

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (2018-19)**

**(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 Sixty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) on 'Review of the functioning of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

**SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
January, 2019/Pausha, 1940 (Saka)**

**SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT**

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EMPOWERMENT**

**(2018-19)**

**(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with  
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**Presented to Lok Sabha on 03.01.2019**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 03.01.2019**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**  
January, 2019/Pausha, 1940 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2018-19)**

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS      -      CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Rajendra Gavit
5. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
6. Shri Jhina Hikaka
7. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
8. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
9. Smt. K. Maragatham
10. Shri Kariya Munda
11. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
12. Shri Tapas Paul
13. Dr. Udit Raj
14. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
15. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
16. Prof. Sadhu Singh
17. Smt. Mamata Thakur
18. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
19. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav
20. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
- 21\*. Vacant

**RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
24. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
26. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
27. Smt. Kanta Kardam
28. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

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\* Shri Ch. Malla Reddy has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha w.e.f. 14.12.2018.

## **LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                  |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Shri Ashok Sajwan   | - | Director         |
| 3. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal   | - | Director         |
| 4. | Smt. Madhu Bhutani  | - | Deputy Secretary |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2018-19) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Sixty-fifth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) on 'Review of the functioning of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)' relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Sixty-first Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. 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 14.11.2018. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 28 December, 2018.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) 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;

28 December, 2018  
7 Pausha, 1940 (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 of the Committee contained in their Sixty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Review of the functioning of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

1.2 The Sixty-first Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. It contained 11 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of the Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

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

**Para Nos. 2.6, 2.11, 2.17, 2.20, 2.24, 3.4, 4.13, 6.5, 6.7 and 7.4**

**(Total : 10, Chapter - II)**

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

**Nil**

**(Chapter -III)**

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

**Para No. 5.7**

**(Total: 1, Chapter - IV)**

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

**Nil**

**(Chapter - V)**

**1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished at the earliest and in any case not later than three months after 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. Unique Disability ID Project for issuance of Disability Certificate and UDID Card to PwDs**

**Recommendation (Para No. 2.11)**

1.5 The Committee noted that Department had started the Unique Disability ID project for issuance of Disability Certificate and UDID card to each eligible Person with Disability. The Committee found that the project was presently being implemented in 21 States/UTs and would be rolled out to all States/UTs by December, 2018. But the Department had not given any information as to how many Divyangjans had so far been issued UDID card. Keeping in view that there are 2.68 crore Divyangjans in the Country and issuing UDID Cards to each and every PwDs in the country is an uphill task. The Committee exhorted the Department to implement the UDID project more vigorously and complete it within a definite time schedule.

The Committee found that in spite of the mandate of RPwD Act, 2016 and repeated requests by the Department, many states/UTs had not appointed independent State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in their respective States/UTs. The Committee do not comprehend how the Department was addressing the issue and obviating the difficulties being faced by PwDs in those States where neither UDID Cards have been issued to them nor State Commissioner for PwDs appointed. As appointment of independent State Disability Commissioner is mandatory for proper monitoring of the progress of issuing disability certificates and grievance redressal of PwDs, the Committee, recommended the Department to take stern action and issue fresh directions to erring States/UTs to appoint State Commissioner for PwDs and notify Rules under the RPwD Act without any further delay. The Committee may be apprised of the progress so made and the number of PwDs issued UDID Cards under the project.



1.6 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

"The UDID project has now been implemented in 25 States/UTs namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 9.66 lakh UDID cards have already been generated. The matter is being continuously followed up with the States/UTs to expedite the process. Further, the States have also been advised to migrate data w.r.t. their old certificate of disability to the UDID portal to facilitate generation of UDID card immediately. The Department is also providing funds to the States /UTs for migration of old data. The process is being monitored through periodic video conferencing/meeting with District/State officials.

The States/UTs have been advised to appoint independent State Commissioners to monitor implementation of the RPwD Act vide letter from Secretary, DEPwD dated 20.03.2018. Fresh advisory to the States have also been issued on 20.09.2018."

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.7 The Committee are satisfied to note that Department has implemented the Unique Disability ID Project in 25 States/UTs and generated 9.66 lakh UDID cards to eligible Persons with Disabilities. However, keeping in view the fact that India has 2.68 crore PwDs, the number of 9.66 lakh UDID cards is a minuscule. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to put in extra efforts to speed up the completion of UDID Project in a definite time-frame in all the States because at this pace it will take more than a decade and by that time it would defeat its very purpose. The Committee find that the Department has not mentioned about the notification of Rules under RPwD Act by the States. The Committee desire that the Department should mount pressure on erring States/UTs to appoint independent State Commissioner and notify the Rules which are mandatory under RPwD Act so that effective grievance redressal system for PwDs could actually be established.**

## **B. Organizing of ADIP-SSA Camps**

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.17)**

1.8 The Committee noted that ALIMCO is the sole implementing agency of the Schemes 'Assistance for Disabled Persons (ADIP)', since 1981 and 'Assistance for Disabled Persons under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (ADIP-SSA)' since 2004 and manufacturing of low cost quality aids and assistive devices to meet the needs of economically weaker Divyangjans and school going children with special needs in the age group of 6-14 years. The Department had furnished the States/UTs- wise details of ADIP and ADIP-SSA camps organized by ALIMCO, number of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred for the last 3 years. The Committee found that no ADIP-SSA camp activity happened in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Lakshadweep and Puducherry during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The Committee also found that from the year 2015 to 2018 only 234113 number of disabled children had been covered under ADIP-SSA camps. The committee felt that if need of a disabled child is addressed at an early age or early stage of disability, the potential for overall development would be enhanced in PwD child. The early interventions for providing need based equipments to disabled children through ADIP SSA camps play an important role in this matter. The Committee desired the Department to take this issue energetically with concerned States/UTs and address the problems due to which ADIP and ADIP-SSA Camps in those States /UTs are held up. The Committee also desired that more camps under ADIP-SSA should be organised to cover more disabled children.

1.9 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

"In this regard, it is submitted that assessments for ADIP-SSA camps have already been undertaken in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Lakshadweep and Puducherry. The assessment camp for Jharkhand could not progress because the outstanding dues of ALIMCO towards material already supplied to SSA, Jharkhand in the financial year

2012-13 has been pending for a long time. ALIMCO as well as the Department is pursuing the issue with the State of Jharkhand for resolving the same. As regards organizing more camps under ADIP-SSA, the observations of the Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment have been noted for compliance."

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.10 The Committee note with concern that holding of ADIP-SSA camps in the State of Jharkhand is stuck due to non-payment of outstanding dues of ALIMCO by the State Government. The Committee feel that this has ultimately been depriving the benefits of the scheme to the needy disabled school children. The Committee would, therefore, like the ALIMCO/Department to urgently resolve the issue of outstanding dues and find a permanent solution to obviate recurrence of such instances.**

### **C. Motorized Tricycle for Divyangjans**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.20)**

1.11 The committee found that Motorized Tricycle is provided to only those Divyangjans who have 80% or more disability and are not able to walk at all. The Committee were informed that the actual cost of ALIMCO's Motorized Tricycle is Rs.37,000 but as per the guidelines under AIDP Scheme, ALIMCO can give high-end devices only upto Rs.25,000/- and the difference of Rs.12,000 is met either by the beneficiary or by convergence with MP/MLA fund/CSR funding. The committee in their earlier Reports had repeatedly recommended that the entire cost of tricycle must be borne by the Department so that the needy and poor Divyangjans are not left to the mercy of MP/MLA fund. Considering the fact that many of PWDs do not have access to MPs/MLAs and it is very difficult for a handicapped person to arrange funds from these sources, the Committee, urged the Department to revise the guidelines of ADIP Scheme to raise the upper limit of subsidy of high-end devices so that the entire cost of the motorized tricycle is covered under the Scheme and the poor PwDs do not have to run here and there for arranging funds. The Committee also desired that as an interim measure, the Department and ALIMCO must meet the entire cost of motorized tricycle till revision of the guidelines.

1.12 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

"The above recommendation of the Committee that the entire cost of motorized tricycle (of Rs. 37,000) be borne by the Department has been noted for compliance. In this context, it is submitted that making revision in the existing cost norms involves financial implications and major policy changes, which require appraisal and approval of the Scheme by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC/Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA). Therefore due procedure for conducting Impact Evaluation Study of ADIP Scheme, appraisal of the proposals for revision in cost norms etc. by EFC and obtaining the approval of CCEA, is required to be followed. Further, the number of disabilities also has undergone change from seven to twenty one under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. Therefore, the Department is also in the process of listing out aids and assistive devices for new disabilities included in the RPwD Act, 2016 for distribution under ADIP Scheme for which more funds are required. Eventually, requisite budgetary provision will be made for proper implementation under the ADIP Scheme."

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.13 The Committee understand the fact that 100 per cent funding of the cost of motorized tricycle will require major policy changes besides financial implications. The Committee still feel that the Department needs to go for it in the right earnestness as a large number of PwDs beneficiaries come from the poor and deprived sections of society and are not in a position to meet the cost difference of Rs. 12,000/-, which is almost 1/3rd of the total cost of motorized tricycle. In Committee's view, inability of beneficiaries to arrange/meet the 1/3rd cost of motorized tricycle either from its own resources or from MP/MLA funds not only deprives them from getting the tricycle under ADIP Scheme but also negates the benefit which are provided by the Government in the form of 2/3rd portion of the cost of tricycle. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the entire cost of motorized tricycle must be borne by the Department.**

#### **D. Contractual employees *vis-a-vis* total staff strength in ALIMCO**

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.7)**

1.14 The Committee noted with concern that in ALIMCO the number of contractual employees is double of the regular employees. Out of the authorized strength of 549 (154 Executives + 395 Non-Executives), the present staff strength is 266 (104 Executives + 162 Non-Executives). The more baffling was the fact that till 2014, ALIMCO did not have any Succession Plan which normally is an integral part of any Recruitment Plan. The Committee found that from 2012 to 2018, 135 Non-Executives and 39 Executives employees had been superannuated but the vacancies had not been filled. The committee also found that the Board of Director of ALIMCO had approved a Succession Plan under which 237 posts had been revived and 102 new posts had been created but the recruitment process had not been commenced. The Committee observed that with the creation of 102 new posts and revival of 237 posts, the revised approved staff strength of the Corporation is 651 employees while the present regular staff strength is only 266 employees and rest are contractual employees. The committee failed to comprehend that how can an organization of the status of Mini-Ratna-II could function smoothly and efficiently when more than half of its staff strength is contractual. Such a situation generally leads to the problem of continuity and accountability as continuity of policy comes only from regular and experienced staff vis-a-vis contractual staff. The Committee, therefore, recommended the ALIMCO to fill up the vacant posts at all levels immediately and it must start a comprehensive recruitment process as any piecemeal approach will only delay the recruitments and compromise efficiency of the Corporation. The Committee also desired the ALIMCO to update its Succession Plan time to time and keep recruitment roaster ready as vacancies do not arise only due to superannuation but also on account of death, resignation and VRS.

1.15 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:

"ALIMCO is a manufacturing entity registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 with a "Not for Profit" motive. However, financial viability of operating a commercial Organisation is of paramount importance. As non-plan expenditure is not supplemented/ given by Government to the Corporation, the onus lies on the Corporation, not only to meet out its operating expenses which include salaries of the employees but also to generate surplus to cater for ongoing and future inflation, hike in pay & perks, upgradation of D.A. and other allowances being paid and the superannuation benefits to employees as approved by the Board."

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.16 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Department on the number of contractual employees vis-a-vis regular staff strength of ALIMCO. The Committee feel that even though, financial viability is of paramount importance for ALIMCO, but it cannot be at the cost of administrative, operational and functional efficiency. To maintain high level of efficiency an organization needs to have a balanced mix of regular and contractual workforce because continuity of policy comes only from regular and experienced staff whereas a contractual employee is hired as a stop-gap arrangement till the time a regular employee is recruited against the vacant post. The Committee, therefore, desire that ALIMCO must device a system wherein the number of contractual employees at a given point of time should not exceed the number of permanent staff strength. The Committee feel that to obviate the need of hiring large number of employees on contract, ALIMCO must follow healthy administrative practices and keep both succession as well as recruitment plans update. The Committee, therefore, recommend that to fill the vacancies timely, the recruitment process should be initiated well in advance by the ALIMCO not only against those vacancies arising out of superannuation but also for those arising out of resignation, VRS and death.**

## **CHAPTER -II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATION WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.6)**

2.1 The Committee notes that ALIMCO organizes Mega Camps, Special Camps and Camps under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for distribution of aids and assistive devices to PwDs. Mega camps/Special Camps are ADIP Camps and organized on the requests received from Hon'ble Ministers from Central or State Governments, MPs, MLAs and other dignitaries. The Committee further note that if MPs/MLA make request to the Ministry for holding Camps in their constituencies, prior intimation is given to them about the dates for holding camps by ALIMCO in consultation with District Collectors while in other cases MPs/MLAs are informed by District Administration. The Committee, however, find that in many cases MPs /MLAs are not aware of holding of ADIP camps in their areas. In committee's view, presence of local MP/MLA is not only very essential but also very useful in these camps as they better understand the problems and needs of PwDs in their constituencies. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department that while conducting these camps, the Department must invariably inform the local MP(s) and Local Representatives by intimating them in advance. The committee also desire that in order to obviate any scope of communication gap or miscommunication, the information regarding holding of these camps be loaded on the web portal of the Department as well as on the website of ALIMCO.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The concerned MPs/MLAs are being invariably informed by way of endorsing a copy of letter to District Collector for conducting of assessment and distribution camps. The local MLAs, Jila Panchayat Adhyaksh and other important public representatives are informed and their presence during the event is solicited by the District Administration. Such a procedure is adopted as information and details of local Public representatives are not always available with ALIMCO. Additionally, officials of ALIMCO, who are deputed for distribution camps ensure that invitation cards to all the local public representatives are issued.

However, the observations of the Committee concerning communication gap has been noted for strict compliance. Moreover, as per above directions, ALIMCO is in the process of uploading camp schedules on its website with a link to Ministry's website for wider publicity and effective dissemination of information. It is also submitted that in all communications issued by the Department, sanctioning expenditure for holding camps, it is specifically indicated to all implementing agencies including ALIMCO that all the local MLAs/MPs be notified about the camp.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.11)**

2.3 The Committee noted that Department had started the Unique Disability ID project for issuance of Disability Certificate and UDID card to each eligible Person with Disability. The Committee found that the project was presently being implemented in 21 States/UTs and would be rolled out to all States/UTs by December, 2018. But the Department had not given any information as to how many Divyangjans had so far been issued UDID card. Keeping in view that there are 2.68 crore Divyangjans in the Country and issuing UDID Cards to each and every PwDs in the country is an uphill task. The Committee exhorted the Department to implement the UDID project more vigorously and complete it within a definite time schedule.

The Committee found that in spite of the mandate of RPwD Act, 2016 and repeated requests by the Department, many states/UTs had not appointed independent State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in their respective States/UTs. The Committee do not comprehend how the Department was addressing the issue and obviating the difficulties being faced by PwDs in those States where neither UDID Cards have been issued to them nor State Commissioner for PwDs appointed. As appointment of independent State Disability Commissioner is mandatory for proper monitoring of the progress of issuing disability certificates and grievance redressal of PwDs, the



Committee, recommended the Department to take stern action and issue fresh directions to erring States/UTs to appoint State Commissioner for PwDs and notify Rules under the RPwD Act without any further delay. The Committee may be apprised of the progress so made and the number of PwDs issued UDID Cards under the project.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 The UDID project has now been implemented in 25 States/UTs namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 9.66 lakh UDID cards have already been generated. The matter is being continuously followed up with the States/UTs to expedite the process. Further, the States have also been advised to migrate data w.r.t. their old certificate of disability to the UDID portal to facilitate generation of UDID card immediately. The Department is also providing funds to the States /UTs for migration of old data. The process is being monitored through periodic video conferencing/meeting with District/State officials.

The States/UTs have been advised to appoint independent State Commissioners to monitor implementation of the RPwD Act vide letter from Secretary, DEPwD dated 20.03.2018. Fresh advisory to the States have also been issued on 20.09.2018.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.17)**

2.5 The Committee noted that ALIMCO is the sole implementing agency of the Schemes 'Assistance for Disabled Persons (ADIP)', since 1981 and 'Assistance for Disabled Persons under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (ADIP-SSA)' since 2004 and manufacturing of low cost quality aids and assistive devices to meet the needs of economically weaker Divyangjans and school going children with special needs in the age group of 6-14 years. The Department had furnished the States/UTs- wise details of ADIP and ADIP-SSA camps organized by ALIMCO, number of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred for the last 3 years. The Committee found that no ADIP-SSA camp activity happened in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Lakshadweep and Puducherry during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The Committee also found that from the year 2015 to 2018 only 234113 number of disabled children had been covered under ADIP-SSA camps. The committee felt that if need of a disabled child is addressed at an early age or early stage of disability, the potential for overall development would be enhanced in PwD child. The early interventions for providing need based equipments to disabled children through ADIP SSA camps play an important role in this matter. The Committee desired the Department to take this issue energetically with concerned States/UTs and address the problems due to which ADIP and ADIP-SSA Camps in those States /UTs are held up. The Committee also desired that more camps under ADIP-SSA should be organised to cover more disabled children.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 In this regard, it is submitted that assessments for ADIP-SSA camps have already been undertaken in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh and UTs of Lakshadweep and Puducherry. The assessment camp for Jharkhand could not progress because the outstanding dues of ALIMCO towards material already supplied to SSA, Jharkhand in the financial year 2012-13 has been pending for a long time. ALIMCO as well as the Department is pursuing the issue with the State of Jharkhand for resolving the same. As regards

organizing more camps under ADIP-SSA, the observations of the Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment have been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No. 15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.20)**

2.7 The committee found that Motorized Tricycle is provided to only those Divyangjans who have 80% or more disability and are not able to walk at all. The Committee were informed that the actual cost of ALIMCO's Motorized Tricycle is Rs.37,000 but as per the guidelines under AIDP Scheme, ALIMCO can give high-end devices only upto Rs.25,000/- and the difference of Rs.12,000 is met either by the beneficiary or by convergence with MP/MLA fund/CSR funding. The committee in their earlier Reports had repeatedly recommended that the entire cost of tricycle must be borne by the Department so that the needy and poor Divyangjans are not left to the mercy of MP/MLA fund. Considering the fact that many of PWDs do not have access to MPs/MLAs and it is very difficult for a handicapped person to arrange funds from these sources, the Committee, urged the Department to revise the guidelines of ADIP Scheme to raise the upper limit of subsidy of high-end devices so that the entire cost of the motorized tricycle is covered under the Scheme and the poor PwDs do not have to run here and there for arranging funds. The Committee also desired that as an interim measure, the Department and ALIMCO must meet the entire cost of motorized tricycle till revision of the guidelines.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 The above recommendation of the Committee that the entire cost of motorized tricycle (of Rs. 37,000) be borne by the Department has been noted for compliance. In this context, it is submitted that making revision in the existing cost norms involves

financial implications and major policy changes, which require appraisal and approval of the Scheme by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC/Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA). Therefore due procedure for conducting Impact Evaluation Study of ADIP Scheme, appraisal of the proposals for revision in cost norms etc. by EFC and obtaining the approval of CCEA, is required to be followed. Further, the number of disabilities also has undergone change from seven to twenty one under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. Therefore, the Department is also in the process of listing out aids and assistive devices for new disabilities included in the RPwD Act, 2016 for distribution under ADIP Scheme for which more funds are required. Eventually, requisite budgetary provision will be made for proper implementation under the ADIP Scheme.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No. 15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

### **Recommendation (Para No. 2.24)**

2.9 The Committee find that to get aids and assistive living devices under the Rashtriya Vayoshree Yojana (RVY), a senior citizen needs to produce a certificate from the District Authority for eligibility or a BPL ration card or proof of receiving old age pension under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Social Assistance Programme or any other Pension Scheme implemented by the State/UT Governments for senior citizens belonging to BPL category. The Committee strongly feel that India has a vast reservoir of senior citizens and a large part of it belongs to lower middle and middle class. This segment of elderly population has very limited financial resources and majority of them do not get pension under any pension scheme/programme. The Committee feel that it is very essential to bring this segment under the ambit of Rashtriya Vayoshree Yojana. The Committee, therefore, desire the

Department that the eligibility criteria based on BPL category under the scheme must be replaced with the criteria based on income as fixed under ADIP Scheme i.e. monthly income of a beneficiary from all sources does not exceed Rs. 15,000 per month. The Committee also desire that keeping in view the overall increase in the cost of living and inflation, the eligibility income criteria must be revised from Rs.15,000 to Rs.20,000 per month atleast for the beneficiaries under the Scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.10 Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana is a fairly new Scheme by government of India. The Scheme was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. The Scheme was, at the time of its formulation itself, targeted for the welfare of Senior Citizens belonging to BPL Category and suffering from age-related disabilities. At present, there are a total of 316 districts selected from all over India of which 60 have been covered. As there are large number of districts which are still uncovered, the impact of the Scheme cannot be evaluated at this stage. After a significant number of Districts/States have been covered, inputs and suggestions will be sought from all stakeholders and accordingly suggestions/recommendations will be considered to further improve the Scheme.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 3.4)**

2.11 The Committee are satisfied to note that ALIMCO has embarked upon the process of modernization and upgradation of its products, technology and infrastructure as the present machinery and technology etc. have become obsolete. The modernization plan of the Corporation has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) to the tune of Rs. 338.04 crore on 21.03.2018 and the project is likely to be completed by March, 2020. The Committee feel that in present modern and scientific scenario, the technology and manufacturing products profile keep changing very swiftly and to keep pace with them, it is imperative that modernization should be a continuous process and technology changes are adopted at the earliest without waiting for completion of the life cycle of plant and machinery etc. The Committee, therefore, desire that ALIMCO should keep some portion of its profit, under a separate head, and

earmark it for meeting the cost of periodic upgradation and modernization so that technology upgradation does not get stuck due to lack of funds. As ALIMCO is involved in production of various assistive devices to help approximately 1.5lakh disabled persons in their day to day functioning, the committee also desire the Department to ensure that the process of modernization of ALIMCO be completed by March, 2020 positively without closing the operations of the Corporation completely.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 The modernization activities of ALIMCO with a revised cost of Rs.338.04 Crore, as approved by the SFC, is already progressing well. Out of this, Rs.200 crore will be provided by the Central Government as Grant-in-Aid, while the remaining amount to be used for financing modernization of ALIMCO will be met from the reserves of the Corporation. Various planned activities are at various advanced stages and the progress is satisfactory. The project is developing at the planned phase and likely to be completed by 31.03.2020 in the given time frame. The suggestions that modernisation needs to be undertaken as a continuous activity have been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)**

2.13 The committee find that in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 the type of disabilities have been revised from existing seven to twenty one. Accordingly, ALIMCO look up diversification of products range to cover all categories of PwDs and have developed few new products through in-house R&D and constituted six core groups headed by Directors of National Institutes for listing out aids and assistive devices for distribution. The Committee also find that out of newly developed products, only four have been introduced for distribution under ADIP Scheme and five for distribution among senior citizens. Keeping in view the large number of PwDs and senior citizens in the country, the committee desire the ALIMCO to speed up the process of including new products to the list of aids and assistive devices to be

distributed under ADIP, ADIP-SSA Scheme and Rashtriya Vayoshree Yojana and make concerted efforts for creating awareness among PwDs/ senior citizens for proper use of newly launched products. The committee find that ALIMCO has started indigenous production of High-End Prosthesis products including Below Knee and Above Knee prosthesis which were earlier being imported from Ottobock, Germany and these products quality-wise are the best. The Committee appreciate such a commendable step taken by ALIMCO and hope the Corporation to strengthen its Research and Development (R&D) wing to develop and roll out more and more indigenous products for the welfare of PwDs.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.14 Observations of the Committee has been noted for compliance in regard to strengthening the Research and Development wing of ALIMCO by appointing competent manpower and improving infrastructure. In order to take steps to improve product quality to international standards some Transfer of Technology agreements have been entered into and trial productions have already commenced.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 6.5)**

2.15 The committee note with satisfaction that ALIMCO has taken various initiatives to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation mechanism and control over the performance of Schemes/Programmes being implemented by them besides introducing a web portal for registration of beneficiaries for getting aids and appliances under ADIP Scheme, started a Toll Free No.18001805129 for entertaining queries of beneficiaries and general public, e-tendering with the help of National Informatics Centre etc. Apart from this, Department has initiated a Third Party Impact Evaluation Study on ADIP Scheme by inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) to improve monitoring and evaluation parameter of the Corporation. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Corporation and expect ALIMCO to ensure early completion of Evaluation Study as it will help in improving

monitoring and evaluation mechanism not only for ADIP Scheme but also other schemes of ALIMCO as well as schemes being implemented by the Department, National Institutes and other autonomous bodies of the Department working for the upliftment of PwDs. The Committee desire that as and when the Evaluation Study is completed, the committee may be apprised of the outcome of the study and the same may be put on website of the Department.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.16 The Department assures continuous efforts in strengthening its monitoring and evaluation mechanism and control over the performance of Schemes/ Programmes being implemented. An Impact Evaluation Study undertaken by ALIMCO in regard to distribution of aids and assistive devices to divyangjans has since been completed and suggestions/corrective measures as recommended in the Evaluation Study Report are being implemented in letter and spirit. The Department is also in the process of undertaking an Impact Evaluation Study of ADIP Scheme by including beneficiaries covered by all the implementing agencies. The observations of the committee to apprise it of the outcome of the study and uploading the same on the Department's website are noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 6.7)**

2.17 The Committee are happy to note the new initiatives being planned by ALIMCO to improve its overall performance and functioning. However, the Committee would like the Department as well as ALIMCO to draw a meticulous road map to implement the new initiatives. The Committee feel that generally new initiatives and future plans look attractive at the stage of conceptualization but get stuck or delayed due to shortage of funds and absence of proper execution plan. To guard against such eventualities, the Committee desire the Department to prioritise and categorise new initiatives into short-



term, medium –term an long –term initiatives and take up for execution accordingly after making sufficient budgetary previsions.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.18 As far as ALIMCO is concerned, a proper road map is implemented as per the modalities charted out in the DPR study for implementing new initiatives. In so far as the Scheme concerning ALIMCO/ADIP Scheme is concerned, a continuous evolution process is always under way to determine how the priorities can be categorized into short term, medium term and long term initiatives. As a result thereof, the modalities for implementation of these programmes are monitored, revised and implemented more effectively. The observations of the committee in this regard are noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No. 15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 7.4)**

2.19 The Committee note that ALIMCO has framed and implemented Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (CSR policy) which lays down the guidelines and activities to be undertaken by the Corporation. The Corporation is also approaching all profit making CPSUs to take up their CSR obligation through ALIMCO for assessment and distribution of aids and assistive devices to PwDs. At present, ALIMCO has got substantial corporate funds allocated for assisting Divyangjans by signing MOUs with 46 Corporates and is making all out efforts to increase the volume of fund mobilization under its CSR activities. The Committee find that ALIMCO has earmarked an amount of Rs.130.64 lakh out of its profit for its own CSR activities during the year 2016-17 which includes unspent amount of Rs.57.76 lakh of the previous year. But ALIMCO could not spend the amount under its CSR activities in the year 2016-17 due to non identification of suitable parties. The Committee are surprised to find that as on one hand, ALIMCO is boasting of achieving increased volume of funds as CSR Implementation Partner for Corporates while on the other hand, it has not been able to spend funds meant for its own CSR activities consecutively for two years. The committee, therefore, exhort the

Department to take this issue seriously and adopt corrective measures so that CSR funds are utilized fully by ALIMCO.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.20 The observations have been noted for compliance. The Corporation has already taken necessary measures to fully utilize its own CSR budget. During 2018-19, an amount of Rs. 219.26 Lakh (including unspent amount of previous years) is planned to be spent on CSR activities. Out of this, Rs. 29.40 Lakh has been spent on organizing primary health care camps and distribution of solar lanterns through HLL Lifecare limited and Rs. 169.88 Lakh towards Swachh Bharat Kosh.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

### **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 WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.7)**

5.1 The Committee noted with concern that in ALIMCO the number of contractual employees is double of the regular employees. Out of the authorized strength of 549 (154 Executives + 395 Non-Executives), the present staff strength is 266 (104 Executives + 162 Non-Executives). The more baffling was the fact that till 2014, ALIMCO did not have any Succession Plan which normally is an integral part of any Recruitment Plan. The Committee found that from 2012 to 2018, 135 Non-Executives and 39 Executives employees had been superannuated but the vacancies had not been filled. The committee also found that the Board of Director of ALIMCO had approved a Succession Plan under which 237 posts had been revived and 102 new posts had been created but the recruitment process had not been commenced. The Committee observed that with the creation of 102 new posts and revival of 237 posts, the revised approved staff strength of the Corporation is 651 employees while the present regular staff strength is only 266 employees and rest are contractual employees. The committee failed to comprehend that how can an organization of the status of Mini-Ratna-II could function smoothly and efficiently when more than half of its staff strength is contractual. Such a situation generally leads to the problem of continuity and accountability as continuity of policy comes only from regular and experienced staff vis-a-vis contractual staff. The Committee, therefore, recommended the ALIMCO to fill up the vacant posts at all levels immediately and it must start a comprehensive recruitment process as any piecemeal approach will only delay the recruitments and compromise efficiency of the Corporation. The Committee also desired the ALIMCO to update its Succession Plan time to time and keep recruitment roaster ready as vacancies do not arise only due to superannuation but also on account of death, resignation and VRS.

## **Reply of the Government**

5.2 ALIMCO is a manufacturing entity registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 with a “Not for Profit” motive. However, financial viability of operating a commercial Organisation is of paramount importance. As non-plan expenditure is not supplemented/ given by Government to the Corporation, the onus lies on the Corporation, not only to meet out its operating expenses which include salaries of the employees but also to generate surplus to cater for ongoing and future inflation, hike in pay & perks, upgradation of D.A. and other allowances being paid and the superannuation benefits to employees as approved by the Board.

[Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) O.M. No.15(9)/2018-DDI dated 14.11.2018]

## **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see Para No. 1.16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

## **CHAPTER-V**

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

- NIL -

**NEW DELHI;**

**28 December, 2018**  
**7 Pausa, 1940 (Saka)**

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

## **ANNEXURE**

### **MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON FRIDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

The Committee met from 1000 hrs. to 1045 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

#### **PRESENT**

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS                      -                      CHAIRPERSON**

#### **MEMBERS**

##### **LOK SABHA**

2.      Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
3.      Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
4.      Smt. K. Maragatham
5.      Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
6.      Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
7.      Dr. Karan Singh Yadav

##### **RAJYA SABHA**

8.      Dr. Narendra Jadhav
9.      Smt. Kanta Kardam
10.     Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
11.     Smt. Chhaya Verma
12.     Shri Ramkumar Verma

#### **LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

1.      Smt. Anita B. Panda                      -                      Joint Secretary
2.      Shri Ashok Sajwan                      -                      Director
3.      Smt. Mamta Kemwal                      -                      Director

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

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

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

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

(iii) 65<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2018-19) on Action Taken on 61<sup>st</sup> Report on 'Review of the functioning of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)' 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, if any, 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.*

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\*\*\*\* Not related with the Report.



## **APPENDIX**

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON  
THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SIXTY-FIRST REPORT OF  
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(2018-19) ON 'REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS  
MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA (ALIMCO)' OF  
THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)  
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
I. Total number of Recommendations	11	
II. Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.6, 2.11, 2.17, 2.20, 2.24, 3.4, 4.13, 6.5, 6.7 and 7.4)	10	90.91
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 which require reiteration (Paragraph No. 5.7)	1	9.09
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos. 2.20, 3.11 and 7.7)	0	0