

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2017-2018)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

**(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES)**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS
FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS/APPLIANCES (ADIP)**

FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

January, 2018/Pausha, 1939 (Saka)

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FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS/APPLIANCES (ADIP)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 03.01.2018

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 03.01.2018



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

January, 2018/Pausha, 1939 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-2016)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
6. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
7. Shri Jhina Hikaka
8. Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri
9. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
10. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
11. Smt. K. Maragatham
12. Shri Kariya Munda
13. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
14. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
15. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
16. Dr. Udit Raj
17. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
18. Prof. Sadhu Singh
19. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
20. Smt. Mamta Thakur
21. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
23. Shri Ahamed Hassan
24. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
25. Shri Prabhat Jha
26. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
27. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
28. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
29. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
30. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
31. Vacant*

* Smt. Jharna Das Baidya, MP, Rajya Sabha retired w.e.f. 2.4.2016.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2017-2018)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
7. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
8. Smt. K. Maragatham
9. Shri Kariya Munda
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Dr. Udit Raj
12. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy
14. Kunwar Bhartendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamata 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. Shri Munvvar Saleem Chaudhary
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

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-eighth Report on the subject 'Implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)'.

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) on 30.05.2016 and 28.11.2017. The observations of the Committee are based on the appraisal of the evidence of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

3. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 28.12.2017.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for furnishing the written replies and other material/information and for appearing before the Committee to tender their evidence in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
28th December, 2017
7 Pausha, 1939 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.

REPORT
CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTORY

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme for empowerment and rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) is being operated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The main objective of the scheme is to provide grants-in-aid to the various implementing agencies such as National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), State Handicapped Development Corporation, other local bodies and NGOs to assist needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern and better quality of aids and appliances at reasonable price.

The scheme also envisages conduct of corrective surgeries, whenever required, before providing assistive devices

Eligibility Criteria for the Scheme

1.2 To avail the benefits under the Scheme, persons have the following criteria:

- (i) They must have 40 per cent disability certificate.
- (ii) Their monthly income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 15000/- per month for 100 per cent concession and Rs. 15001/- to Rs. 20,000/- per month for 50 per cent concession.
- (iii) New assistive devices are supplied only after 3 years for the same purpose.

- (iv) However, for children below 12 years of age, the new assistive device can be supplied after 1 year.
- (v) Income certificate of beneficiaries staying in orphanages and half-way homes may be accepted on certification of District Collector or Head of the Organization concerned.

Cost Ceiling for Assistive Aids/Devices

1.3 In regard to Cost Ceiling for Assistive Aids/Devices,

- (i) Aids and Appliances costing not more than Rs. 10,000/-.
- (ii) In the case of students with disability, for students beyond IX class, the limit is Rs. 12,000/-.
- (iii) In case of multiple disabilities, limit will apply to individual items separately in case more than one aid/appliance is required.
- (iv) Expensive items costing above Rs.20,000/-, except Cochlear Implant, Motorized Tricycle and Wheelchair eligible for assistance under the Scheme, subject to income ceiling, would be listed out separately by the Department. Government of India shall bear 50 per cent of the cost and remainder to be contributed either by the State Government or the NGO or any other agency or by the beneficiary, on case to case basis, with prior approval of Department.

CHAPTER-II

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND FUNDS PROVIDED TO THEM UNDER ADIP SCHEME

2.1 The Scheme is being implemented through the following Implementing Agencies:

- (i) Societies and their branches, if any, registered separately under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- (ii) Registered Charitable Trusts.
- (iii) Indian Red Cross Societies and other Autonomous Bodies headed by District Collector/Chief Executive Officer/District Development Officer.
- (iii) National/Apex Institutes, CRCs, RCs, DDRCs, National Trust, ALIMCO functioning under administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- (iv) National/State Handicapped Development Corporation and Section 25 Companies in the Private Sector.
- (vi) Local Bodies-Zilla Parishad, Municipalities, District Autonomous Development Councils and Panchayats etc.
- (vii) Hospitals registered as separate entity, as recommended by State/UT/Central Government.
- (viii) Nehru Yuva Kendras.
- (ix) Any other organisation as considered fit by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

2.2 The Department furnished the following statement showing Budget allocation, Revised allocation, amount released and number of beneficiaries during the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 and current year upto 31.10.2017:

Year	BE Allocation (Rs. in crore)	RE Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Amount released (Rs in crore)	No. of Beneficiaries
2014-15	110.00	110.00	101.28	2,65,602
2015-16	125.50	151.40	151.16	2,45,584
2016-17	130.00	170.00	170.00	2,90,295
2017-18 (as on 31.10.2017)	150.00	-	135.56	1,08,064

2.3 As regards subsidized motorised tricycle and wheelchair to various group of people, the Committee were informed that, "subsidy for motorized tricycle and wheelchair under the ADIP Scheme is Rs. 25,000 for severely disabled and for locomotor disabilities such as Quadriplegic (SCI), Muscular Dystrophy, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Hemiplegia and any other person with similar conditions where either three/four limbs or one half of the body are severely impaired. This will be provided to the persons aged 16 years and above, once in 10 years. However, severely disabled persons aged 16 years and above, having mental impairment, shall not be eligible for motorized tricycles and wheelchairs since it puts them at a risk of serious accidents/physical harm. The actual cost of ALIMCO's motorized tricycle is Rs.37,000/-. The difference amount of Rs.12,000/- is met by the beneficiary or by convergence with MP/MLA fund/CSR funding. During the last 3 years and current year, 3716 Motorized Tricycles have been distributed under the Scheme".

2.4 When asked whether the Department has any proposal to meet the entire cost of the motorized tricycle i.e., Rs. 37,000/- under ADIP Scheme to ease the dependence on other uncertain sources of funding, the Department replied that "the ADIP Scheme has been revised w.e.f. 1.4.2014 only. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and Cabinet have approved the cost ceiling for motorized tricycles and wheelchairs as Rs.25,000/- only. Moreover, due to increase in subsidy of aids and assistive devices, inclusion of high-end devices and Cochlear Implant in the revised Scheme, the number of beneficiaries covered from the available budget are decreasing. As such there is no proposal at present to meet the entire cost of the motorized tricycle i.e. Rs. 37,000/- keeping in view the funds constraint".

2.5 Regarding the initiatives taken by the Department to impress upon State/UT Governments to promote Red Cross Societies for better implementation of ADIP Scheme, the Department replied that "Red Cross Societies are also one of the Implementing Agencies under ADIP Scheme. Implementing the Scheme through Red Cross Societies depends upon recommendation of the concerned State Governments/UTs to their proposals under the Scheme".

District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)

2.6 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, with the active support of State Governments, is providing comprehensive services to the PwDs by way of setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in the unserved Districts of the country. DDRCs started as outreach activity of the Department for providing comprehensive services to the PwDs at grass root level and for facilitating creation of the infrastructure and capacity building at the District level for awareness generation, rehabilitation and training of rehabilitation professionals.

2.7 During the evidence, the Committee observed that the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) neither existed in every district and nor were fully functional. When the Committee desired to know the reasons for the same, the Department replied that "310 Districts have been identified for setting up of DDRCs in the country in phases since 1999 onwards. However, funds have been released to 261 DDRCs atleast once since 1999-2000 onwards. The scheme of setting up of DDRCs expected active role by the concerned State Governments and the district administration in the matter of identifying suitable implementing agency and providing rent free accommodation for the DDRC preferably in the Civil Hospital.

Besides, it was also expected that the district administration/State Government will release funds in advance to DDRCs to meet their day to day expenditure till funds under the scheme are released by the Central Government. When the scheme was launched, it was expected that after 3 years the concerned State Government will take over the functioning of DDRCs and the requisite support will be provided by them. However, during the year 2005-06 the State Government expressed their inability to take over the scheme. The Department took the decision to continue the DDRC scheme and to be funded under DDRC scheme of the Department. Under DDRC scheme the grant-in-aid is given for first 7 years in the ratio of 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent to be made available by the concerned implementing agency. After 7 years every alternate year the grant is reduced by 5 per cent and is brought down till the support comes to 75 per cent. This was also one of the reasons that the DDRCs were finding it difficult to manage the required financial expenditure. Most of the DDRCs which are set up and given funds find it difficult to retain or engage the prescribed staff due to low amount of honorarium. The amount of honorarium to the staff engaged on contract basis and other items of expenditure was last revised w.e.f. 1st April 2010".

2.8 Asked when the Scheme was revised last, the Department stated that the scheme has been revised on 22.11.2017 with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee.

2.9 Under the revised scheme the amount of honorarium and other expenditure have been raised as under:

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Item	Existing Rates	Proposed Rates w.e.f. 01.04.2018
Total Honorarium	8.10	23.40
Office Expenses/ contingencies	2.10	05.25

Equipments (for 1 st year only)	7.00	20.00
Total for 1 st year	17.20	48.65
Total for 2 nd year	10.20	28.65
Total for 3 rd year	10.20	28.65

2.10 It was further stated that due to financial constraints, setting up of DDRC in each district of the country is not possible at this stage.

2.11 When enquired about the problems being faced by the Department in setting up of DDRCs in all the Districts and efforts made in this regard, the Department in the post evidence reply has stated as under:

"262 DDRCs have been set up as on 30.11.2017. Major issues affecting the functioning of DDRCs and efforts being made by the Department to overcome the difficulties are as under:-

- (a) The amount of honorarium for the prescribed professional staff appointed on contractual basis is very low as a result of which engagement and retention of qualified manpower becomes difficult;

Enhancement of the amount of honorarium and other items of expenditure has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee on 22.11.2017 and will be implemented w.e.f. the next financial year, i.e. 01.4.2018.

- (b) Funding of DDRCs under SIPDA Scheme and DDRS Scheme is another issue. DDRCs on setting up are provided funds under SIPDA Scheme for 3 years and thereafter funding is done under DDRS Scheme. This affects the functioning of DDRCs as only 90 per cent of funds sought are released under DDRS for the first seven years and thereafter, it goes down by 5 per cent every alternate year till the amount released goes down to 75 per cent of total amount sought by DDRC.

The scheme has been revised and under the revised scheme, funding will be done under SIPDA scheme only."

2.12 The Department further informed that the funds under the ADIP Scheme are utilized to implement different types of following projects/purposes:

The funds under the ADIP Scheme are utilized for the following purposes:-

- (a) **Camp activity** – The grant is released for holding camps by Implementing Agencies at the District level. This also includes Special Camps organized at various places for distribution of aids and assistive devices on the requests of Ministers/MPs/MLAs etc.
- (b) **Headquarter activity** – Grant is released to National Institutes /CRCs/ALIMCO/State Government Bodies and well established NGOs for ADIP activity at their HQ.
- (c) **ADIP-SSA–ALIMCO** undertakes ADIP-SSA activity for school children upto the age of 14 years for which 60 per cent of funds are released by this Department under ADIP Scheme and 40 per cent by Ministry of Human Resource Development under their Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- (d) **Cochlear Implant** – Grant is released to ALIMCO for purchase of Cochlear Implant and to Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) (AYJNISHD), Mumbai for Cochlear Implant surgery and rehabilitation activities.

2.13 The Department further informed that the funds utilized and number of beneficiaries covered State-wise by the various Implementing Agencies under the Scheme during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (till 31.10.2017) is as per the following statement:

		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (as on 31.10.2017)	
S.No.	Name of the State / Uts	Funds utilised (Rs.in Lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilised (Rs.in Lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilized (Rs.in Lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilized (Rs.in Lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	958.17	22157	795.56	9623	642.12	3180	286.42	1612
2	Bihar	257.96	3409	105.80	1115	205.62	2178	291.74	2507
3	Chhattisgarh	449.16	4961	425.03	4092	297.76	4034	57.87	1405
4	Goa	13.01	227	8.96	137	3.76	166	0.41	18
5	Gujarat	197.32	5356	113.49	1616	1731.26	28082	1481.35	24891
6	Haryana	443.06	8272	473.02	8991	848.49	12453	211.84	3383
7	Himachal Pradesh	129.06	8552	59.61	3655	81.01	2306	53.87	1125
8	Jammu and Kashmir	80.09	4529	126.54	1770	222.59	3154	77.72	2392
9	Jharkhand	372.07	10963	22.79	242	77.04	806	79.69	1602
10	Karnataka	273.79	4023	676.98	5377	453.6	6520	227.81	2752
11	Kerala	207.68	3223	239.35	2636	228.68	3106	86.48	1884
12	Madhya Pradesh	816.94	16953	2251.79	29999	1663.46	16699	335.23	3503
13	Maharashtra	1015.75	19656	1846.86	27325	1244.36	18996	553.25	5836
14	Odisha	317.89	8161	557.79	15421	897.64	13757	365.64	6151
15	Punjab	228.92	3491	842.46	21936	565.25	9882	225.89	5709

16	Rajasthan	684.16	13457	624.94	12568	539.81	9754	262.48	3127
17	Tamil Nadu	424.41	10330	394.68	10047	353.32	9538	188.15	3898
18	Uttar Pradesh	3033.76	60309	2869.4	45364	4072.045	71375	621.17	7531
19	Uttarakhand	456.71	15030	301.52	7300	311.2	8888	145.93	5603
20	West Bengal	500.25	13085	1163.02	13988	1149.95	25199	638.86	10171
21	Andaman & Nicobar	27.3	450	0	0	10.64	368	0	0
22	Chandigarh	2.89	91	0	0	22.61	223	0.71	14
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12.57	361	0.95	58	2.13	70	1.28	12
24	Daman & Diu	4.00	95	2.46	35	3.08	82	0.58	9
25	Delhi	171.04	4486	361.09	7451	571.89	8828	82.42	1041
26	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	20.11	259	7.12	174
28	Arunachal Pradesh	5.22	60	12.92	354	8.45	335	0	0
29	Assam	519.31	17597	599.27	10136	542.96	12876	597.27	9055
30	Manipur	111.33	2908	92.31	358	563.14	6827	49.05	725
31	Meghalaya	36.67	1015	26.26	122	98.28	1422	5.99	53
32	Mizoram	27.92	415	2.84	31	38.55	636	0	0
33	Nagaland	41.41	663	17.44	22	16.49	432	0	0
34	Sikkim	14.66	332	23.11	420	0	0	0	0
35	Tripura	7.77	150	61.37	1367	235.34	3031	0	0
36	Telangana	97.61	828	377.85	2028	335.56	4833	230.78	1881
Total		11939.86	265602	15477.46	245584	18058.20	290295	7167.00	108064

2.14 When asked about the steps taken by the Department to organize ADIP Camps in the States/UTs which are not covered till date, the Department informed that "due to constraint of funds during 2016-17, grants-in-aid could not be released to NGO proposals recommended by States/UTs. The Department further stated that in case of States/UTs wherein funds could not be released to NGOs, grants-in-aid was released to ALIMCO and National Institutes/CRCs functioning under the Department, who organize camps on 'Pan India basis'. In all the States/UTs funds have been utilized during last three year except Lakshadweep. In those UTs where camps were not held during 2016-17, the Department will approach the concerned UT administration for organizing camps for distribution of aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan".

2.15 The Department further furnished statement containing State-wise Mega/Special camps held, number of beneficiaries and utilization of funds during the year 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and current year upto 31.10.2017 as follows:

State-wise details of Mega/Special Camps held, No. of beneficiaries and funds utilized during last three year and current year (up to 31.10.2017) under ADIP Scheme.													
	2014-15				2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
S. No.	Name of the State / Uts	No. of Camps held	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilised (Rs.in Lakhs)	No. of Camps held	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilised (Rs.in Lakhs)	No. of Camps held	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilised (Rs.in Lakhs)	No. of Camps held	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilised (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	2598	193.05	6	6161	474.63	8	7692	525.4	1	492	91.11
2	Bihar	2	679	48.80	1	449	26.69	4	1958	134.6	1	1752	152.95
3	Chhattisgarh	2	1496	125.64	0	0	0	3	1625	155.92	0	0	0
4	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	1	1058	76.69	0	0	0	2	18313	1348.45	7	26732	1908.76
6	Haryana	1	1362	116.72	1	3210	304.66	5	7743	636.47	3	941	86.9
7	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1	179	10.97	0	0	0	1	488	29.78
8	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	1	1533	96.00	0	0	0	1	87	6.24
9	Jharkhand	4	987	66.42	0	0	0	2	573	44.21	4	1009	80.72
10	Karnataka	0	0	0	5	2847	240.14	7	3065	243.25	0	0	0
11	Kerala	0	0	0	1	3550	383.03	2	2119	146.94	0	0	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	8	3988	283.04	14	14574	1226.88	14	9662	784.98	3	5794	432.29

13	Maharashtra	3	5044	510.25	5	10757	921.07	8	6635	592.93	1	2301	160.25
14	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	118	9.69	0	0	0
15	Punjab	3	1166	107.4	3	1306	106.33	5	3891	393.24	1	130	11.23
16	Rajasthan	0	0	0	2	885	74.04	4	1822	231.01	2	1570	230.54
17	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	1	39	2.81	0	0	0	2	243	19.2
18	Uttar Pradesh	13	12600	871.26	17	21244	1691.53	29	37880	2829.04	6	6493	465.18
19	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	1	570	43.43	0	0	0	1	142	9.8
20	West Bengal	0	0	0	1	4042	311.53	7	7082	512.55	3	4106	246.93
21	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Delhi	0	0	0	2	1598	194.96	7	4803	532.14	0	0	0
26	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	89	7.12	0	0	0
29	Assam	2	1102	81.65	2	1389	137.22	1	1136	65	5	7402	502.48
30	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6383	444	0	0	0
31	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	315	28.65	0	0	0
32	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Sikkim	0	0	0	1	106	3.95	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	538	50.00	0	0	0
36	Telangana	1	267	17.41	3	2134	132.61	4	2951	212.56	0	0	0
Total		43	32347	2498.33	68	76573	6382.48	118	126393	9928.15	42	59682	4434.36

2.16 The Committee note that the actual cost of ALIMCO's motorized tricycle is Rs.37,000/- and subsidy is Rs.25,000. The difference of Rs. 12,000/- is met either by the beneficiary or by convergence with MP/MLA fund/CSR funding. More so, the Department has no proposal to meet the entire cost of the motorized tricycle *i.e.*, Rs. 37,000/- due to constraint of funds. The Committee feel that the target group covered under the Scheme basically belongs to the deprived section of the society and is not in a position to meet the cost difference and is, therefore, deprived of the benefit. The Committee also feel that the dependence on MP/MLAs funds for meeting the cost difference is not a viable option as a large number of beneficiaries do not have access to MPs or MLAs and even if somehow they could approach the MPs/MLAs, there is no guarantee that they would get the required amount from them. Also funding from this source depends a lot on the discretion and priorities of the concerned MP/MLA. The Committee, therefore, are of the considered view that the entire cost of motorized tricycle of Rs.37,000 should be borne by the Department. For this purpose, the Ministry of Finance may be approached and convinced for allocation of more budget to meet the extra financial burden.

2.17 The Committee were informed that under the ADIP Scheme, a subsidy of Rs.25,000 is provided once in 10 years for motorized tricycle and wheelchair to disabled persons, not below the age of 16 years and with 80 per cent disability. The condition of roads throughout the country is not so good, particularly in rural areas which not only results in shorter span of motorized vehicles including tricycle but also gradually increases the maintenance cost of these vehicles within 5-6 years of their usage. As most of the PwDs covered under the scheme come from the deprived and poor section of the society, it is very difficult, if not possible, for them to meet the increased maintenance cost of motorized tricycles. The Committee, therefore, feel that the period of providing motorized tricycle and wheelchair once in 10 years is unjustified and needs to be reviewed. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the time period for providing motorized tricycle and wheelchair to severely disabled persons once in 10 years be lowered to 5 years.

2.18 The Committee are deeply concerned to note that out of 310 districts identified for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in phases since 1999 onwards, only 261 DDRCs received funds at least once, which implies that 49 DDRCs never got funds and remained non-functional. This reflects utter lack of seriousness towards the Scheme and Department's apathy towards the PwDs. The Committee find that from the very beginning DDRCs were facing financial crunch which impaired their proper functioning. Initially, it was expected that after 3 years of launch of the Scheme, the concerned State Governments will take over the functioning of DDRCs and provide requisite support to them. But after State Governments expressed their inability to take over the scheme, DDRCs were brought under Deendayal District Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for funding. The Scheme has been revised on 22.11.2017 and the amount of honorarium for staff and for other expenditure has been enhanced and it would be effective from the next financial year (2018-19). The Committee find that the Scheme of DDRCs was not conceptualized and formulated in right earnestness and was throughout implemented in *ad-hoc* and casual manner. The Committee feel that amount of honorarium being paid/revised is only one aspect of the problem. The Department must make concerted efforts to make DDRCs financially viable and sustainable too. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Scheme of DDRCs must be revisited to make it financially viable and self-reliant.

CHAPTER- III

DISABILITY CERTIFICATE TO DIVYANGJAN

3.1 The Department informed that the "State Governments are responsible for issue of Disability Certificates. Most of the State Governments are issuing Disability Certificates through their designated Hospitals/Medical Authorities on weekly fixed days. Since issuance of Disability Certificates also depends upon availability of specialists, it is therefore, necessary to ensure that all categories of specialists required for issuance of Disability Certificates are available on that particular day. Non-availability of specialists may cause difficulties to Divyangjan in getting the Disability Certificates expeditiously. However, taking this aspect in to account, in case of ADIP beneficiaries, prior survey is conducted and Disability Certificates are issued on camp mode for entire district so that each genuine beneficiary is registered and given due benefit under the Scheme".

3.2 When asked whether the Department has issued any instructions in this regard to State/UT Governments, the Department informed that "Health is a State subject. It is the sole responsibility of State Governments to designate Medical Authority to issue Disability Certificate in their State. In case there is any shortage of Specialist in respect of any disability in a particular District, then the District can avail the services of specialist in adjoining District or Medical College in the same State. Whenever any such request is received from any State/UT, the Department provides services of a specialist working in the National Institutes under this Department".

3.3 When enquired about the steps taken by the Department for better coordination with State Governments so as to facilitate hassle-free issuance of the 'Disability Certificate', the Department stated that "the Chief Commissioner for PwDs is continuously monitoring the status of issuance of Disability Certificate in coordination with States Commissioners for PwDs. The issue is also discussed in the yearly conference of State Commissioners and annual conference of State Ministers dealing with disability issues. The Department further informed that an application software has been developed for creation of National Database for PwDs and also to issue Unique ID card to each Divyangjan. This would also provide a web based programme for issuance of Disability Certificate in a more systematic and transparent manner. The Department has been continuously in correspondence with the States/UTs for implementation of this project. The district authorities are also being sensitised through video conferences for ensuring proper implementation of the project which would addresses issues concerning issuance of Disability Certificates by the States".

3.4 When the Committee desired to know the present status of data base and issuing of Unique Id to disabled persons, the Department replied that "Department has developed web based application software for creation of National data base for PwDs and also to issue Unique ID Card to every PwD (Divyangjan) in the country. While training to the State Government officers of various States is still in progress, so far 11 States/UTs have already commenced the implementation of the project in 306 districts and 2,55,913 UDID cards have been generated. The project is expected to be commenced in all States by end of 2018 to cover 2.68 crore Divyangjan".

3.5 When asked whether the local MPs/MLAs were invited in the meeting held between the representatives of State Governments and Central Government on the issue of Disability Certificates, the Department informed that in the last annual meeting of the State Ministers dealing with matters concerning Persons with Disabilities held in New Delhi on 02.06.2016, the issue of Disability Certificate was also discussed as an agenda. It was decided that States/UTs should take immediate steps such as simplification of rules, notification of medical authorities etc. to ensure that all the eligible Divyangjan get Disability Certificates in a time bound manner. The Committee were informed that the meeting was an annual conference of State Ministers and State Secretaries, only. As such MPs are not invited in such meetings.

3.6 When further asked about the proposal to involve local MPs in such meetings, the Department replied that "there is no proposal to involve local MPs in the meetings between the State Governments and Central Government on various disability issues. As per newly enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, Central Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted which comprises Ministers-in-charge of Disability Affairs of all States, Secretaries of Central Government, Directors of various National Institutes, representatives from disability sector and also three Members of Parliament, of whom two shall be elected by Lok Sabha and one member by Rajya Sabha. This Board will look into various issues relating to the proper implementation of RPwD Act, 2016".

3.7 The Committee found that there are large number of Disabled Persons found on the streets in the country, especially on red lights and also living in rural and far-flung areas. These people neither have any certificate of disability nor any income certificate for obvious reasons and these disabled persons are illiterate too. When enquired about the efforts made by the

Department to assist these people, the Department stated that "Certificate of disability is issued by the medical authorities as notified by the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to take up the issue of grant of certificate of disability to each person with disability on campaign mode. Further this Department is also in the process of implementing Unique Disability ID project which provides an online platform for grant of certificate of disability. The Persons with Disabilities can also apply offline under this project which would take care of the concerns of illiterate persons with disabilities. This project envisages holding of camps even at block level to cover all Persons with Disabilities across the country for certification and also for grant of UDID card. It would also cover the Persons with Disabilities who have no residence. As of now, the project has been implemented in 318 Districts of 12 States/UTs namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya, Andaman & Nicobar and Rajasthan and the project will be enrolled to all Districts of the country by the end of 2018".

3.8 Considering the difficulties in getting Disability Certificates and Income Certificates by the beneficiaries, these Certificates are also issued in assessment camps which are organized at District level for assessment of beneficiaries for providing assistive devices to them in these camps at various locations at Block level in coordination with District Administration so that each genuine beneficiary is registered and given due benefit under the Scheme".

CHAPTER- IV

STREAMLINE THE ENTIRE PROCEDURE TO AVOID DELAY IN DISTRIBUTION OF AIDS/APPLIANCES

4.1 The Committee observed that there is an inordinate delay of about 8-10 months in approving/providing tricycle/aids/appliances to the disabled persons even after having recommendation by Hon'ble Members of Parliament. When enquired about the reasons for such delays and steps proposed to avoid such delays, the Department in their post evidence replies admitted before the Committee that "in some cases there has been delay in providing aids and assistive devices due to operational difficulties for conducting assessment of beneficiaries by ALIMCO as it is mandatory to undertake such an assessment on individual basis to assess whether the beneficiary is fit to use such aids/appliances". The Department further assured the Committee that in future such requests will be processed expeditiously and attended to by ALIMCO.

4.2 In this regard, the Secretary of the Department while candidly admitting before the Committee, stated that "we will try our best to streamline the entire procedure as per the suggestions given by the Committee." (VP dt. 28.11.2017, page-18)

4.3 During the evidence, the Committee found that often Disabled Persons are asked to go to far-flung areas for medical examination, resulting in acute difficulties being faced by them and also in delaying the entire process of providing aids/appliances to the disabled. When asked about the steps proposed by the Department/ALIMCO to simplify and streamline the entire procedure, the Department in their post evidence replies stated that "the concerns of the Hon'ble Committee regarding inconvenience and difficulties faced by disabled population from

far flung areas to present themselves for medical examination at nominated locations has been noted. It is submitted that considering the limited resources and operational problems, difficulties arise in attending to each and every individual beneficiary at his/her place of residence. ALIMCO has already stretched resources to its limit by conducting assessment camps at as many as 15 to 20 locations at Block level in a District. The District Administration is also involved in providing conveyance and escorts from amongst Anganwadi workers and Panchayat level staff to facilitate Divyangjan appearing for assessment. Under the provisions of the ADIP Scheme, TA/DA is also provided to the beneficiaries as well as for one escort for bringing the beneficiary to the camp site or to the nearest centre of ALIMCO/National Institute/Composite Regional Centre".

4.4 The Committee are sad to note that due to non-availability of specialists in the designated hospitals/medical authorities in the District where the disabled persons reside, they have to go to adjoining Districts in the State for obtaining a Disability Certificate. A case also came to the notice of the Committee where a disabled person, who had been recommended by a Member of Parliament, was instructed by the authorities concerned to go for medical examination to the other District where he could not go. The Committee deprecate such callous attitude and apathy of the officials. The Committee recommend that all out efforts should be made to streamline the entire process/formalities in such a way that there is no harassment to the PwDs. The Committee desire that while organizing ADIP Camps for distribution of aids/appliances, the work pertaining to issue of Disability Certificates to the PwDs of the region should be done in a campaign mode so that benefits of the Scheme reach to needy without undue delay.

4.5 The Committee observe that there are so many disabled persons found on the streets, especially on traffic signals. Similarly, in the backward rural and far flung areas, disabled people neither have any Certificate of Disability nor income certificate for obvious reasons. For taking benefits under the scheme, PwDs have to produce these two certificates mandatorily. The Committee, therefore, recommend that some avenues/possibilities may be explored for doing away with the requirement of these documents/certificates in such cases which appear apparent/patent.

CHAPTER- V

COCHLEAR IMPLANT SURGERY

5.1 The Committee were informed that the revised ADIP Scheme contains a provision to provide Cochlear implant for 500 children per year with hearing disability, with a ceiling of Rs. 6.00 lakh per unit, to be borne by the Government to cover the cost of implant, surgery and post-operative rehabilitation. Income ceiling for the beneficiaries is Rs. 15,000/- per month for 100 per cent concession and Rs. 15001/- to Rs. 20,000/- per month for 50 per cent concession.

5.2 When asked whether any step is being taken by the Department to provide Cochlear Implant Surgery at low cost, the Department replied that the following steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the cost of Cochlear Implant surgery:

- (a) Through open tender process in a transparent manner, the cost of Cochlear implant has been reduced to Rs.3.675 lakh, which is lower than the market price.
- (b) The cost of surgery has been fixed by the Government at Rs.60,000 per beneficiary, which is less than the market rates and this has been accepted even in private hospitals.
- (c) The post operative rehabilitation cost is Rs.45,000 per beneficiary per annum, is much lower than the market price.

5.3 When asked about the State Governments/UTs who are interested and sent proposals for their participation in the Cochlear Implant Programme, the Department informed that "as a first step in this direction, State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been requested to consider participation in the Cochlear Implant Program under ADIP Scheme so that requirement of Cochlear Implants under the State Scheme may be

procured simultaneously so that all the Government Departments get the Cochlear Implants at cheaper rates due to bulk purchase for the entire country. As a result, it is expected to bring down the cost of one Cochlear Implant further".

5.4 It was further informed to the Committee that "the Department is also pursuing with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence about the development of indigenous Cochlear Implants which are awaiting clinical trials for use within the country and shall also have less cost. In the meantime, requests received in the Department from two private hospitals showing their willingness to participate in the clinical trials of indigenous Cochlear Implant developed by DRDO and the requests have been forwarded to DRDO for their feedback. Depending upon the success of clinical trials, the indigenous Cochlear Implants may be considered to be the part of the Cochlear Implant program of the Department".

5.5 The Committee note that the funds were released to National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres/ ALIMCO for ADIP/SSA activity and Cochlear Implant Surgery to only the State of Uttar Pradesh. When asked about the reasons, the Department replied that "funds under the Scheme are utilized under four types of activities viz. (i) Camp Activity/Special Camp Activity, (ii) Headquarter Activity, (iii) ADIP-SSA Activity and (iv) Cochlear Implant. For ADIP-SSA activity, ALIMCO, Kanpur is the implementing agency. The Department informed that Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disability (AYJNISHD), Mumbai is the nodal agency for implementation of Cochlear Implant Programme all over the nation and for Cochlear Implant Surgery, ALIMCO, Kanpur is the nodal agency for procurement of Cochlear Implant. ALIMCO and National Institutes functioning under the administrative control of the Department,

undertake ADIP Activities for distribution of aids and assistive devices, covering all States/UTs. During the year 2016-17, being the nodal implementing agency for ADIP-SSA activity and procurement of cochlear implant, funds were released to ALIMCO, Kanpur located in Uttar Pradesh for undertaking these activities in all States/UTs and North Eastern Regions across the Country".

5.6 When the Committee desired to know the State-wise details of Cochlear Implant Surgeries conducted by the Institute in the last three years, the Department forwarded the following statement:

State wise list of Cochlear Implant Surgeries conducted by AYJNISHD, Mumbai during the last three years and current year under ADIP Scheme.							
	ADIP Scheme				CSR		
State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as on 04.12.2017)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as on 04.12.2017)
North Zone							
Punjab	-	2	11	1	-	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	5	39	20	-	7	8
Haryana	-	2	13	12	-	1	7
Delhi	-	6	4	10	1	3	2
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	3	2	-	-	4
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
West Central Zone							
Gujarat	1		16	3	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	10	83	18	3	-	-	1
Maharashtra	8	62	25	39	11	29	22
Rajasthan	-	19	14	14	-	2	1
Chattisgarh	-	5	1	-	-	-	1
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Zone							
Karnataka	11	20	16	18	-	11	2
Andhra Pradesh	-	23	12	30	-	31	8

Telangana	7	12	27	28	-	4	-
Tamil Nadu	1	-	4	2	1	-	-
Kerala	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Puducherry	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Zone					-	-	-
Odisha	-	9	3	5	-	-	-
West Bengal	-	20	22	8	-	-	20
Bihar	-	7	4	6	-	-	-
Jharkhand	-	2	5	1	-	-	-
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Eastern Zone					-	-	-
Nagaland	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	-	7	10	6	-	-	2
Manipur	-	10	12	5	-	-	3
Meghalaya	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	38	300	276	215	13	88	81

5.7 The Committee feel that the Cochlear Implant is a device which provides life long relief to hearing impaired children. The Committee note that the revised ADIP Scheme has a provision of Cochlear Implant Surgery of 500 children per year with a ceiling of Rs.6.00 lakh per unit and the eligibility criteria is 100 per cent concession for beneficiaries with an income less than Rs. 15,000 per month and 50 per cent concession for income between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month. The Committee are dismayed to note that in the last three years *i.e.*, from 03.12.2014 to 30.11.2017, only 975 Cochlear Implant Surgeries have been conducted across the country, which is far less than the target of 500 Implant Surgeries per year. The Department needs to explain this shortfall. The Committee strongly feel that the Cochlear Implant Surgery, if performed in the early years of a hearing impaired child, it will certainly help overall development of the child. The target of 500 implant surgeries is very less for the entire country which unfortunately is also not met. As a result, waiting list of such patients keeps increasing. The Committee recommend that the target of 500 Implant Surgeries per year be increased at least to 700 besides ensuring that this target is achieved without any excuse, whatsoever.

5.8 The Committee note that the revised ADIP Scheme contains a provision to provide Cochlear Implant for 500 children per year with a ceiling of Rs. 6.00 lakh per unit including cost of surgery and post-operative rehabilitation. The Committee feel that for a person with an annual income of Rs. 1.8 lakh to Rs. 2.4 lakh bearing 50 per cent cost of the surgery is almost impossible. As majority of the patients are in need of Cochlear Implant under ADIP Scheme come from economically weaker sections of the society, the Committee desire that the income criteria must be revised/relaxed so that benefit could be extended to more and more patients. The Committee also recommend that Department must formulate detailed guidelines to ensure (i) post surgery follow-up and functioning of implant device; (ii) speedy repair of device in case of any fault - technical or otherwise; (iii) hospitals and clinics registered for conducting the implant surgery have well trained doctors and staff; and (iv) early detection of hearing disability.

5.9 The Committee note that for Implant Surgery, ALIMCO is the nodal agency for procurement of Cochlear Implant and Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD) is the Implementing Agency of the Cochlear Implant programme all over the country. The Committee are disappointed to note that during the year 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (till 04.12.2017), the total number of Cochlear Implant Surgeries conducted by AYJNISHD were only 38, 300, 276 and 215 respectively. The Committee fail to understand that when the Cochlear Implant Programme is meant for the entire country then why the request has been made by the Department to only four States for procurement of Cochlear implant. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should direct all States/UTs for their participation in the Cochlear Implant Programme so that bulk purchase should be made at low cost for the entire country.

5.10 The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to develop indigenous Cochlear Implant which is at trial stage. The Committee, however, desire the Department to make all out efforts to complete the trial process at the earliest as the indigenous Cochlear Implant will certainly be much cheaper than the imported Implant. This will not only go a long way in making the programme a success but more people will be benefitted.

CHAPTER- VI

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 The Committee were informed that "under ADIP Scheme, grant-in-aid is released on receipt of recommendations of the State Governments/UTs and the inspection report in respect of a particular agency. Seven National Institutes under the Department, their Regional Centres, Composite Regional Centres and States/UTs have been assigned for inspection, monitoring and guidance to grantee organizations under the disability related schemes of the Department (especially ADIP, DDRS and DDRCs). Further, officers of the Department have been designated as Nodal Officers for various States/UTs for monitoring the implementation of various schemes of the Department. Office of Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities also conducts inspection of work done by Implementing Agencies from time to time. Besides, PAN and Aadhaar Number details of the Trustees/members of the NGO/VO are compulsory".

6.2 To assess the performance of the Implementing Agencies receiving funds from the Department under the scheme and actual utilization of funds for the eligible disabled persons by these Agencies, the Department informed that "under the provisions of the Scheme, Implementing Agencies maintain a website and upload details of grants received and utilized and list of beneficiaries along with their photo and Ration Card Numbers/Aadhaar Card/Voter Identity Number on their website. Further, sample checking of beneficiaries regarding utilization of grants-in-aid by the Implementing Agency is also conducted. The sample checking covers at least 15 per cent of beneficiaries (in case of grants-in-aid up to Rs.10.00 lakh) and 10 per cent of beneficiaries (in case of grants-in-aid exceeding Rs.10.00 lakh). In order to ensure transparency and to simplify the procedure, the Government has taken the initiative like online submission of proposals by NGOs on e-

Anudan Portal for availing grants-in-aid under ADIP Scheme. Aadhaar Number and address proof of beneficiaries is mandatory. The Scheme is also being monitored through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Portal. Besides, less number of proposals of NGOs are being considered in the Department due to financial constraint and a major portion of funds under the Scheme is being utilized through ALIMCO, National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres functioning under the administrative control of the Department. The Department is organizing special camps through ALIMCO/NIs in which aids and assistive devices are distributed in the presence of Hon'ble Ministers/Members of Parliament/Senior Officers of the Ministry/District Administration in a transparent manner. In the case of other camps, monitoring is being done as per procedure prescribed in the ADIP Scheme".

6.3 When the Department was asked if any time frame has been fixed for completion of processing of application and sanction of Grants-in-Aid (GIA) after receipt of online applications submitted by the NGOs/organizations, the Department replied that, "proposals complete in all respects received on-line from NGOs and duly recommended by State Governments/UT Administration are processed immediately for release of grants-in-aid subject to availability of funds. However, no time-frame has been prescribed for the purpose. All new cases recommended by State Governments/UT Administration are reviewed by Screening Committee constituted in the Department for final recommendation for release of grants-in-aid (GIA)".

6.4 When asked about whether any evaluation study has been conducted by the Department to evaluate the performance and monitoring the functioning of NGOs under ADIP scheme, the Department informed that "evaluation study of ADIP scheme was conducted by Niti Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission) through M/s Mott Mac Donald, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh and the report was submitted in December, 2012. The major

findings of the issues pertain to weak Institutional coordination, poor and untimely release of funds, lack of proper and updated database of differently abled people on the Census record, lack of maintenance cost of assisted devices, lack of system to evaluate the work done by implementing agencies and lack of awareness among the beneficiaries about the Scheme".

6.5 When asked about the action taken on the findings of the study, the Department stated that "on the basis of major findings and recommendations of the evaluation study report, the Scheme had been revised w.e.f. 1st April, 2014, including cost norms and the next evaluation may be conducted in the year 2017-18".

6.6 The Department further informed that they have also taken the following action for conducting evaluation studies:

- (i) "Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), (AYJNISHD), Mumbai has entrusted a study titled "Outcome measure of cochlear implantees under ADIP scheme of Government of India" to National Institute for Speech and Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum. Detailed final report is awaited from NISH.
- (ii) ALIMCO has awarded the work to conduct impact evaluation study of aids and assistive devices provided under ADIP Scheme to National Productivity Council (NPC), an autonomous body under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Draft report of the study has been submitted by NPC to ALIMCO which is under discussion.
- (iii) An evaluation study was conducted in 2011-12 by NITI AYOOG through M/s. Mott Macdonald. Based on the key recommendations of the Study, the ADIP Scheme was revised w.e.f. 1.4.2014. For next evaluation study, the Department has initiated process to invite Expression of Interest (EOI) in respect of aids and assistive devices distributed under the Scheme during 2014-15 to 2016-17".

6.7 As regards surprise inspections conducted by the officials of the Department of Empowerment of PwDs for the last three years, the Department in their post evidence replies stated that "Officers of the Department have also been designated as Nodal Officers

for various States/UTs for monitoring the implementation of various schemes of the Department. Apart from this, Office of the Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is mandated to monitor implementation of various schemes including ADIP Scheme of the Department and to conduct surprise checks. Alleged misuse of funds, if any, is investigated through enquiry/inspection by these authorities and further release of grants-in-aid is considered only on receipt of a satisfactory enquiry/inspection report. In order to ensure transparency, the Government has taken the initiative like online submission of proposals by NGOs for availing grants-in-aid. It has also been made mandatory that NGOs on utilization of grants-in-aid should invariably upload list of beneficiaries along with their complete address, telephone number, photo and Ration Card Number/Voter Identity Number on the website of the Agency. Aadhaar Number is mandatory for availing benefits under the Scheme".

6.8 Further it was stated that "major portion of funds under the Scheme is being utilized through ALIMCO, National Institutes (NIs), Composite Regional Centres functioning under the administrative control of the Department. The Department is organizing special camps through ALIMCO/NIs in which aids and assistive devices are distributed in the presence of Hon'ble Ministers/Members of Parliament/Senior Officers of the Ministry/District Administration in a transparent manner".

6.9 The Committee observed that many States do not have District Rehabilitation Officers for PwDs. Enquired about the details in this regard, the Department forwarded the following Statement showing States having/not having District Rehabilitation Officers:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	The State Government has appointed Assistant Director in each district who looks after the work of Persons with Disabilities in the District.

2.	Madhya Pradesh	In the State of Madhya Pradesh in all the 51 districts the Dy. Director, Social Justice and Empowerment looks after the work of Persons with Disabilities in the concerned districts.
3.	Odisha	In all the 30 Districts, the State Government has appointed District Social Security Officers looking after the work relating to Persons with Disabilities.
4.	Rajasthan	In the State of Rajasthan, the District Social Welfare Officer has been appointed in each District while in the capital city of Jaipur there are two District Social Welfare Officers who look after the issues of Persons with Disabilities in the District.
5.	Tamil Nadu	In all the 32 Districts the State Government has appointed District Differently Abled Welfare Officer who looks after the matter relating to Persons with Disabilities in the District.
6.	Uttar Pradesh	In every District, the State Government has appointed a District Rehabilitation Officer for Persons with Disabilities.
7.	Remaining States/UTs	The work of Persons with Disabilities is looked after by Social Welfare Department in all the Districts.

6.10 When the Committee desired to know the reasons for not having District Rehabilitation Officer in each State, for PwDs and efforts made by the Department in this regard and how such States are performing their duties effectively towards the welfare of disabled persons, the Department stated as under:

"The Central Government has a dedicated Department to look after the issue of disability sector since May 2012. The Central Government has been requesting the State Governments in various meetings to have a dedicated Department at the State level also. Some States have agreed to the suggestion. They have not only formed separate Department at State level but also appointed District level Officer to solely look after disability issues. The Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) conducts review of States periodically and the State Governments are given proper instructions for appointment of full time State Commissioner and other concerned officers at district level for taking care of Persons with Disabilities in the respective States. During the last one and half year 19 States' reviews have been carried out by CCPD. The State Governments have been directed to implement the Act effectively. The shortcomings and deficiencies have been communicated to the Chief Secretary and Secretary (Social Welfare) of the concerned States."

6.11 The Committee find that initiatives like, online submission of proposals by NGOs on e-Anudan Portal for availing grant-in-aid under ADIP Scheme, making Aadhar number and address proof of beneficiaries mandatory and introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Portal making the system transparent is a welcome step. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Department to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the performance of NGOs/implementing agencies of various Schemes. The Committee, however, desire the Department to periodically review the monitoring mechanism itself as it would help addressing the shortcomings and practical difficulties, if any, found in the mechanism.

6.12 The Committee observe that out of 36 States/UTs, only 6 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have dedicated Departments/District Social Welfare Officers to look after the issues of PwDs and the remaining States/UTs have so far not taken any action in this regard even after specific instructions and advice given by the Central Government. This shows the indifference and insensitivity towards welfare of PwDs by the other State Governments. The Committee are of the considered view that the issue of having dedicated Disability related Departments and appointment of State Disability Commissioners be taken up with State Governments at the highest level. In case, this effort also fails to yield any result, then the appointment of State Disability Commissioner be made mandatory by amending the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016.

CHAPTER- VII

PERFORMANCE OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA (ALIMCO)

7.1 ALIMCO is 100 per cent owned Government of India Central Public Sector Enterprise functioning with an objection of benefitting the disabled persons to the maximum extent possible for manufacturing Rehabilitation Aids and Assistive Devices for PwDs and by promoting, encouraging and developing the availability, use, supply and distribution of Artificial Limbs and other Rehabilitation Aids and Assistive Devices to the Disabled persons since 1976.

7.2 When the Committee desired to know the funds released and funds utilized by ALIMCO under ADIP Scheme during the last three years till date, the Department furnished the following statement:

(Rs. in crore)

ALIMCO	Funds released	Funds utilized
2014-15	70.73	85.68
2015-16	126.57	130.79
2016-17	128.82	155.17
2017-18	113.51	50.24
(as on 31.10.2017)		

7.3 The Committee were informed that the process of modernization for upgradation of products, processes, technology and infrastructure has been initiated by ALIMCO. The estimated project cost of modernization is 338.04 crore and the expenditure proposed for 2017-18 is Rs. 53 crore. The modernization process of ALIMCO project will be completed by December, 2018. It is expected that on completion of the proposed project, the

Corporation will serve around 6 lakh beneficiaries across the country as against 1.57 lakh beneficiaries currently being served by the Corporation.

7.4 When enquired regarding the availability of funds for timely completion of modernization of ALIMCO project, the Department replied that "the modernization programme of ALIMCO commenced with effect from October, 2015 and is expected to be completed in around 37 months. The Budget Estimate for 2017-18 is Rs.5.00 crore. Keeping in view various stages of activities of the project, the projected requirement of fund during 2017-18 is Rs.53 crore. The additional liabilities during the current year will be met through internal resources of the Corporation. In order to complete the project within the stipulated time frame sufficient projection has been made under Revised Estimate for 2017-18 and Budget Estimate for 2018-19".

7.5 The Committee were informed that ALIMCO is manufacturing various new product development and new rehabilitation products. When asked about the products, their distribution and efforts made by the Department/ALIMCO to create awareness among PwDs regarding use of these new products, the Department replied that "ALIMCO has started production of Walker, Cervical Collar, from the Financial Year 2016-17. Currently, these are being distributed as per the approval of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in the Rashtriya Vayoshiri Yojna camps for Senior Citizens. They are likely to be distributed in future under ADIP Scheme as well. These products have been included in ALIMCO's Product Catalogue/Price List and also uploaded on the website of the Corporation for viewing in Public Domain. Awareness about these products is also undertaken during the assessment and distribution camps like other aids and assistive devices".

7.6 The Committee find overall performance of ALIMCO satisfactory. ALIMCO has also been manufacturing various new products for disabled persons and has also started production of walkers and cervical collar from the year 2016-17 for senior citizens under Rashtriya Vayoshiri Yojana Camps. The Committee were informed that the ongoing modernization process of ALIMCO is expected to be completed on schedule time *i.e.*, by December, 2018. The Committee feel that there have been funds constraints under many schemes and programmes which are being implemented by ALIMCO *v/z.* holding of distribution camps. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to ensure that ALIMCO should be given sufficient funds to continue its schemes and programmes effectively so that it is in a position to serve 6 lakh beneficiaries after completion of its modernization.

The Committee further desire that ALIMCO must strengthen its Research and Development Wing so that it is in a position to introduce new products as well as upgrade the existing products. If ALIMCO faces any funds crunch in the process, the Department should ensure the same.

CHAPTER-VIII

AWARENESS GENERATION

8.1 The Committee note that ADIP Scheme is one of the major flagship schemes of the Department and wide publicity should be given to the Scheme to create awareness among the PwDs specially PwDs in rural, remote and far-flung areas.

8.2 When asked about the steps taken to give wide publicity of the Scheme and to generate awareness among PwDs specifically in remote and far flung areas, the Department replied that "the ADIP Scheme is highly popular and during the last three years and current year, aids and assistive devices costing Rs.526.42 crore were distributed to 9.09 lakh beneficiaries. In implementation of the scheme, the Ministry is organizing special camps/mega camps throughout the country including the North Eastern Region. The camps are organized at District level and beneficiaries of entire district are assessed and distributed aids/appliances in coordination with District Administration. In all the assessment and distribution camps comprehensive measures are taken to publicize the scheme through advance notice in the local newspapers, distribution of pamphlets and by issuance of formal instructions by concerned District Magistrate. During distribution adequate publicity is given by placing hoardings reflecting salient features of the scheme and this is followed up with Press and Media releases and Talking Points given by Hon'ble Ministers /Secretary (DEPwD)/Joint Secretary (DEPwD) and concerned dignitaries present in the function which is published/broadcast in print and electronic media to reinforce the success of the scheme and generation of awareness amongst Divyangjan and functionaries".

8.3 The Committee were informed that various steps have been taken by the Department towards awareness generation and giving adequate publicity to the ADIP Scheme by holding of ADIP Camps for distribution of aids/appliances to PwDs at District level throughout the country, including North Eastern Region. The Committee would like to impress upon the Department that while using the print and electronic media extensively, specific efforts should be made to ensure that the publicity material, its contents must be in local language and in simple format so that illiterate/semi-illiterate population living in the rural, remote and far-flung areas is also able to understand the benefits of the Scheme.

NEW DELHI;

28th December, 2017
7 Pausha, 1939 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-16) HELD ON MONDAY, 30th MAY,
2016**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Shri Kariya Munda
6. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
7. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
8. Smt. Neelam Sonkar

RAJYA SABHA

9. Shri Ahamed Hassan
10. Shri Prabhat Jha
11. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
12. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Dr. Vinod Aggarwal	Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
2.	Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi	Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
3.	Shri Mukesh Jain	Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
4.	Shri D.R. Sarin	CMD, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)
5.	Shri R.K. Mathur	DGM, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to the sitting of the Committee convened to have briefing by the Ministry on the subject "Implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)". Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee on the subject highlighting *inter-alia* the initiatives taken by the Department *vis-à-vis* achievements, their problem areas etc. through power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting are as follows:-

- (i) Practical difficulties faced and measures taken by the Department to remove the impediments for smooth functioning and effective implementation of ADIP Scheme.
- (ii) Organize ADIP camps for distribution of aids and appliances in each and every district of the country.
- (iii) Provision for Cochlear Implant surgery.
- (iv) Quality of the artificial limbs and Prosthetic Aids distributed by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) in the States.
- (v) Cost ceiling for assistive aids/devices.
- (vi) ADIP – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme undertaken by ALIMCO for school children upto the age of 14 years.
- (vii) Subsidy for Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs provided to persons with 80% disability from the age of 16 years and above once in 10 years.
- (viii) Difficulties for procuring Disability Certificate and Income Certificates by disabled persons.
- (ix) Coordination between Central and State Governments for successful implementation of ADIP Scheme.
- (x) Demand to increase the Budget allocation for the Department.
- (xi) Initiatives taken by the Department for manufacturing high cost aids and appliances for PwDs in the country at affordable price.

4. The representatives of the Department also responded to the queries by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat within two weeks. The Secretary assured to comply.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Department for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner on various issues raised by the Members.

6. A copy of the verbatim proceeding of the sitting was kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 2017

The Committee met from 1430 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, First Floor, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Jhina Hikaka
3. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
4. Dr. Udit Raj
5. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
6. Prof. Sadhu Singh
7. Smt. Mamta Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

8. Sh. Munvvar Saleem Chaudhary
9. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
10. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
11. Smt. Chhaya Verma
12. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin	Secretary
2.	Dr. Prabhodh Seth	Joint Secretary
3.	Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty	Joint Secretary
4.	Smt. T.C.A. Kalyani	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor
5.	Shri Tushar Ranjan Mohanti	Dy. Director General
6.	Dr. A.K. Sinha	Director (AYJNISHD) Mumbai
7.	Shri D.R. Sarin	CMD (ALIMCO) Kanpur
8.	Shri K.V.S. Rao	Director
9.	Shri Kshitij Mohan	Director
10.	Shri Vikash Prasad	Director
11.	Dr. Sanjay Kant Prasad	Deputy Chief Commissioner for PwDs

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on 'Implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)'. Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee on the implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) in the country with the help of a power point presentation.

4. During evidence the broad issues which were discussed at the sitting on the implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) are as follows:—

- (i) Practical difficulties being faced by the implementing agencies for distribution of aids and appliances to needy disabled persons.
- (ii) Need to organize ADIP camps for distribution of aids and appliances in each and every district of the country.
- (iii) Immediate action is required on the recommendations forwarded by MPs to provide Tricycle/Aids/Appliances to PwDs.
- (iv) Adoption of model Rules notified under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016 by all the State Governments.
- (v) Simplify and streamline the procedure for obtaining Medical Certificate by Handicapped Persons.
- (vi) Need to increase the amount of assistance provided to PwDs for obtaining various aids/appliances under the ADIP scheme.
- (vii) Increase the Budget allocation for the Department.
- (viii) Difficulties for procuring Disability Certificate and Income Certificates by disabled persons.
- (ix) Need to give wide publicity to the scheme and create awareness among PwDs and Swds..
- (x) Coordination between Central and State Governments for successful implementation of ADIP Scheme.
- (xi) Setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in all States/districts at the earliest.

(xii) Initiatives taken by the Department for manufacturing high cost aids and appliances for PwDs in the country at affordable prices.

5. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson then directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by the Members to the Secretariat by 5th December, 2017 for early finalization of the Report on the subject.

6. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views on various issues raised by the Members.

7. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 28TH DECEMBER, 2017

The Committee met from 1000 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, 1st Floor, Block-B, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Shri Kariya Munda
6. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Prof. Sadhu Singh
9. Smt. Mamata Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

10. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
11. Shri Ahamed Hassan
12. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
13. Smt. Chhaya Verma
14. 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:
 - (i) Forty-eighth Report on 'Implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

(ii)

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any amendments. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

** Matter not related to the Report.*