

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2016 - 2017)**

(SIXTEENTH 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 Twenty-eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)]

THIRTY FOURTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2016/Agrahayana, 1938(Saka)

THIRTY FOURTH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)

(SIXTEENTH 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 Twenty-eighth Report (Sixteen Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.12.2016

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.12.2016



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2016/Agrahayana, 1938(Saka)

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(vi)
CHAPTER -I Report	1
CHAPTER- II Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.	10
CHAPTER- III Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government.	24
CHAPTER -IV Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted.	28
CHAPTER- V Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature.	32

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE - I Minutes of the Fourth sitting of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment held on 15.12.2016.	35
---	----

APPENDIX

Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).	37
---	----

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
7. Smt. K. Maragatham
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
12. Dr. Udit Raj
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
14. Kunwar Bhartendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamta Thakur
17. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
18. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
19. Vacant*
20. Vacant*
21. Vacant#

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
24. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25. Shri Ahamed Hassan
26. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
27. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
28. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

* Vacancies occurred vice Shri Bhagwant Khuba and Shri Mohanbhai K. Kundariya changed nominations w.e.f. 23.11.2016.

Vacancy occurred vice Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri changed nomination w.e.f. 23.11.2016.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	-	Additional Secretary
2.	Shri S.C. Chaudhary	-	Joint Secretary
3.	Shri Ashok Sajwan	-	Director
4.	Smt. Mamta Kemwal	-	Additional Director
5.	Smt. Madhu Bhutani	-	Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Thirty-fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Twenty-Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28.04.2016. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 21st September, 2016. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 15th December, 2016.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment is given in Appendix.

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

NEW DELHI;

14 December, 2016
23 Agra Hayana, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

1.2 The Twenty Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28 April, 2016. It contained 15 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government :

Rec. Paragraph Nos. 2.9, 3.8, 4.17, 5.8, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 8.13, 9.7 and 11.5

(Total : 10, Chapter -II)

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:

Nil

(Chapter -III)

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration :

Rec. Paragraph Nos. 3.9, 4.16, 8.12 and 10.5

(Total : 4, Chapter -IV)

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature :

Rec. Paragraph No. 7.26)

(Total : 1, Chapter -V)

1.3 The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of recommendation 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 Ministry which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. Upgradation/modernization of National Institutes:

Recommendation (Para No. 3.9)

1.5 The Committee in their original Report had noted that all the National Institutes were proposed as the Institutes of National Importance as recommended by the Baswan Committee and the Department is getting the work study done by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of Department of Expenditure to assess the absorption capacity of the existing infrastructure facilities of Institutes. The Committee were informed that the work study of the SIU in respect of five National Institutes, i.e. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNHH), Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR), National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) and National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped (NIOH) was under process. The Committee were not happy with the pace at which the Department was going on this important issue which reflects on the seriousness of the Department too. The Committee had desired the Department to pursue with the Department of Expenditure to finalize the SIU work study urgently so that process of upgradation/modernization of these Institutes could be started without further delay.

1.6 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in their reply have stated:-

"In this regard, it is informed that Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Staff Inspection Unit has submitted final of report of work study of NIVH, Dehradun containing the staff assessment of NIVH and its Regional Centre, Chennai. The Department vide letter dated 16.05.2016 forwarded the said report to NIVH Dehradun and requested to implement the same. Secretary, DEPwD (Divyangjan) had written D.O. letter dated 17.05.2016 to Secretary, Expenditure to expedite the SIU report to National Institutes. The updated status of work study of each National Institute is as under:-

Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNHH), Mumbai

The work study material submitted by AYJNHH, Mumbai was forwarded to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, vide D.O. letter dated 24.06.2014. Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (SIU), vide letter dated 24.05.2016 has intimated that information/data received in November, 2014 and September, 2015 have been examined and observed that the data is totally incomplete and also become obsolete, which cannot be perused for the purpose of study. Department vide letter dated 22.06.2016 has requested AYJNHH to furnish the requisite/information documents as desired by Staff Inspection Unit.

Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack

The work study material submitted by SVNIRTAR, Cuttack was forwarded to SIU Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, vide D.O. letter dated 10.07.2014. Department of Expenditure has intimated vide letter No.60/21/2014 –SIU dated 31.05.2016, that SIU team would conduct the on spot work study of SVNIRTAR cuttack under supervision of Shri RK. Kureel, Deputy, Secretary (SIU). SIU work study report is awaited.

National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad

NIMH Regional Centre & NIMH MSEC Delhi and Noida was visited by the Study Team for on-the-spot study and the requirement of staff being assessed. Ministry of Finance,

Department of Expenditure vide O.M. dated 09.05.2016 has sought further information/data and same provided to them by NIMH, Secunderabad. SIU work study report is awaited.

National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata

The work study material along with clarification sought by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure was sent to them on 29.09.2015. The inspection is still pending.

1.7 The Committee are disappointed to note that despite their repeated recommendations for early finalization of the work study by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Department of Expenditure to assess the absorption capacity of the existing infrastructure facilities of seven National Institutes so as to declare them Institutes of National Importance, the Department has not made any serious/concrete efforts in the matter. The Committee find that finalization process of SIU work study in respect of four National Institutes Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNHH), Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR), National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) and National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped (NIOH) is still under process and stuck for one reason or the other. Only in the case of National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), the work study report has been received from the Department of Expenditure and has been forwarded to NIVH for implementation. However, the Department is silent on the status of implementation of the work study. The Committee once again impress upon the Department to make sincere and concerted efforts in the matter and speed up upgradation/modernization of seven National Institutes.

B. Optimal utilization of funds under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.16)

1.8 The Committee in their original Report had observed that there had been a continuous downward trend in the expenditure under DDRS for the last three years. In

2013-14, the actual expenditure was Rs. 63.64 crore against BE of Rs. 124.85 crore and RE of Rs. 90 crore whereas in 2014-15, the expenditure was Rs. 50.08 crore against BE of Rs. 90 crore and RE of Rs. 50.50 crore. In 2015-16, the actual expenditure was Rs. 34.03 crore vis-à-vis BE of Rs. 60 crore and RE of Rs. 51 crore. The Committee also found that the number of beneficiaries are also decreasing in major states i.e., Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal every year. The Committee felt that the downward trend of beneficiaries is depriving the target population of the benefits of the scheme. The Committee took into account the contention of the Department that the root cause of underutilization of funds under DDRS was non/delayed receipt of State Governments recommendations. The Committee were of the firm view that there was not only lack of coordination between Central and State agencies but also lack of concern and sensitiveness on the part of all Stakeholders towards PwDs. The Committee felt that DDRS is one of the major schemes for disabled persons and impediments in smooth functioning and proper implementation of the scheme be forethought and analyse so that funds meant for the scheme could be utilized optimally. The Committee also desired that there should be more frequent interactions between the Department with the concerned State Governments to tackle the issue of delayed receipts by them.

1.9 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in their reply have stated:-

"The Department organized a conference in Vigyan Bhawan on 2nd June, 2016 and interacted with the Ministers/Secretaries/Officials handling Social Welfare Departments of State Governments to discuss issues relating to the Schemes/Programmes of this Department including DDRS. The State Governments were requested to send proposals of DDRS in time along with recommendations and to send the replies of the queries raised by the Department under DDRS promptly to facilitate release of grant in aid smoothly. The officials of this Department have recently visited Gujarat on 18th June and Chhattisgarh on 23rd June to discuss various issues relating to grants with State Governments under DDRS. DO letters are also being written to the State Governments for sending proposals before 31st August, 2016."

1.10 The Committee expressed their concern over continuous downward trend of expenditure under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for the last three years. The Department in their Action Taken Reply has now stated that they have interacted with the Ministers/Secretaries/Officials of State Governments to discuss the issues relating to Schemes/Programmes of the Department including DDRS and requested them to send proposals of DDRs alongwith recommendations in time and queries of the Department be replied promptly. The Committee express their displeasure over the manner in which the Department is implementing such a vital scheme. The Committee also not satisfied with the efforts made by the Department as these are not yielding any visible results. The Committee, therefore, recommend that new avenues be explored, which are more pragmatic in nature and would motivate all the State Governments for timely submission of complete proposals under DDRS so that the funds meant for the scheme could be utilized optimally.

C. Educational Schemes for Persons with Disabilities:

Recommendation (Para No. 7.26)

1.11 The Committee in their original Report had observed that the Department is operating educational schemes for the Students with Disabilities such as (i) National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities (ii) Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship schemes for Students with Disabilities (iii) National Overseas Scholarship scheme (iv) Top Class Education scheme for PwDs. The Department informed the Committee that 46,000 scholarships under Pre-matric Scholarship scheme and 16,650 scholarships under Post-matric Scholarship scheme can be sanctioned every year during the 12th Five Year Plan. The Committee noted with concerned that during the year 2015-16 only 2368 SwDs under Pre-matric and 3777 SwDs under Post-matric scheme had been

benefited. The Committee noted that out of 160 slots allocated for Top Class Education scheme only 14 SwDs had availed the benefit of the scheme. The Committee were informed that a National e-scholarship Portal had been developed for applying for various scholarship schemes w.e.f. 1st July, 2015. The Department admitted that there were several processes involved and synchronization of data between NSP and PFMS Portals had their own glitches, the number of candidates for scholarships schemes was less. The SwDs had to apply online for scholarship schemes, the Committee, therefore, felt that the web portal for scholarships schemes should be simplified as far as possible and be more user friendly for the disabled persons. The Committee, desired the Department to make earnest efforts to remove all the snags/glitches which were being faced by the disabled students while applying for scholarships schemes.

1.12 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in their reply has stated:-

"The following steps had been taken to remove the snags / glitches which were faced by the disabled students while applying for scholarships

- (i) NIC had launched a revamped version NSP 2.0 during 2016-17 to make it more user-friendly.
- (ii) If the scholarship amount was less than Rs.50,000/-, the documents are to be kept at institute level and there is no need to upload these documents in the portal
- (iii) Bulk uploading of data in NSP portal is allowed for class IX to XII.
- (iv) Status of application can be checked by the student through signing-up with Permanent Registration ID.
- (v) Aadhaar Enrollment ID number can be used in case of non-availability of Aadhar number for registration for a period of three months.
- (vi) Last date for submission of application has been extended upto 30.9.2016
- (vii) Students can contact the Help Desk for resolution of the technical problems
- (vi) A workshop for the State Nodal Officers has been organized by DEPwD"

1.13 The Committee are happy to note that the Department has initiated action and made efforts to revamp the web portal for those scholarship schemes which are operated through e-portal. However, the Committee wish to be apprised of the impact of the revamp in terms of increased number of beneficiaries/Students with Disabilities. The Committee would also like to be informed about the status of actual number of scholarships sanctioned under the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for the year 2016-17.

D. Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme

Recommendation (Para No. 8.12)

1.14 The Committee in their original Report had noted that the actual expenditure under Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme was nil in the year 2013-14 and very less in the years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Committee were of the considered view that if the Department was not able to spend entire funds on awareness generation and publicity scheme meant for the PwDs, how will they be able to avail the benefits of these schemes. The Committee desired that the Department should make all out efforts to make known the PwDs, residing in far flung remote areas, of the welfare schemes for their benefit.

1.15 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in their reply has stated:-

"To create awareness under Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme (AGP) in far flung areas, funds have been released for awareness programme for PwDs in 4 districts of Odisha (Kenrapara, Jagatsingh Pur, Koraput and Kalahandi district), stage programmes for PwDs in 18 blocks of Begusarai district and stage programmes of PwDs in 2 mondals in Ongole Districts of Andhra Pradesh."

1.16 The Committee had pointed out that actual expenditure under Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme was very less during 2013-14, 2014-15 and

2015-16 as a result a large number of target group was deprived from the benefits of various schemes meant for them due to lack of awareness. The Department in their Action Taken Reply has now informed that to create awareness under the Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme they have released funds in 4 Districts of Odisha, 18 Blocks of Begusarai District and 2 Mondals in Ongole District of Andhra Pradesh. The Committee are not satisfied with the limited efforts made by the Department in this regard and desire that the Department should evolve a comprehensive strategy to cover all remote and backward areas of the country.

E. Schemes/Programmes for Homeless PWDs

Recommendation (Para No. 10.5)

1.17 The Committee in their original Report had noted that many new schemes/programmes had been launched by the Department for the welfare of PwDs besides National Trust including the revamped Gharaunda scheme providing life long shelter and care to adult persons with disability. The Committee also noted that the expenditure under Gharaunda scheme was only Rs. 32 lakh in 2014-15 and Rs. 34.80 lakh in 2015-16. The total number of beneficiaries under Gharaunda scheme for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 were 167. Out of them 152 beneficiaries belonged to Above Poverty Line (APL) and only 15 belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL). The Committee were surprised to note that only 15 beneficiaries from BPL was benefitted under Gharaunda scheme for the last two years. The Committee felt that the reason behind less BPL beneficiaries under the scheme was lack of awareness among PwDs about this scheme. The Committee, therefore, desired the Department that periodical massive campaign be organized to spread awareness among the disabled persons about the benefits of the scheme so that they could get shelter under the scheme. The Committee also observed that no scheme has been envisaged by the Department for those disabled persons who have no family support and protection, live and survive on

streets by begging and face all sorts of hardships and exploitation. The Committee felt that this segment of disabled population is in dire need of support, protection and care. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended the Department to address the concerns and difficulties of these segment by formulating focussed schemes and programmes. The Committee also recommended that a comprehensive National Policy for PwDs on the lines of National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP) be formulated to look into each and every aspect of welfare of disabled persons and for this purpose, if needed, views of NGOs and other stakeholders should also be considered.

1.18 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in their reply has stated:-

"The Government has formulated the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2006. The policy focuses on prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation measures, early detection and intervention, education, employment, barrier free environment, social security, data collection, research etc. The policy envisages setting up of mental health care homes for severely mental ill persons at District level with the involvement of NGOs. It also envisages residential rehabilitation centres for providing vocational and social skills for persons with mental illness. The policy outlines various social security measures for persons with disabilities who are destitute and abandoned. Further the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities also implements the following schemes with a view to provide rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities:-

1. **Vikas** (day care for 10+ years scheme) to provide day care facilities primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a person with disabilities for enhancing inter-personal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age group.
2. **SAMARTH**, (a respite care residential scheme) to provide respite homes for orphan, abandoned, families in crisis and also for persons with disabilities from BPL and allies families including destitute with atleast one of the four disabilities covered under National Trust Act, 1999.

3. **Gharunda**, (a scheme for group home for adults) to provide an assured home and minimum quality care services throughout the life of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities with adequate and quality care services with acceptable living standards including provision for basic medical care for professional doctors."

1.19 The Committee are disappointed to note that no scheme/programme has been formulated by the Department for those disabled persons who are homeless, have no family support and protection, live on streets and survive on begging. The Committee, had accordingly, recommended the Department to address the concerns and difficulties of this segment of disabled population by formulating focussed schemes and programmes. The Committee also desired that the Department should formulate a National Policy for PwDs on the lines of National Policy for Older Persons. The Department in their Action Taken reply has informed that they already have a National Policy for PwDs since 2006. Apart from this, the National Trust, a statutory body under the Department of Empowerment of PWDs is also implementing three schemes namely (i) Vikas (ii) Samarth and (iii) Gharunda to provide rehabilitation services to PwDs. The Committee are dismayed to note that even though there exist a National Policy for PwDs for the last 10 years but a large population of PwDs is not aware of it and the benefits likely to accrue to them due to this Policy. The Committee feel that the National Policy for PwDs has not been given wide and enough publicity so that PWDs could avail its benefits. The Committee also feel that the three schemes operated by National Trust have no visible impact and the expenditure under these schemes is negligible. The Committee, therefore, urge the

Department not only to revamp these schemes and make them effective, viable and result oriented but also formulate more schemes and programmes to cover more homeless and destitute PwDs. The Committee also desire that there is an urgent need to give wide publicity to the National Policy for PwDs so that more and more PwDs make use of the welfare measures meant for them.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.9)

2.1 The Committee note that the approved 12th Plan outlay for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was Rs. 3284 crore. The cumulative expenditure during the first four years of the Plan period i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been Rs. 1374.87 crore constituting less than 42 percent of the total plan allocation. The Committee also note with concern that two schemes namely, (i) Establishment of Micro Enterprise Incubation Centres for Persons with Disabilities and (ii) Grant to Association for Rehabilitation under National Trust initiative of Marketing for supporting its market activities with an approved outlay of Rs. 20 crore for each scheme have been dropped *w.e.f.* 2015-16. Further, Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship schemes for students with disabilities, National overseas Scholarship Scheme and Scheme for In-service Training and Sensitization of Officials approved in the third quarter of 2014 have neither achieved in terms of expenditure nor the front of beneficiaries till 2015-16. Similarly, some other schemes like Establishment of National Institute of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment, Top Class Education for PwDs, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for PwDs, Establishment of College for Deaf in five regions of the country, Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports, Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, Free Coaching for PwDs and National Programme for PwDs where the actual expenditure (upto 29.2.2016) is 'nil'. The Department have reasoned that the non-utilization of total allocated funds are due to inadequate number of proposals received from States/UTs, receipt of incomplete proposals/late receipt of proposals of NGOs, late approval/non-approval/non-finalization of schemes and less number of applications received from students with disabilities in all scholarship schemes. The 12th Plan period will come to an end in the year 2017 and a huge amount of Plan outlay (approximately 58%) under these schemes is still unutilized. The Committee note that Department's performance with respect to these schemes has been dismal in first four years of the 12th Plan. The

Committee feel that this situation is the result of lack of due diligence at the time of conceptualization of schemes. The reasons advanced by the Department are not new. These are perennial problems and unless more concerted and new efforts are initiated to address them, in Committee's considered view, in future too, the chances to overcome them look bleak. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department must do more ground work that too diligently besides preparing a roadmap for execution and implementation of schemes to achieve the optimal physical and financial performance because these schemes are primarily meant for educational, economic and social development of PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.2 Consequent upon simplification of procedures, increase in the income-ceiling of beneficiaries, increase in the cost ceiling of aids/assistive devices and inclusion of high-end devices for all types of impairment, including motorized tricycle, Cochlear Implant etc. in the revised Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fittings of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) w.e.f. 1.4.2014 and various initiatives taken by the Department, the scheme has large spread over the country and coverage of beneficiaries has increased. Consequently, entire budget allocation under the Scheme has been utilized during the last two years. The entire budget allocation of Rs.130.00 crore for the financial year 2016-17 will not only be utilized fully but more funds will be required to meet the requirement for holding the large number of pending camps during the current year financial year. Further, the entire 12th Plan allocation of Rs.500.00 crore under the ADIP Scheme will be fully utilized during the Plan period as per details below:-

Financial year	Funds released (Rs. In crore)
2012-13	70.60
2013-14	95.36
2014-15	101.28
2015-16	151.16
2016-17(as on 10.8.2016)	82.43
Total	500.83

So far as Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995(SIPDA) is concerned, all out efforts have been made by the Department to utilize the budget allocation under the Scheme. However, due to pending utilization certificates with the State Govts./UTs, incomplete proposals from organisations/institutions, the entire allocation of funds under the Scheme could not be utilized during past years of the 12th Five Year Plan. The status of utilization of funds under the Scheme during the 12th Plan Period is as below:-

Financial year	Funds released (Rs. In crore)
2012-13	20.03
2013-14	47.71
2014-15	43.09
2015-16	69.20
2016-17(as on 10.8.2016)	24.88
Total	204.91

In order to streamline the release of funds under the Scheme, all the States/UTs, Ministry of Human Resources Development (for universities/institutions etc.), Department of Sports (for making the stadiums/training centres accessible) and Ministry of Culture (or making heritage sites accessible) have been requested vide this Department's letter dated 02.6.2016 to send proposals for various activities under the SIPDA Scheme. Regarding furnishing of Utilisation Certificates in respect of grants released to States/UTs, the States/UTs are frequently requested to furnish the UCs. The SIPDA Scheme has been formulated and notified w.e.f. 28.1.2016 under which a number of activities have been added apart from the existing activities for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities. During 2016-17, besides funding Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), grant-in-aid for various activities relating to creation of barrier free environment, Skill Development Training Programmes for PwDs, Accessible India Campaign, Unique Disability ID (UDID) are being considered under SIPDA Scheme.

There is a provision of Rs.193.00 crore for 2016-17. An amount of Rs. 27.96 crore has been incurred under this Scheme during the current financial year up to 12.8.2016.

Consequent upon the launch of Accessible India Campaign, Procedures finalized for Skill Development Training Programmes, proposals for opening of new CRCs, revision of DDRCs Scheme, the entire allocation of funds under the Scheme for the current financial year will be utilized.

Schemes like Setting up of State Spinal Injuries Centre, Modernization of ALIMCO, Indian Sign Language Research Centre have already been finalized and now these schemes are in operation. Consequently, entire allocation of funds under these Schemes are being utilized now.

The status of some new schemes which are yet to finalized are as under:-

(i) Establishment of a National Centre of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment:

The proposal was discussed by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure) in its meeting held on July 18, 2014. On the draft CCEA Note for setting up NIIUD, PMO advised this Department to consult Ministry of Urban Development, Rural Development, Health & Family Welfare and HRD. Comments received from these Ministries/ Departments were forwarded to PMO. A meeting was held in PMO at JS level on 10.10.2015. PMO advised this Department to identify 2-3 International Organizations of repute in the field of universal design to mentor and collaborate with us for setting up of NIIUD. Dr. Rachna Khare, Professor SPA, Bhopal, suggested seven names of International Organizations. This Department asked these Organizations to send their consent / in-principle approval for collaboration, vide e-mail sent on 09.11.2015. Responses have been received from four organizations. A committee has been constituted for the purpose of identifying 2-3 international organizations in the field of universal design to mentor and collaborate with the Department for setting up of NIIUD. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 01.6.2016. Based on the discussions held in the meeting, for the present for developmental phase, Director SPA Bhopal has been requested to identify and recommend one Institute, based on the work being done by the four Institutes on the

basis of their willingness. She had recommended as per norms. Secretary has asked to confirm the status of institutions at 2,3 & 4 which is to be received from SPA Bhopal.

The Budget Allocation under the Scheme for the financial year 2016-17 is Rs.0.37 crore.

(ii) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports:

On offer from the State Govts., the Department has taken possession of 10 acres of land at Zeerakpur (Punjab) and 10 acres of land at Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Accordingly, Ministry has approved establishment of 2 Centers of Disability Sports for the present. The Department has also requested State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh to allocate land for setting up of such a Centre at Gwalior District, Madhya Pradesh. Letters have been written by Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) to expedite allocation of land at Gwalior.

The Department had invited bids for engaging a Consultant for preparing DPR for establishment of 2 centres in the first stage at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Zirakpur(Punjab). In relation to selection of the bidder/consultant, the meeting of the Committee for negotiation and selection of consultant was held on 02.08.2016.

The budget allocation under the scheme during 2015-16 is Rs.1.00 crore.

Scholarship Scheme:-

The following steps have been taken to improve the uptake under Scholarship Schemes for persons with disabilities (PwDs):-

- a) Advertisement is published in leading newspapers all over the country to call for applications for all the schemes.
- b) Notifications are issued through the website of this Ministry for information of all concerned.

- c) Letters to all chief Secretary of State Governments/UT have been issued for cooperation of State Governments/UT for verification of scholarship applications of PwDs.

Budgetary Support to National Trust

As regards Budgetary Support to National Trust, an amount of Rs 98 lakhs was available at BE 2015-16 and the entire amount has been released to National Trust to support their various schemes. As such there was no unutilized funds during 2015-16.

Research on Disability related Products, Technologies and Issues

As regards the Research and Development Scheme, out of the total available BE of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 29.428 was released to various organisations to undertake R&D project during the year 2015-16. During the current year, an amount of Rs 40 lakhs is available out of which an amount of Rs 12 lakh has already been released. The meeting of the Technical Committee as well as the Steering Committee are being held periodically to scrutinise and sanction proposals received under the scheme so as to ensure that the funds available are fully utilized to meet the objective of the scheme.

In-Service Training and Sensitization of Key Functionaries of State Govts, Local Bodies and Other Service Providers

As regards the Scheme of In-Service Training and Sensitization of Key Functionaries of State govt, Local Bodies and Other Service Providers Scheme, out of the allocation of Rs.2.00 crore in 2015-16, full utilization was achieved and there was no unspent funds.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.8)

2.3 The Committee note that during the year 2015-16, an allocation of Rs. 106 crore was made for seven National Institutes working in the field of various disabilities . Out of Rs. 106 crore, the Department have released Rs. 104.27 crore to National Institutes for catering the needs of disabled persons and providing various types of services to them. The Committee are happy to note that the Department have been able to spend 98.37 percent of the Budget allocation for the year 2016-17 under National Institutes. However, the Committee are concerned that at individual level, some of the National Institutes have not been able to achieve their targets. In this context, the Committee find that Rs. 19.60 crore was released to Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR) in 2015-16 out of which only Rs. 16.87 crore has been utilized by the Institute upto 29.2.2016. In terms of beneficiaries, the Committee find that all the Institutes except SVNIRTAR and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) have shown lower figures in 2015-16 as compared to 2014-15. The Committee, therefore, desire that since all National Institutes directly under the purview of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, they may be directed to give wide publicity to various training programmes, educational, vocational and rehabilitation services given by them to disabled people through print and electronic media, in rural and remote areas also, so that maximum disabled person could avail the benefit of their services.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR) was released Rs. 19.60 crore during 2015-16, out of which Institute utilized Rs. 20.21 crore upto 31.03.2016 (includes unspent balance of previous years). National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NIEPMD) was released Rs. 15.52 crore during 2015-16, out of which Institute utilized Rs. 19.46 crore upto 31.03.2016 (includes unspent balance of previous years).

Directors and In-charge Directors of National Institutes have been directed to give wide publicity to the various training programmes, educational, vocational and

rehabilitation services given by them to disable people through print and electronic media, in rural and remote areas. National Institutes are providing training programmes, educational, vocational training and rehabilitation services to differently abled persons through its Regional Centres/ Regional Chapters and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) spread all over the country.

Twelve Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) are working under supervision of NIs and administrative control of the Ministry. The CRCs for Persons with Disabilities has been set up in certain region of the country which are lacking institutional support, covering all the area of disabilities. CRCs are working as extended arms of National Institutes and provide human resource development, rehabilitation services for catering to multiple and different disabilities at one place. CRCs also provided vocational skill training, placement, undertaking research and development efforts and distribution of aids & appliances to PwDs.

In addition to above, thirteen Regional Centres/ Regional Chapters working under the National Institutes also provide services to PwDs. National Institutes also has Outreach Centre/Extension Centre/ Resource Centre in different parts of the country which provide various services to persons with Disabilities. The extension centre has been established to cater the needs of the clients and National Institutes provide technical support to the Centres for providing services to the clients. The centres focuses on creating awareness and train the parents and professionals. National Institutes also conduct outreach activities for providing rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities in remote areas. They organize camps, exhibitions, workshops, short term training programs, celebration of World Disabled Day and World Deaf Day to create awareness to provide services to all areas including rural areas/NE region. During the last three years, more than 500 camps have been conducted by National Institutes/CRCs under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances and aids and appliances has been distributed to the beneficiaries. Large number of short term programmes are being carried out by Institutes for professionals and personnel working in the field of rehabilitation for PwDs. The programmes are approved by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI).

E-Saadhyā an adaptable and accessible E-Learning platform for students with mental retardation having autism was developed by NIMH in collaboration with Department of Information Technology, C-DAC, Govt. of India, Bangalore. It is a server based module which supports learning in client based gadgets like tabs and mobiles. This is designed on evidence based scientific practices like ABA methods, Discrete Trial Training and Picture Exchange Communication, visual routines and functional skill training. For preparation of Digital Teaching & Learning Resources for persons with intellectual disability and to create an e-learning platform for various stakeholders, NIMH has proposed 25 projects.

All National Institutes have their own websites and complete information regarding training programmes, courses and rehabilitation services etc provided them is available on the websites of the Institute. The details of funds released and utilized by the National Institutes during 2015-16 (upto 31.03.2016) is as under:-

S.No.	Name of NIs	2015-16	
		Released	Utilization
1.	National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun	20.12	21.27
2.	National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata	16.85	17.49
3.	National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad	11.62	13.99
4.	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai	15.52	19.46
5.	Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack	19.60	20.07
6.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (AYJNHH), Mumbai	13.08	14.11
7.	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for Physically Handicapped (PDUIPH), New	7.49	8.31

S.No.	Name of NIs	2015-16	
		Released	Utilization
	Delhi		
	Total	104.27	114.70

Updated details of number of persons benefited by the National Institutes from the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as under:-

National Institutes

S.No	Name of the Institute	Number of beneficiaries	
		2014-15	2015-16
1	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	220177	237259
2	National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata	194691	204088
3	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	94740	86287
4	National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad	162640	110362
5	Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack	215963	267793
6	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi	74837	93157

7	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai	88464	135943
---	---	-------	--------

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.17)

2.5 Since NGOs/VOs play a very important role in implementation of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), the Committee feel that a comprehensive study is not only imperative but also need of the hour to evaluate the performance of these NGOs/VOs besides monitoring their funding. The Committee were surprised to note that only one evaluation study was conducted by the Department and that too an incomplete one and no concrete recommendation was made in the study report. The Committee are unable to understand why and how this firm/company (namely, Gfk Mode Private Limited) was given contract without verifying its credentials properly and then blacklisting it. The Committee recommend that the Department should conduct a fresh comprehensive study in a time bound manner on the functioning of NGOs/VOs under DDRS for effective implementation of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.6 Keeping in view the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Parliament for the Demand for Grants 2016-17 the comprehensive study of the DDRS Scheme of the Department in a time-bound manner, the proposal has been submitted to IFD on 06.09.2016 for their concurrence for inviting tenders as per the prescribed procedure with the following timelines:

- (i) Issuing advertisement within 1 week from the date of approval/concurrence of IFD.

- (ii) Submission of Technical & Financial bids within 21 days from the date of advertisement.
- (iii) Opening of Technical and Financial bids and recommendation within 1 week from the date of close of the tender date.
- (iv) Awarding the contract within 1 week from the date of approval to the successful bidder.
- (v) The successful bidder has to complete the assignment within 3 months. Non-completion and submission of Study Report within the three months time, the organization will be liable for a penalty.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.8)

2.7 The Committee note that the Budget allocation of Rs. 38 crore and Rs. 1 lakh was made in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively under ALIMCO scheme but the amount could not be utilized as the scheme was not operational during these years. The Department have not elaborated the reasons for non-operational of ALIMCO scheme. Though, the Department have intimated that the scheme came into operation after approval of the SFC w.e.f. 12.8.2015 and on same day they have issued an order for modernization of ALIMCO with the total cost of Rs. 286 crore. The modernization process is to be completed within 37 months from the date of release of 1st installment of Grant-in-aid which was released on 9.9.2015. The Committee feel that the modernization process of ALIMCO could have been completed in phased manner to obviate the necessity of closing the scheme. As ALIMCO is involved in production of various assistive devices to help the disabled persons in their day-to-day functioning, the Committee, therefore, desire that the Department must ensure that the process of modernization of ALIMCO be completed within a stipulated time without closing the operations of ALIMCO completely as it would adversely affect the PwDs in a big way, approximately 1.5 lakh per year.

Reply of the Government

2.8 As per recommendations of Standing Finance Committee, the Ministry has approved the Scheme of Modernization of ALIMCO and Order in this regard has been issued on 12.08.2015. Total cost of the project is Rs.286.39 crore and out of this, Rs.200.00 crore would be released as grant-in-aid by the Department by the year 2017-18 and the balance amount including any escalation thereof will be met by ALIMCO out of its internal resources. The Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs.5.00 crore for modernization of ALIMCO during 2015-16 was fully utilized. As on 31.7.2016 funds for Rs.1439.33 Lakh have been incurred on the modernization plan, out of which expenditure incurred by ALIMCO out of its internal resources is Rs.939.33 Lakh and Rs.500.00 lakh from grant-in-aid released by the Department during 2015-16.

The Department has ensured that the process of modernization of the ALIMCO maintains the speed. Modernization activity has gained the desired momentum with the award of the contract for civil work and also for procurement of Plant & Machinery. Order has also been placed for construction of new Auxiliary Production Centre in Ujjain and resultant activities for establishment are in progress satisfactorily. The Corporation has already appointed Consultant for Plant & Machinery. In this process, ALIMCO has made Technology Transfer Agreement with M/s. Ottobock and the modernization is being made in the phased manner with the total project period of 37 months. In view of Transfer Technology (ToT) with M/s. Ottobock, the manufacturing facility for Prosthetic with the modern technology is in process with continuation of normal business activity of ALIMCO. The production is likely to start by March-2017. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) was made for modernization of ALIMCO without disturbing the existing facility and by utilizing unutilized land of the Corporation. The developments are being monitored by the Department on regular basis.

During the Financial Year 2016-17, the Budget Allocation under the Scheme is Rs.5.00 crore which will be fully utilized. Further, more funds will be required to meet the requirement during the current financial year which will be taken up at RE stage.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 6.14)

2.9 The Committee note that various programmes/activities like creation of barrier free environment in Government buildings and making of Government website accessible to PwDs, establishment of early diagnostics and intervention centres, Skill Development Training Programme for PwDs, Accessible India Campaign, Universal ID Project for Persons with Disabilities are running under the SIPDA scheme. Against the RE of Rs. 99 crore, actual expenditure was only Rs. 54.72 crore (upto 29.2.2016) during the year 2015-16 under the scheme. The Committee are concerned to note that there has been continuously slashing of Budgetary allocation under the SIPDA scheme at RE stage for the last three years. The Committee are unable to comprehend the reasons as to why funds to the tune of Rs. 44.28 crore have remained unutilized during the last year, keeping in view the fact that so many schemes/activities are being implemented under the SIPDA scheme. The reasons given by the Department for less utilization of funds are non-receipt of pending Utilization Certificates by States/UTs and incomplete proposal/late receipt of proposals of NGOs. The Committee are not satisfied with the reasons attributed by the Department for underutilization of funds. The Committee find that issues like non-receipt of pending UCs, late and incomplete proposals from NGOs, etc. are perennial in nature and Department's routine interactions and instructions are not making much headway. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department must change their strategy and if need be, amend their procedures to the extent that all the proposals alongwith complete documents are received not only from NGOs but pending UCs are also timely received from the State Governments/UTs which would lead to optimal utilization of funds intended for the welfare of PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The Ministry is constantly monitoring and making all efforts by reminding the defaulter States/UTs from time to time to utilize the grant-in-aid released during previous years timely and furnish progress report and Utilization Certificates. During

each year, in the conference of States/UTs Social Welfare Ministers/ Secretaries the issues relating to SIPDA Scheme such as submission of proposals in time, utilization of funds and to submit UCs in time are raised. Due to constant efforts with defaulter States/UTs, the Ministry is able to release Rs.69.42 crore during 2015-16 up to 31.3.2016.

SIPDA Scheme has been formulated with effect from 28.1.2016 and new activities, such as, Accessible India Campaign', Skill Development Training Programme under National Action Plan, have been added in the Scheme. Under the National Action Plan of Skill Development Training Programme, Skill training programmes for approximately 28000 Persons with Disabilities were started through National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres and National Handicapped Development Corporation (NHFDC) during 2015-16. During the financial year 2016-17, apart from undertaking skill training programmes through National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres/ NHFDC, the Department had issued Expression of Interest inviting proposals for empanelment of training partners against which 544 proposals were received and the Ministry has so far empanelled 196 training partners (14 Govt. Organizations and 182 Non Governmental Organizations) for considering their proposals to the tune of Rs.10.00 crore approximately. The Department has set a target of skill training of 1.50 lakh PwDs during 2016-17 and all efforts are being made to achieve the target. As regards Accessible India Campaign, the Department has taken various initiatives to make the objectives of the campaign a reality and utilize the funds earmarked for the purpose. 18 Access Auditors have been empanelled across India. Access Audit of 1098 buildings in 31 cities was awarded on 19.3.2016, out of which access audit of 1091 buildings have been completed. Reports of the completed access audit forwarded to Central/State Governments for retrofitting of these buildings to make them accessible. Based on the access audit reports the proposals are being received from the concerned offices for release of funds under SIPDA Scheme which are being processed for release of funds. Additional work order for 385 buildings in 13 cities has also been awarded on 23.6.2016 out of which, access audit of 246 buildings have been completed. As informed, the Department is also in the process of opening new Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs). Apart from

funding to the existing 8 Composite Regional Centres, the Department has set up two CRCs one each in Rajnandgaon (Chhatisgarh) and in Nellore (Andhra Pradesh). Setting two CRCs at Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Jaipur (Rajasthan) is also in the active consideration of the Department. Keeping in view all these factors, the entire amount of Rs.193.00 crore in the BE 2016-17 will be utilized.

Accessible India Campaign

Access Audit of 1092 buildings out of 1098 building (work order issued on 19.03.2016) in 31 cities is completed, constituting 99.3% achievement. In addition to this, work orders for 410 buildings in 13 more cities have been issued on 23.06.2016 to the empanelled auditors in which Access Audit of 328 buildings (80%) are completed. Bid for conducting access audit in five cities namely, Ranchi, Shimla, Imphal, Agartala and Kolkata have been invited on 31.8.2016.

State Governments have been sent both soft and hard copies of access audit reports for the buildings of which access audit is completed. They have been requested to send financial proposals along with pending Utilization Certificates(UCs) of previous years under SIPDA Scheme. Financial proposals of about 115 buildings from Chandigarh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have been received.

PRAGATI meeting on Accessible India Campaign under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister with Central Government Secretaries and State Chief Secretaries was held on 24.8.16 to discuss the implementation of targets envisaged under the campaign and expedite financial proposals for the buildings of which access audit is completed along with pending list of websites and pending Utilization Certificates(UCs) of previous years under SIPDA Scheme from the States/UTs.

Video conferencing with State Secretaries of Social Welfare Department of 10 States was held on 31.8.16 to expedite financial proposals for the buildings of which access audit is completed along with pending list of websites and pending Utilization Certificates(UCs) of previous years under SIPDA Scheme.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 6.15)

2.11 The Department informed the Committee that they have launched the National Action Plan for skill training of PwDs in collaboration with Ministry of Skill development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March, 2015 with a target of skilling 5 lakh PwDs from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18. The target for providing skill training to PwDs in the year 2015-16 was 1 lakh. Further, as a part of Accessible India Campaign and in order to make monuments, museum and other archaeological sites accessible to PwDs, the Department have requested to the Ministry of Culture to send proposals for access audit and accessibility conversion under SIPDA scheme. The Committee are of the considered opinion that access to all the important buildings is the Fundamental Right of PwDs and therefore desire that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities should pursue the matter vigorously with the Ministry of Culture for sending proposals under SIPDA scheme expeditiously by giving them a reasonable time limit. The Committee also desire to know the numbers of PwD beneficiaries under skill training programme during the year 2015-16, State-wise.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The observations made by the Committee have been noted for compliance.

Under the National Action Plan of Skill Development Training Programme, Skill training programmes for approximately 28000 Persons with Disabilities were started through National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres and National Handicapped Development Corporation (NHFDC) during 2015-16. During the financial year 2016-17, apart from undertaking skill training programmes through National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres/ NHFDC, the Department had issued Expression of Interest inviting proposals for empanelment of training partners against which 544 proposals were received and the Ministry has so far empanelled 196 training partners (14 Govt. Organisations and 182 Non Governmental Organisations) for considering their proposals to the tune of Rs.10.00 crore approximately. The

Department has set a target of skill training of 1.50 lakh PwDs during 2016-17 and all efforts are being made to achieve the target. As regards Accessible India Campaign, the Department has taken various initiatives to make the objectives of the campaign a reality and utilize the funds earmarked for the purpose. 18 Access Auditors have been empanelled across India. Access Audit of 1098 buildings in 31 cities was awarded on 19.3.2016, out of which access audit of 1091 buildings have been completed. Reports of the completed access audit forwarded to Central/State Governments for retrofitting of these buildings to make them accessible. Based on the access audit reports the proposals are being received from the concerned offices for release of funds under SIPDA Scheme which are being processed for release of funds. Additional work order for 410 buildings in 13 cities has also been awarded on 23.6.2016 out of which, access audit of 302 buildings have been completed. Apart from the above the following initiatives have been taken by the Department towards Accessible India Campaign:-

INCLUSIVENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY INDEX

- Inclusiveness & Accessibility Index launched on 30.03.2016 to measure policies and practices of inclusion and access across organizations and companies.

ACCESSIBILITY OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AND I.T. PROCUREMENT

- Advisory has been issued by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to various public and private TV channels for accessibility of TV programmes.

ACCESSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

- Meetings have been held with NCERT for including chapter on accessibility in school books.
- Children Science Congress to have accessibility as theme this year.

SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS ON ACCCESSIBILITY

- Accessible India Campaign sensitization workshops held at Ahmedabad on (21.05.2016), Jaipur (24.05.2016) and Raipur (25.06.2016). A motor cycle rally was also organized on 24.07.2016.

OTHERS

- Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has issued guidelines that all durable assets to be made under MPLAD Scheme should be accessible.

- On the request of DEPwD, Department of Public Enterprises has written to all the CPSEs to get conducted access audit of their premises.
- On the request of DEPwD, Ministry of Urban Development has instructed CPWD to start access audit of 466 CPWD buildings at the earliest.
- Publicity material on AIC prepared and TV/Outdoor publicity has been going on for the last 4 months.
- Publicity material has also been sent to Deptt. of Youth Affairs for inclusion through NSS volunteers and Nehru Yuva Kendras.
- A special issue of magazine YOJANA on accessibility and disability was published in March/April, 2016.

As regards to make monuments, museum and other archaeological sites accessible, as stated above, the Department has requested the Ministry of Culture vide this Department's letter dated 02.6.2016 to send adequate proposals from Archaeological Survey of India.

As a part of Accessible Indian Campaign and in order to make monuments, museums and other archaeological sites accessible to PwDs, the Department has taken up the matter with Ministry of Culture vide Secretary (DEPwD)'s D.O. letter dated 27.7.2015 requesting them to send proposals for access audit and accessibility conversion under the SIPDA Scheme. A meeting in this regard was also held in the Department on 16.9.2015. Another meeting in this regard was held on 07.6.2016 and based on the discussions during the meeting, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has furnished a list of 50 centrally protected monuments identified by them for access audit for making them accessible under Accessible India Campaign which is under process in the department for appropriate action in consultation with ASI.

State-wise numbers of PwDs beneficiaries under Skill Training Programme during 2015-16 under SIPDA Scheme is given below.

Beneficiaries covered under Skill Training Programme of Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA) during 2015-16

<u>Beneficiaries covered during 2015-16</u>		
S. No.	State/UT	Beneficiaries covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	2202
2	Arunachal Pradesh	115
3	Assam	1575
4	Bihar	585
5	Chhattisgarh	630
6	Goa	150
7	Gujarat	674
8	Haryana	1619
9	Himachal Pradesh	569
10	Jammu and Kashmir	710
11	Jharkhand	297
12	Karnataka	120
13	Kerala	353
14	Madhya Pradesh	1327
15	Maharashtra	795
16	Manipur	60
17	Meghalaya	170
18	Mizoram	60
19	Nagaland	60
20	Orissa	829
21	Punjab	1085
22	Rajasthan	1392
23	Sikkim	140
24	Tamil Nadu	924
25	Telangana	1079
26	Tripura	270
27	Uttaranchal	1501
28	Uttar Pradesh	4560
29	West Bengal	3640
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
31	Chandigarh	0
32	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0
33	Daman and Diu	0
34	Delhi	872
35	Lakshadweep	0

36	Pondicherry	90
	TOTAL	28453

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para No. 6.16)

2.13 The Committee note that eight Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for PwDs have been established at Bhopal, Lucknow, Guwahati, Srinagar, Sundarnagar, Patna, Ahmadabad and Kozhikode to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services for PwDs. The Department have also initiated the process of opening of three new CRCs in Rajnandgaon District (Chhattisgarh), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) and Davanagere (Karnataka). The Committee, however, feel that keeping in view of vast number of disabled population of the country, there is an urgent need to increase the number of CRCs to cover those States also which have so far not been covered such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Punjab, Haryana, etc. The Committee also feel that keeping in view of the large population of Uttar Pradesh, one CRC in Lucknow is not enough to cater to the need of disabled persons in the State. The Committee, therefore, desire that the number of CRCs be increased substantially to empower the disabled population in all parts of the country.

Reply of the Government

2.14 CRC, Rajnandagaon, Chhattishgarh

Department vide order dated 22.08.2015 has approved setting up of Composite Regional Centre at Rajnandagaon in Chhattisgarh under supervision of Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation Training (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack which is an autonomous body under this Department along with filling up of 19 various posts on contract basis under the provision of GFR, 2005.

CRC, Nellore Andhra Pradesh

Department vide order dated 17.12.2015 has approved setting up of Composite Regional Centre at Nellore in Chhattisgarh under supervision of National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad which is an autonomous body under this

Department along with filling up of 19 various posts on contract basis under the provision of GFR, 2005.

CRC, Davangere, Karnataka

Department vide order dated 05.05.2016 has approved setting up of Composite Regional Centre at Devengere in Karnataka under supervision of National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad which an autonomous body under this Department along with filling up of 19 various posts.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para 8.13)

2.15 The Committee were informed that an amount of Rs. 70 crore have been allocated in BE fund for the Information and Mass Education Cell for this fiscal year. An amount of Rs. 60 crore has been earmarked for Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) and remaining 10 crore is to be utilized for publishing advertisements relating to other activities of the Department. The disabled population mostly in rural areas is not aware of the various welfare schemes/programmes being operated for them by the Government. As a result, they are not able to reap the benefits of these schemes. As long as PwDs are ignorant of the steps taken by the Government for their social, educational and financial upliftment, the schemes and programmes meant for their welfare have no significance. The Committee also feel that there should be proper coordination between the Central and State Governments to publicize the schemes for the welfare of PwDs more effectively in rural areas also. Keeping in view, the focus on the Accessible India Campaign, the Committee desire the Department should ensure that the amount allocated under the scheme is spent fully for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.16 An amount of Rs 70.00 Crore have been allocated in BE 2016-17 for the Informational and Mass Education Cell. Keeping in view of the requirements , the Department's Media Plan for 2016-17 has been re-worked out and an amount of Rs

55.5 Crore has been earmarked for Accessible India Campaign and the remaining Rs 14.5 Crore is to be utilized for publishing advertisements relating to other activities of the Department.

The various platforms through which the above is to be executed has been conceptualized by the Department as below:

S.No.	Activities	Funds earmarked
A	<p>Accessible India Campaign(AIC)</p> <p>(i) Print Media</p> <p>(a) Newspapers: Advertisements (pan India) in leading newspapers, highlighting the updates on AIC. Insertions (Regional Languages) will also be released in cities/states where AIC workshops are to be held.</p> <p>(b) Magazines: Advertorials/Special Features, Interviews of HMSJE, Achievements of AIC in prominent magazines with large readership</p> <p>(ii) Audio-Visual Broadcasting/Telecasting: Broadcast of AIC TV spots in DD Network & other leading private News/Entertainment Channels. The Department may also consider customized shows/series on AIC Campaign through any prominent News Channel.</p> <p>(iii) Radio Broadcast Campaign & Digital/Social Media Campaigns</p> <p>(a) All India Radio (FM Gold, Rainbow), other leading Private FM channels in all major cities covered under AIC.</p>	<p>09 Crore</p> <p>01 Crore</p> <p>15 Crore</p> <p>11.5 Crore</p>

	<p>(b) AIC promo to be screened across Cinema Theatres in a pan-India Campaign.</p> <p>(c) Digital Social Media Campaign Peak Facebook, twitter engagement for the two handles, Pages of the Department with support from Twitter India.</p> <p>The above are variables and can accommodate changes in plan as per necessity of their implementation.</p> <p>(iv) Outdoor Publicity- AIC Hoardings in prominent places at Airports in metro cities, major Railway Stations, Bus Shelters/Terminals, Public Buildings etc. in major metro cities. Air Tickets/Boarding Passes. Digital Displays (Railway stations), Public Utility, Metro Rail Public Utility, Rail Station Display Boards.</p> <p>(v) Roll out Accessible India Campaign in 50 cities. Workshops all over the country for sensitization of all key stake holders as identified (Govt. Officers, Professionals such as engineers, architects, real estate developers etc.) & organization of awareness seminars and conclaves.</p> <p>(vi) Roll out of AIC in 6 districts (Rs 0.9 Lakh each) across the country, for grass root publicity of the Campaign through Public Address Systems, Pamphlets, Information Brochures, through District Administration.</p> <p>Grand Total of A</p>	10 Crores
B	Advertisements for ADIP Mega Camps Information and Mass Awareness Campaigns,	Rs 8 Crore

C	Production and broadcast of Radio Programme “Sanwari Jeyan KI Rahen” for 2016-17.	Rs 3 Crore
D	Promotion of Different Schemes/Programmes of the Department (Scholarship, Skill Development, SIPDA, DDRS, National Fellowship, Cochlear Implant)	Rs 2 Crore
E	Exhibition, Participation in Stalls & other Miscellaneous Expenditure	Rs 1.5 Crore
F	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	Rs 70 Crores

The Department is implementing the above media plan to make best possible use of available modes of publicity, as reflected, to achieve the various information and awareness objectives underlined for the benefit of Divyangjan. The Department through DAVP and NFDC have been actively releasing media Campaigns in the Print, Television, Radio, Digital Cinema, Outdoor Publicity and through the Digital Social Media platforms.

As plan of action for the month of August 2016, which includes an All-India plan for AIC Outdoor Publicity and a series of advertisements (highlighting the various schemes of the Department like ADIP, Scholarships, Nirmaya, Sawavlamban coinciding with the ‘Independence Festival’ (15-22 August 2016) have also been initiated and after carrying out these activities, will substantially raise the total release Orders submitted to DAVP till August 2016.

A brief overview of the work carried out for the Financial Year 2016-17 is as under:-

(a) Publishing of Newspaper Advertisements: Newspaper advertisements published across various stages of the Accessible India Campaign have been successfully updating the public with the up-to-the-minute strides the Department has been undertaking to reach out to PwDs. The Department is working closely with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Ministry of I& B to chalk out placement strategies of these advertisements with a healthy mix of mainstream newspapers and regional newspapers to help spread word about the Department’s

various Schemes/ Camps and the Accessible India Campaign across all major cities, districts, towns and tehsils. All India level Quarter-Page & Half-Page colour Advertisements have also been brought out through DAVP so that uniformity in content alongwith beneficiary information resonates at the national level.

(B) Press Releases:

Regular Press Releases (bilingual) are brought out by the Media Division of the Department to provide all latest relevant information on all of the Department's activities which include ADIP Camps, AIC workshops - to the Print and Electronic Media. The division also monitors all newspaper reports and feedback generated across various media platforms. The active coordination also involves liaisoning with Press Information Bureau to bring out the narratives in the regional media in the native languages.

(C) Outdoor Publicity

Outdoor Publicity as a medium has helped the Campaign register its presence across the length and breadth of Public spaces. The Medium uses hoardings at Railway stations, airports, bus terminals, bus shelters; Public Utility Systems; Metro Rail (inside & outdoor), LCD Screens across Public Buildings etc.

The Department has already completed two Phases (May-June 2016 & June-July 2016) of Intensive Outdoor Publicity drives this Fiscal year and is in the process of launching an aggressive 3rd Phase (August 2016) in metro cities further targeting the cities under AIC.

(D) Television Campaign

The Department has developed a Short Film on the Campaign (4:30 Min duration) with the help of NFDC and a 1 minute television commercial (tvc) to convey the objectives and idea behind the Campaign.

(a) The TVC has been successfully running on the Public Broadcasters – Doordashan's Prime Channel from March 2016 and a renewed approach also witnesses its telecast on Special events focussed on the achievements of Government showcased on the National network.

(b) The TVC has also been made available on Private Cable & Satellite Channels under two 28-days TV Media Campaigns through DAVP. The 1st Phase (April-May

2016) and the 2nd phase (July-August 2016) have been/are being successfully aired on prominent News, Infotainment, GEC channels across the country.

(E) Radio Campaign

(a) Radio Jingles on AIC (30 Second & 60 Second) conceptualised during the launch of AIC have been regularly inserted through collaboration with All India Radio through different plans and have seen a total 4 month air time till date across all major radio stations of Aakashwani.

(b) The Jingles have also been available on Private FM radio Channels across various cities under Media Plans through DAVP.

(c) Keeping in view the popularity of radio in the rural hinterland the Department has re-started the Radio Programme "Sanwari Jayein Jeevan Ki Raahein" w.e.f. 21.7.2016. This programme is broadcasted 10 minutes exclusive on various Schemes / Programmes/ National Institutes/CRCs/ NHFDC/ALIMCO/ National Trust to generate awareness making the best use of radio platform provided by the wide network of All India Radio in 18 languages on 58 Primary Channels, 13 FM Rainbow Channels, 22 Primary Channels of North Eastern States,

(F) Digital Campaign

The Department has also successfully screened the AIC TV promos on Cinema Screens across the country in collaboration with PVR Cinemas.

(G) Social Media: The Department handles on Twitter (@socialpwds & @MSJE_AIC) have a combined following of more than 12,000 dedicated followers on this platform and the Department acts/monitors/analyses the feedback received on this platform.

Facebook Pages of the Department has a combined reach of over 6000 avid digital enthusiasts.

And it helps the department stay abreast with the pulse of the sector.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Recommendation (Para 9.7)

2.17 The Committee note that new activities, such as Accessible India Campaign, Skill Development Training Programme under National Action Plan have been added in the

Schemes for the North Eastern Region and there is also a proposal for opening of new Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in the Region. The Committee while appreciating the initiatives taken by the Department for the welfare of the PwDs in North Eastern Region, observe that the number of beneficiaries in North Eastern Region under DDRS during the year 2014-15 was 'nil' in Arunachal Pradesh and 89 in Tripura. The Committee, therefore, desire that more steps be taken for the identification of PwDs and effective implementation of DDRS in North Eastern Region specifically in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura so that the target of Rs. 4.50 crore set for the year 2016-17 under the above scheme could be achieved.

Reply of the Government

DDRS Scheme

2.18 With regard to the steps taken for the identification of Persons with Disabilities the Department is in the process of implementing Unique Disability Identity (UDID) project with a view to create a national database for persons with disabilities including pertaining to North East States and also to issue unique ID card to each person with disability. For this purpose, an application software has already been developed and hosted on the NIC cloud. The application software would also provide an online platform for issuance of disability certificate. Training programme for the District level authorities such as District Social Welfare officers, Medical authorities for use of the new software has already been started. So far as North Eastern States are concerned, training programmes have been completed for all the Districts of Tripura on 30.07.2016. The project envisages identification and certification of persons with disabilities on campaign mode i.e. through organising camps at the State/District and even at Block level. The project is scheduled to be rolled out to all States/UTs including all north eastern States within a period of 2 years.

With regard to more steps taken for effective implementation of DDRS in North Eastern Region specifically in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura following steps have been taken:-

- (i) During the conference of States/Union Territories Social Welfare Ministers/Secretaries/Administrators In-Charge of Disability Affairs held on 2nd June, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi the Ministers/ Secretaries/Officials handling Social Welfare Departments of North Eastern States were requested to give wide publicity to the DDRS scheme.
- (ii) Against the budget allocation of Rs.4.00 crore for the year 2015-16, Rs.4.52 crore have been released under the Scheme which is in excess of the budget allocation.
- (iii) For 2016-17 the budget allocation is Rs.4.50 crore, out of which as on date Rs.1.40 crore has already been released in the North East Region.
- (iv) The revision of DDRS scheme is under consideration and special interventions for the North Eastern States will also be taken into accounts.
- (v) For the States of Arunachal Pradesh & Tripura following is the status of the sanctioning of Grant-in-aid under DDRS:

(a) **Arunachal Pradesh:** In the State of Arunachal Pradesh, the total population as per census 2011 is 13,82,611 out of which the total disabled population is 26,374. There is no organization which is getting Grant-in-aid under DDRS in this State except one organization namely Ramakrishna Mission, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh and the status of it is as follows:

Sl No .	Name of the organization	Name of the project	Grant-in-aid released for the year 2013-14	Status of proposal for Grant-in-aid for the year 2014-15 & 2015-16	Status of proposal for Grant-in-aid for the year 2016-17
1	Ramakrishna Mission, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	Maintenance of Artificial Limb fitting Centre & Physiotherapy	630075/-	As per the new methodology of the scheme, for Grant-in-aid under DDRS the organization has to apply	The orgn. has not applied for the same online for

		y		for Grant-in-aid online on portal www.ngograntaje.gov.in However, the orgn. has not applied for the same online for the year 2014-15 & for the year 2015-16. The offline proposal for the year 2014-15 & 2015-16 was received from the orgn. and the same is submitted to competent authority for approval of relaxation of processing the proposal offline as an exception. The State Govt. has been requested to forward the proposal of the orgn. offline for the year 2014-15 & 2015-16 along with their recommendation vide letter dated 09.09.2016.	which a letter has been sent to the orgn. as well as to the State Govt. to forward the same both offline & online to this Department.
--	--	---	--	---	---

(b) **Tripura:** In the State of Tripura, the total population as per census 2011 is 36,71,032 out of which the total disabled population is 64,346. There are 3 organizations in Tripura which are getting Grant-in-aid under DDRS and the status of the same is as follows:

Sl No.	Name of the organization	Name of the project	Grant-in-aid released for the year 2013-14	Status of proposal for Grant-in-aid for the year 2014-15 & 2015-16	Status of proposal for Grant-in-aid for the year 2016-17
1	North Tripura Deaf &	Special School for	720936/-	The online proposal of this organization is	The NGO has not applied

	Dumb	HH		<p>pending with the State Government for which they were requested to forward the same. The State Govt. has forwarded the offline proposal of the orgn. for the year 2014-15 but the online proposal is still pending with them. In the meanwhile, 2 complaints have been received against the above organization which have been forwarded to State Govt. for enquiring its authenticity and submit the inquiry report. The Grant-in-aid under DDRS will be considered after the complaints will be resolved.</p>	<p>“online” for the year 2016-17. The proposal will be considered after the orgn. has applied online and the pending 2 complaints against it got solved satisfactorily.</p>
2	Tripura Council for Child Welfare	Special School for CPMR	100629/-	<p>Proposed Grant-in-aid for the year 2014-15 is under submission to IFD for concurrence. For the year 2015-16, the organization has neither applied online nor offline. A letter in this regard will be written to the organization to apply for Grant-in-aid for the year 2015-16</p>	<p>For the year 2016-17, the organization has neither applied online nor offline. A letter in this regard has been written to the State Govt. along with their notional allocation vide letter dated 04.08.2016 in</p>

				online and offline both to this Department through State Government.	respect of the State of Tripura for submission of the proposal under DDRS along with their recommendation to this Dept.
3	Abhoy Mission	Special School for Multiple Disabilities with MR	943352/-	The file for Grant-in-aid for the year 2014-15 is under submission to IFD for concurrence. For the year 2015-16 the same will be processed after release of Grant-in-aid of 2014-15.	For the year 2016-17, the same will be processed after release of previous years Grant-in-aid.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016.

Recommendation (Para 11.5)

2.19 The Committee observe that only 4 States namely, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have separate Department to look after the welfare of PwDs. In rest of the States/UTs, the welfare of PwDs is either being looked after by the fulltime Commissioners or officers having an additional charge. The Committee while taking a very serious view of this situation would like to draw attention of the Department to the Article 41 of the Constitution of India which provides that, "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of underserved want." The Committee are surprised to note that in spite of this Constitutional provision, many of the State Governments/UTs are not having separate Department of Disability for proper implementation of schemes made for the welfare of PwDs which shows apathy on the part of the State Governments towards the welfare of PwDs and their empowerment

who constitute more than 2.21% of total population. The Committee are of the considered opinion that no country or society can ever progress ignoring the needs and aspirations of more than 2.70 crore Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department must impress upon the State Governments/UT Administrations to have separate Disability Department to address the concerns, issues, problems and difficulties of the PwDs so as to bring them into mainstream of Indian society which Constitution of India also mandates them.

Reply of the Government

2.20 In order to impress upon the State Governments to have independent Department to look into issues for empowerment of persons with disabilities and appointment of State Commissioners for persons with disabilities, the matter was discussed as an agenda in the Conference of State/UTs Social Welfare Ministers/Secretaries/Administrators in charge of Disability Affairs on 02.06.2016 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister SJ&E. In the meeting State Governments were urged to consider creation of separate Department for PwDs. The States/UTs who have not yet appointed independent Commissioner for PwDs were requested to do so on priority basis. They were also requested to provide adequate support staff to the Commissioner for PwDs to enable him to discharge his functions effectively as per the provisions of PwD Act, 1995.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

-Nil -

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHAPTER-I

Recommendation (Para 3.9)

4.1 The Committee note that all the National Institutes are proposed as the Institutes of National Importance as recommended by the Baswan Committee and the Department is getting the work study done by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of Department of Expenditure to assess the absorption capacity of the existing infrastructure facilities of Institutes. The Committee were informed that the report of the SIU in respect of five National Institutes, i.e. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNHH), Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR), National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) and National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped (NIOH) is still awaited. During the examination of Demands for Grants for the year 2014-2015, the Committee were also informed that work study of these Institutes by SIU was under process. The Committee are not happy with the pace at which the Department is going on this important issue which reflects on the seriousness of the Department too. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Department to pursue with the Department of Expenditure to finalize the SIU work study urgently so that process of upgradation/modernization of these Institutes could be started without further delay.

Reply of the Government

4.2 In this regard, it is informed that Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Staff Inspection Unit has submitted final of report of work study of NIVH, Dehradun containing the staff assessment of NIVH and its Regional Centre, Chennai. The Department vide letter dated 16.05.2016 forwarded the said report to NIVH Dehradun and requested to implement the same. Secretary, DEPwD (Divyangjan) had written D.O. letter dated 17.05.2016 to Secretary, Expenditure to expedite the SIU report to

National Institutes. The updated status of work study of each National Institute is as under:-

Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNHH), Mumbai

The work study material submitted by AYJNHH, Mumbai was forwarded to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, vide D.O. letter dated 24.06.2014. Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (SIU), vide letter dated 24.05.2016 has intimated that information/data received in November, 2014 and September, 2015 have been examined and observed that the data is totally incomplete and also become obsolete, which cannot be perused for the purpose of study. Department vide letter dated 22.06.2016 has requested AYJNHH to furnish the requisite/information documents as desired by Staff Inspection Unit.

Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack

The work study material submitted by SVNIRTAR, Cuttack was forwarded to SIU Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, vide D.O. letter dated 10.07.2014. Department of Expenditure has intimated vide letter No.60/21/2014 –SIU dated 31.05.2016, that SIU team would conduct the on spot work study of SVNIRTAR cuttack under supervision of Shri RK. Kureel, Deputy, Secretary (SIU). SIU work study report is awaited.

National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad

NIMH Regional Centre & NIMH MSEC Delhi and Noida was visited by the Study Team for on-the-spot study and the requirement of staff being assessed. Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure vide O.M. dated 09.05.2016 has sought further information/data and same provided to them by NIMH, Secunderabad. SIU work study report is awaited

National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata

The work study material along with clarification sought by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure was sent to them on 29.09.2015. The inspection is still pending.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para 4.16)

4.3 The Committee find that there has been a continuous downward trend in the expenditure under DDRS for the last three years. In 2013-14, the actual expenditure was Rs. 63.64 crore against BE of Rs. 124.85 crore and RE of Rs. 90 crore whereas in 2014-15, the expenditure was Rs. 50.08 crore against BE of Rs. 90 crore and RE of Rs. 50.50 crore. Similarly in 2015-16, the actual expenditure till 29.2.2016 was merely Rs. 34.03 crore vis-à-vis BE of Rs. 60 crore and RE of Rs. 51 crore. As far as number of beneficiaries is concerned, the statement furnished by the Department reveals that the major States namely, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. have shown less number of beneficiaries year after year. The Committee feel that this downward trend has been depriving the target population of the benefits of the scheme. The Committee take into account the contention of the Department that the root cause of underutilization of funds under DDRS is non/delayed receipt of State Governments recommendations. The Committee are of the firm view that there is not only lack of coordination between Central and State agencies but also lack of concern and sensitiveness on the part of all Stakeholders towards PwDs. The Committee feel that DDRS is one of the major schemes for disabled persons and impediments in smooth functioning and proper implementation of the scheme be forethought and analysize so that funds meant for the scheme could be utilized optimally. Needless to say there has to be more frequent interactions between the Department with the concerned State Governments to tackle the issue of delayed receipts by them.

Reply of the Government

4.4 The Department organized a conference in Vigyan Bhawan on 2nd June, 2016 and interacted with the Ministers/Secretaries/Officials handling Social Welfare Departments of State Governments to discuss issues relating to the Schemes/Programmes of this Department including DDRS. The State Governments were requested to send proposals of DDRS in time along with recommendations and to send the replies of the queries raised by the Department under DDRS promptly to facilitate release of grant in aid smoothly. The officials of this Department have recently visited Gujarat on 18th June and Chhattisgarh on 23rd June to discuss various issues relating to grants with State Governments under DDRS. DO letters are also being written to the State Governments for sending proposals before 31st August, 2016.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 8.12)

4.5 The Committee note that during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, the actual expenditure on Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme was too less, even 'nil' during 2013-14. The Committee are of the considered view that if the Department are not able to spend entire funds on awareness generation and publicity of their scheme meant for the PwDs, how will they be able to avail the benefits of these schemes. The Committee desire that the Department should make all out efforts to make known the PwDs, residing even in far flung remote areas, of the welfare schemes for their benefit.

Reply of the Government

To create awareness under AGP Scheme in far flung areas, funds have been released for awareness programme for PwDs in 4 districts of Odisha (Kenrapara, Jagatsingh Pur, Koraput and Kalahandi district), stage programmes for PwDs in 18 blocks of Begusarai district and stage programmes of PwDs in 2 mondals in Ongole Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 10.5)

4.6 The Committee note that many new schemes/programmes have been launched by the Department for the welfare of PwDs besides National Trust including the revamped Gharaunda scheme providing life long shelter and care to adult persons with disability. The Committee also note that the expenditure under Gharaunda scheme was only Rs. 32 lakh in 2014-15 and Rs. 34.80 lakh in 2015-16. The total number of beneficiaries under Gharaunda scheme for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 were 167. Out of them 152 beneficiaries belonged to Above Poverty Line (APL) and only 15 belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL). The Committee are surprised to note that only 15 beneficiaries from BPL have been benefitted under Gharaunda scheme for the last two years. The Committee feel that the reason behind less BPL beneficiaries under the scheme was lack of awareness among PwDs about this scheme. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department that periodical massive campaign be organized to spread awareness among the disabled persons about the benefits of the scheme so that they could get shelter under the scheme. Further, the Committee observe that no scheme has been envisaged by the Department for those disabled persons who have no family support and protection, live and survive on streets by begging and face all sorts of hardships and exploitation. The Committee feel that this segment of disabled population is in dire need of support, protection and care. The Committee, therefore,

strongly recommend the Department address the concerns and difficulties of these segment by formulating focussed schemes and programmes. The Committee also recommend that a comprehensive National Policy for PwDs on the lines of National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP) be formulated to look into each and every aspect of welfare of disabled persons and for this purpose, if need be, views of NGOs and other stakeholders be also considered.

Reply of the Government

4.7 The Government has formulated the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2006. The policy focuses on prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation measures, early detection and intervention, education, employment, barrier free environment, social security, data collection, research etc. The policy envisages setting up of mental health care homes for severely mental ill persons at District level with the involvement of NGOs. It also envisages residential rehabilitation centres for providing vocational and social skills for persons with mental illness. The policy outlines various social security measures for persons with disabilities who are destitute and abandoned. Further the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities also implements the following schemes with a view to provide rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities:-

1. **Vikas** (day care for 10+ years scheme) to provide day care facilities primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a person with disabilities for enhancing inter-personal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age group.
2. **SAMARTH**, (a respite care residential scheme) to provide respite homes for orphan, abandoned, families in crisis and also for persons with disabilities from BPL and allies families including destitute with atleast one of the four disabilities covered under National Trust Act, 1999.
3. **Gharunda**, (a scheme for group home for adults) to provide an assured home and minimum quality care services throughout the life of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities with adequate and

quality care services with acceptable living standards including provision for basic medical care for professional doctors.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.19 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER-V

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

Recommendation (Para No. 7.26)

5.1 The Committee observe that the Department have been operating educational schemes for the Students with Disabilities such as (i) National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities (ii) Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship schemes for Students with Disabilities (iii) National Overseas Scholarship scheme (iv) Top Class Education scheme for PwDs. The Department informed the Committee that the 46,000 scholarships under Pre-matric Scholarship scheme and 16,650 scholarships under Post-matric Scholarship scheme can be sanctioned every year during the 12th Five Year Plan. The Committee note with concerned that in the year 2015-16 only 2368 SwDs under Pre-matric and 3777 SwDs under Post-matric scheme have been benefited. The Committee note that out of 160 slots allocated for Top Class Education scheme only 14 SwDs have availed the benefit of the scheme. The Committee were informed that a National e-scholarship Portal has been developed for applying for various scholarship schemes w.e.f. 1st July, 2015. The Department candidly admitted that as there are several processes involved and synchronization of data between NSP and PFMS Portals have their own glitches, the number of candidates for scholarships schemes was less. Since the SwDs have to apply online for scholarship schemes, the Committee feel that the web portal for scholarships schemes should be simplified as far as possible and be more user friendly for the disabled persons. The Committee, desire that the Department should make earnest efforts to remove all the snags/glitches which are being faced by the disabled students while applying for these scholarships schemes.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The following steps have been taken to remove the snags / glitches which are faced by the disabled students while applying for scholarships

- (i) NIC has launched a revamped version NSP 2.0 during 2016-17 to make it more user-friendly.
- (ii) If the scholarship amount is less than Rs.50,000/-, the documents are to be kept at institute level and there is no need to upload these documents in the portal
- (iii) Bulk uploading of data in NSP portal is allowed for class IX to XII.
- (iv) Status of application can be checked by the student through signing-up with Permanent Registration ID.
- (v) Aadhaar Enrollment ID number can be used in case of non-availability of Aadhar number for registration for a period of three months.
- (vi) Last date for submission of application has been extended upto 30.9.2016
- (vii) Students can contact the Help Desk for resolution of the technical problems
- (viii) A workshop for the State Nodal Officers has been organized by DEPwD

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2016-2017/Budget/DEPwD dated 21st September, 2016)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;

14 December, 2016
23 Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

ANNEXURE

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 2016

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
3. Shri Jhina Hikaka
4. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
5. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
6. Kunwar Bhartendra Singh

RAJYA SABHA

7. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
8. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
9. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
10. Smt. Chhaya Verma
11. Shri Ramkumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports of the Committee :-

(i) ***** * ***** * ***** * ***** * *****

(ii) ***** * ***** * ***** * ***** * *****

(iii) Thirty-fourth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-eight Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

(iv) ***** * ***** * ***** * ***** * *****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any change. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this report.

APPENDIX

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON
THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT (SIXTEENTH
LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2016-2017) OF THE MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES).**

		Total	Percentage
I	Total number of Recommendations	15	
II	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government Rec. Paragraph Nos. 2.9, 3.8, 4.17, 5.8, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 8.13, 9.7 and 11.5	10	66.66
III	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government - Nil	0	0
IV	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter – I Rec. Paragraph Nos. 3.9, 4.16, 8.12 and 10.5	4	26.67
V	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature Rec. Paragraph No. 7.26	1	6.67