has several sub-components. Notional allocations are made to each scheme sub- component which are reviewed periodically for making adjustments as per requirement.

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

CHAPTER-V
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

(Recommendation Para No.8.3)

The Committee emphasize the urgent need to expedite the establishment of the National University of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Sciences in Kamrup, Assam, given the prolonged delays since its announcement in 2015-16. Recognizing the critical role of the university in advancing education, research, and rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities, the Committee urge the Department to swiftly resolve land allocation issues, ensure timely compliance with the Department of Expenditure's observations, and secure necessary approvals without further delay. The Committee recommend that a clear implementation roadmap with defined timelines be formulated to ensure the project progress efficiently, enabling the university to become operational at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

The Department acknowledges the Committee's concerns regarding the delays in establishing the National University of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Sciences (UDSRS) in Kamrup, Assam. The Department has been actively pursuing the matter and has taken the following steps:

- a. Land Allocation: The initially identified land at Bondapara, Bekeli Mouza under Boko Revenue Circle was found unsuitable as a significant portion fell within a reserve forest. Subsequently, in response to the Department's request, the Government of Assam has identified and allocated 150 Bighas of Government Khas land in Village Deochar, Bangaon Mouza, Chaygaon Revenue Circle, Kamrup District. The Department has conveyed its acceptance and is awaiting the formal allotment letter.

- b. Project Progress & Approvals: Given the change in the allocated site, the previously prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) requires restructuring to align with the new location's topographical and infrastructural requirements. The Department is initiating necessary revisions to the DPR, factoring in site-specific modifications and financial implications. Once the revised DPR is finalized, the proposal will be processed for further approvals.
- c. Implementation Roadmap: A departmental team has assessed the suitability of the allocated land, and necessary procedural formalities for land transfer are in progress. The Department remains committed to expediting the approval process and will ensure that all requisite clearances are obtained at the earliest to operationalize the University.

With these measures, the Department is making concerted efforts to address the delays and remains committed to ensuring the establishment of UDSRS at the earliest.

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

**NEW DELHI;
19th August, 2025
28 Shravana, 1947 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON TUESDAY, 19TH
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 Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
3. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
4. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
5. Shri Murari Lal Meena
6. Smt. Bag Mitali
7. Shri Bhojraj Nag
8. Shri Godam Nagesh
9. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
10. Shri Rajkumar Roat
11. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
12. Adv. Priya Saroj
13. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
14. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
15. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
16. Dr. Lata Wankhede

Rajya Sabha

17. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
18. Shri Narayana Koragappa
19. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
20. Shri Rameswar Teli
21. Smt. Mamata Thakur
22. 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) *** *** *** ***

(ii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)

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 SIXTH REPORT (EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)' OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	27	
II. Observations/ Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government- Rec. Para No.1.15, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 4.17, 4.19, 4.20, 5.13, 5.14, 5.31, 5.32, 5.33, 5.39, 5.40, 5.41, 5.47, 6.17, 6.18 & 6.19	20	74.1%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:- Rec. Para No.7.6	01	3.7%
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. 2.15, 3.20, 4.18, 5.15 & 5.23	05	18.5%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:- Rec.Paras No.8.3	01	3.7%
		100%