

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2020-21)**

(SEVENTEENTH 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 Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

SIXTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.02.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12.02.2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021/Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
4. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
5. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
6. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
7. Shri Y. Devendrappa
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Vijay Kumar
14. Shri Akshaibar Lal
15. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
16. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
17. Shri Arjun Singh
18. Smt. Supriya Sule
19. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
20. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
21. Shri Tokheho Yepthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
- #26. Shri Biswajit Daimary
27. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
- *28. Shri P. L. Punia
29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
30. Shri Ramkumar Verma
31. Vacant

Shri Biswajit Daimary, MP (RS) resigned his seat in Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 21.11.2020.

* Shri P.L. Punia, MP (RS) retired on 25.11.2020.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Director |
| 2. | Smt. Madhu Bhutani | - | Deputy Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2020-21) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Sixteenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd March, 2020. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 11th September, 2020. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 10.11.2020.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth 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;

10 November, 2020
19 Kartika, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
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 Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on „Demands for Grants (2020-21)“ of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

1.2 The Seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd March, 2020. It contained 21 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of 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.: 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 3.10, 3.11, 4.43, 4.44, 4.45, 4.47, 4.49, 4.50, 4.51, 5.7, 6.5 and 7.10

(Total: 15, Chapter - II)

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

Para No.: Nil

(Total: Nil, Chapter III)

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

Para No.: 4.46

(Total: 1, Chapter - IV)

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

Para Nos.: 3.9, 4.48, 5.6, 5.8 and 6.6

(Total: 5, Chapter - V)

1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken in respect of the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report for which interim replies have been given by the Government, 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. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

(Recommendation Para No. 3.10)

1.5 The Committee in their Seventh Report had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee note that Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is the sole implementing agency to supply aids and assistive devices for ADIP Camps. In order to maintain and improve the quality of aids and appliances manufactured by ALIMCO, the Committee strongly feel the need for healthy competition which must be infused by enlisting other agencies from this field. Even though, the Department is encouraging National Institutes (NIs) to produce aids and assistive devices but this is not likely to have desired results as each NI is catering to a specific category of disability and will manufacture equipment for that category only. Moreover, as ALIMCO and NIs are under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of PwDs, healthy competition in real sense can’t be expected. Besides while the Department have tried to argue that Government-produced devices are on no profit-no loss basis, the Committee feel that several social entrepreneurs can be present in the field to manufacture for Divyangjan under „Make in India“ initiative with reasonable prices. The need is to identify those and extend them the opportunity to produce for general market too. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to

consider enlisting other agencies with proven caliber/efficiency in the manufacturing of aids and appliances to given competition to ALIMCO because, if taken with the right perspective, it will not only improve the quality of products but also bring in cost-effectiveness.”

1.6 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their action taken reply have stated as follows:-

“It is submitted that ALIMCO is not the sole implementing agency for distribution of aids and assistive devices under the ADIP Scheme of the Department. Though ALIMCO is the major implementing agency, National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), Indian Red Cross Societies (IRCS), State Govt. Corporations and NGOs are also entrusted with the task of distribution of aids and assistive devices. These implementing agencies can buy aids and assistive devices from any manufacturer after following the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR). Further, ALIMCO is not manufacturing all aids & assistive devices distributed by it under the ADIP Scheme, but buying some of these from Indian Manufacturers after following GFR provisions. In addition, ALIMCO also imports some aids and assistive devices such as Smart Cane, MSIED Kit, parts of Hearing Aid, Parts of Motorized Tricycle etc. Necessary action is being taken to change the Procurement Policy of ALIMCO to promote the „Make in India“ programme and indigenize these products, thereby promoting Indian Manufactures. Besides, National Institutes are also manufacturing aids and assistive devices relating to their respective field of disabilities.

As regards quality of aids and assistive devices manufactured by ALIMCO, the following is submitted:-

- (i) The quality control system in the Corporation has multilayer system of quality checks at each stage of production.
- (ii) 18 categories of fast moving products of ALIMCO are having valid ISI licenses. Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) undertakes periodical inspections of quality in this regard.

(iii) In July, 2017, ALIMCO was awarded ISO 9001:2015 for a period of three years. In addition, the Corporation is also having a valid Environmental Management System Standard ISO 14001:2015 awarded in March, 2019 by BIS.

(iv) In order to ensure third party inspection of the products of ALIMCO, the Quality Council of India (Govt. organization under the Ministry of Commerce) has been engaged to assess the quality compliance of 13 fast moving products of the Corporation. In the last report covering the fourth quarter of the Financial Year 2019-20, 13 products assessed by the Quality Council of India were found to be 100% quality compliant. The only exception was tricycle which was reported to be 98% quality compliant.”

1.7 The Committee note from the reply of the Department that Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is not the sole implementing agency for distribution of aids and assistive devices for distribution under Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), and that some other agencies viz. National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, Indian Red Cross Society, NGOs and State Government Corporations have also been entrusted with distribution of aids and appliances under the said Scheme. These implementing agencies are allowed to buy aids and assistive devices from any manufacturer after following the provisions of GFR. The Committee have been further informed that in addition, ALIMCO is not manufacturing all the aids and assistive devices required to be distributed under ADIP Scheme, but also buying some from Indian manufacturers. Besides, the ALIMCO reportedly imports some devices such as smart cane, MSIED kit, parts of hearing Aid and Motorised Tricycle, etc. The Committee, in their original Report, had desired that the Department should identify and enlist the Indian Manufacturers who are producing aids and devices for PwDs under 'Make in India' initiative. The Department have now submitted that the procurement policy of ALIMCO is being changed to encourage Indian manufacturers to produce these devices indigenously under the 'Make in India' Programme. However, the timeline for the same has not been furnished. The Committee desire that the Department should finalize the revised procurement policy of ALIMCO to include Indian Manufactures under a set time frame. To ensure quality of aids and assistive devices manufactured by the Corporation, the Ministry have intimated about a multilayer system of quality checks at each stage of production, periodical inspections by

BIS and the Quality Council of India being engaged as a third party inspection agency. From the information furnished about ISO ratification of ALIMCO products, the Committee find that ISO 9001:2015 certificate awarded to ALIMCO for three years in July, 2017 has since expired in July, 2020 and thus would urge upon the Department to get it renewed at the earliest to maintain the quality of their products. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the action taken to bring down the dependence on imports at the earliest. Since the quality of equipment distributed in the camps organized in States sometimes are not upto the mark, and has been raised by the members of the Committee during the meetings with the Department, the Committee, recommend that the Department should conduct surprise inspections of these camps and feedback of the beneficiaries may be obtained. A technical person may be made available on-site in such camps to address any difficulties faced by Divyangs or to train them in using the devices properly. As the Committee note that the quality compliance of the ALIMCO tricycle is 98 per cent, they desire that servicing of these tricycles including repairs and replacement of parts be made available free of cost to the beneficiaries under the ADIP Scheme.

B. Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA)

Recommendation (Para. 4.43)

1.8 The Committee in their Seventh Report had recommended as follows:-

“BE for SIPDA for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 at ₹300 and ₹350 crore respectively was reduced at RE stage to ₹258.30 crore and ₹260 crore. The Committee note that AE incurred for 2018-19 is slightly higher by ₹2.52 crore *vis-à-vis* RE. However, for the year 2019-20, BE of ₹315 crore was reduced to ₹260 crore at RE stage. Shockingly, the AE incurred till 31.01.2020 is ₹93.76 *i.e.* a mere 36% of RE. The Department has now merged many small schemes under SIPDA after the recommendation of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in September, 2017. In this backdrop, the Committee are of the view that SIPDA, being an umbrella scheme and having merged many schemes in it, should have been allotted more funds instead of reduced allocation at RE stage in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Committee apprehend that such a reduced allocation indicates that several small schemes, even after merger with SIPDA, probably are not in a position to use the allocated amounts, thereby defeating the very purpose of the merger, for instance schemes like AG&P, establishment of colleges for deaf etc. have not been able to utilize funds completely and have performed poorly in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Hence, the Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for reduced allocations for 2019-20 as well as their failure to even spend a significant amount of reduced allocation till 31.01.2020. The Committee impress upon the Department to ensure that a scheme like SIPDA, having components of national importance *i.e.* Accessible India Campaign, Composite Regional Centres, Unique Disability ID project, National Action Plan (NAP) etc. should not suffer for want of funds and be capable of fully utilizing the allocated amount.”

1.9 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their action taken reply have stated as follows:-

“Under SIPDA scheme revised allocations were done after assessing the frequency of expenditure of major components under SIPDA scheme during the month of October, 2019. However the major reduction of ₹60.00 crore was made under National Action Plan for Skill Development Program where BE for F.Y.2019-20 was allocated ₹100 crore which was revised to ₹40.00 crore as the reduction in the estimate corresponds to the current streamlining of the scheme wherein stress was emphasized on measures taken for identification of genuine training partners and conducting elaborate monitoring mechanisms. At the end of F.Y. 2019-20, an amount of ₹217.34 crore *i.e.* 83.59% could be utilized under SIPDA. The breakup of the expenditure done in the components of umbrella SIPDA scheme are given below:

Funds released under the SIPDA Scheme during the 2019-20 (upto 31.03.2020)

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Sub Scheme/ Programmes	BE 2019-20	RE 2019-20	Expenditure 2019-20	Percentage of Ex penditure 2019-20 of RE
1	Creation of barrier free environment under the SIPDA Scheme, other than AIC	13.00	19.60	15.55	79%
2	Creation of barrier free environment under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC)	105.00	112.00	134.19	120%
3	Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)	70.00	70.00	50.10	72%
4	National Action Plan for Skill Development for PwDs	100.00	40.00	4.33	11%
5	District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRCs)	7.50	4.00	3.18	80%
6	Unique Disability Identification (UDID)	13.00	10.00	7.87	79%
7	Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP)	3.00	2.00	2.12	106%
8	Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues Scheme	1.00	0.40	0.0	0%
9	In Service Training And Sensitization of functionaries of State Govts, Local Bodies and other Service Providers.	2.00	2.00	0.0	0%
10	Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities.	0.50	0.00	0.0	0%
	Total	315.00	260.00	217.34	83.59%

The expenditure of the individual components of SIPDA scheme was more than 100% under Accessible India Campaign (AIC) & Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP). Expenditure between 70-90% was achieved under sub-schemes namely (i) Creation of barrier free environment under the SIPDA Scheme, other than AIC (ii) Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) (iii) District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRCs) (iv) Unique Disability Identification (UDID). However, less expenditure was achieved under four components of the scheme viz.(a) National Action Plan for Skill Development for PwDs (b) Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues Scheme (c) In Service Training And Sensitization of functionaries of State Govts, Local Bodies and other Service Providers. (d) Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities.

The reasons for less/no expenditure are given as under:-

- a. The National Action Plan for Skill Training (NAP), BE ₹100.00 crore and RE ₹40.00 crore has less releases due to drastic changes in the monitoring of the scheme. Therefore, the overall budget was also downsized initially at RE stage. NAP under SIPDA was undergoing a rigorous overhaul to enable streamlining of the process, to check financial irregularities by ETPs and to ensure a robust and secure fund flow mechanism. The scheme of NAP was reviewed so that the output reaches the correct beneficiaries as per laid down in the guidelines. Implementation of Centre guidelines including Aadhar Enabled Bio-Metric Attendance System (AEBAS), Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Video Conferencing (VC) facility, trained trainers and accessibility as mandatory features at trained centres. Training is imparted through Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs). Validity of most of the ETPs has been expired. The period from April, 2019 to December, 2019 was expended in effecting the above process of checks and balances. These initiatives slowed down the process of release of funds. Hence the expenditure of NAP could not meet upto the level of RE allocated of ₹40.00 crore.

- b. Due to non-receipt of any proposals as well as UCs of previous financial years under Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities.
- c. Due to non-receipt of UCs of previous financial years under the scheme of In Service Training and Sensitization of functionaries of State Governments, Local Bodies and other Service Providers.
- d. Due to non-receipt of adequate and complete proposals from the implementing agencies under Research on Disability Related Technology, product and issues.

1.10 From the reply furnished by the Department, the Committee note with concern that the scaling down of budget allocation during 2019-20 for SIPDA by ₹ 60.00 crore at RE stage was due to low frequency of expenditure under one of its important component 'National Action Plan for Skill Development Programme', which was undergoing the process of streamlining and rigorous overhauling of the Scheme to check financial irregularities by empanelled Training Partners (ETPs) and to ensure a robust and secure fund flow mechanism. As a result only 11 percent of the allocation under National Action Plan (NAP) could be spent even though the overall expenditure under SIPDA was 83.59 percent during the year 2019-20. The Committee cannot but wonder as to how the ETPs could commit financial irregularities, despite existence of a vigilance and monitoring mechanism. They feel that such ETPs should not be employed again and a fresh search be made to find genuine and committed ETPs who are working for the welfare of Divyangs. The Committee desire to know whether this process has since been completed and the new features introduced in this component. The Committee hope that after streamlining the NAP for Skill Development Programme, the number of beneficiaries would increase and allocation of funds for this programme be utilised fully. The Committee are of the firm view that the success of such schemes can only be gauged from the number of beneficiaries, who either got employment or could earn if self employed, after undergoing training. Hence, the Committee desire that the Department should furnish data pertaining to number of beneficiaries who got employment after completing the training since inception of the Programme. The Committee have also observed that since validity of most of the Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs) has expired, the Department need to be pro-active in identifying worthy ETPs, well in

time to maintain the continuity of the training programmes. The Committee also found that the sub-schemes *viz.* (i) Research on Disability Related Technology, product and Issues Scheme; (ii) In Service Training and Sensitization of functionaries of State Governments, Local Bodies and other Service Providers; (iii) Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for providing Employment to PwDs have zero expenditure due to lack of proposals and UCs. In Committee's view, these sub-schemes were not performing well even before their merger with SIPDA and need to be reviewed thoroughly to see whether they are serving the desired purpose. As research part can also be taken care of by RCI or ALIMCO, an assessment may be made if the sub-scheme on research need to continue or not.

C. Setting up of composite Regional Centres (CRCs)

(Recommendation, Para 4.46)

1.11 The Committee in their Seventh Report had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee find that the Department have set up 20 CRCs to provide rehabilitation services to Divyangjan, train persons, create awareness, etc. of which three are yet to start functioning. However, a scrutiny of the details given in the Department's latest Annual Report suggests that out of 18 CRCs, 5 CRCs have been given only 1st installment of funds while some have got 3 each. The Department may apprise as to how these CRCs are functional with just one installment. Also out of seven NE states, only Assam and Tripura have CRCs, which would mean that a total of 1,74,389 Divyangjan of the rest five states (as per census 2011) have not been served by any CRC so far. The Committee hence recommends that the Department may pay special attention to the remaining NE states in the matter. They further note that of the remaining three CRCs, one in Andaman and Nicobar has been inaugurated recently and other at Sikkim is likely to start functioning soon. During the evidence, the Department have informed that efforts are being make to have one CRC in each State. While it is a laudable target and ideally should be done, the Committee feel that a small State or UT with lesser population and State/UT with large population cannot be on the same page because of vast difference in their requirements. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to aim realistically for establishing CRCs in consonance with the population of a State.”

1.12 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their action taken reply have stated as follows:-

“The Department is working towards establishing CRCs in various States/UTs across the country subject to concerned States/UTs making available suitable land (free of cost) and built up space for temporary accommodation. So far the establishment of 21 CRCs across the country have been approved. In the State

of Uttar Pradesh, two CRCs have been set up at Lucknow and Gorakhpur as per the land and other facilities provided by the State Government.

In respect of NE States, approval has already been granted to set up CRCs in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim. CRC in the State of Assam and Tripura is functional respectively at Guwahati and Agartala and efforts are on to expeditiously operationalise the CRCs sanctioned for other four States also.

The Committee's advice to the Department to aim realistically for establishing CRCs in consonance with the population of a State rather than one-State-one-CRC formula is accepted and the Department will work on that. But this is subject to the concerned States and UTs making available suitable land (free of cost) and built up space for temporary accommodation."

1.13 The Committee, in their original recommendation, had sought reasons as to how five Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), which were given just one installment of funds, could function without subsequent release of funds. The Committee are disappointed that the Department have not responded on this issue. The Committee, therefore, assume that the said five CRCs are perhaps not functional as no organization can survive without funds. The Committee would, therefore, urge upon the Department to furnish precise information on the functional status of all the CRCs, Statewise.

With regard to Committee's recommendation that the number of CRCs in a State/UT must be in consonance of the population of that particular State/UT, even though the Department have accepted the advice in principle, they have given an evasive reply that establishment of CRCs in a particular State/UT depends upon the availability of the land, free of cost, by that State/UT Government. It cannot be a pre-condition as in Committee's view, the Department, should first decide to establish a CRC in a particular State/UT based on the population of PwDs , demography and the need of CRC in a specific area and then ask the concerned State/UT Government to provide land or a constructed structure for setting up of the CRC. In case State/UT Government is not willing or not in a position to provide land for the CRC, then the Department should approach any Central department like Railways having land to spare in that area. In case even this is not possible, then the Department must arrange funds for setting up of CRCs from their own resources in an underserved area because welfare of PwDs must not be compromised.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.12)

2.1 The Committee note that during the year 2019-20, the Department was sanctioned a budget allocation of ₹1204.90 crore which was revised downward to ₹1100.00 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure till 18.02.2020 is only ₹669.90 crore which is around 60.90% of the RE and the remaining 39.10% of RE funds will be required to spent by the Department by 31.03.2020. The Committee find that the pace of expenditure in the first three quarters of the financial year had been very slow and around 40% of the budget still remains unutilized, resulting in an uneven and inconsistent expenditure pattern by the Department. The Department have attributed this uneven/inconsistent expenditure pattern to the imposition of Election code of conduct in the first quarter, non-requirement of funds by NHFDC in the Second quarter, overhaul of skill training under Nation Action Plan (NAP) and the off-repeated factors such as non-receipt of utilization certificates (UCs), inadequate proposals from the State Governments and character of the Schemes being demand-driven.

The Committee feel that while the Department is seeking special permission to get the ceiling of 25% expenditure in the last quarter relaxed and are quite hopeful, it should not become a regular affair. The Department have hardly taken any new initiatives for timely receipt of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and proposals and continued with the outdated practice of sending reminders, holding conferences/video conferences etc which have not yielded desired results. The Committee are of the view that when a large chunk of the funds allocation remains unutilized till the fag end of the financial year, the focus automatically shifts towards spending the funds somehow to raise the expenditure figure and this in-turn may lead to hasty and faulty scrutiny of the proposals received. Considering these possibilities, the Committee would like the Department to ensure that every release of funds must clearly spell out the time-limit for submitting UCs. In case UCs are not received by that time, the Department must immediately start vigorously pursuing the issue with the State Governments. Since receipt of proper proposals is still an issue, the Committee desire that the Department can do some out

of the box thinking and prepare a draft proposal/template for their major schemes to act as a guiding document for DMs/State officials. Also they should be proactive in seeking the help of local public representatives to identify areas which need their schemes most and to pursue the issue with all concerned state authorities as well.

Reply of the Government

2.2 During the Financial year 2019-20, Department was sanctioned a budget allocation of ₹1204.90 crore, which was revised downward to ₹1100.00 crore at RE stage. As against the RE of ₹1100.00 crore, the Department has released an amount of ₹1016.18 crore which was 92.38% of the RE. The details of efforts made by the Department under its various schemes are given below:

(a) Under the scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fittings of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), out of RE of ₹222.50 crore, an amount of ₹213.83 crore (96.10%) was released during 2019-20. However, due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, funds to the tune of ₹8.67 crore (₹3.93 crore under Rest of Country (ROC) and ₹4.74 crore under NE) could not be released as holding of camps for distribution of aids and assistive devices was not possible in terms of Govt. orders relating to lockdown and maintaining social distancing. Hence, to avoid parking of funds, grant-in-aid against the proposals of NGOs was not released during the month of March, 2020 in consultation with the Integrated Finance Division of the Department.

In order to ensure that utilization certificates are received from the implementing agencies in time, the provisions of General Financial Rules are followed and suitable clauses are incorporated in the sanction orders for submission of the UC within the prescribed time. Besides, follow up action is also taken to impress upon all the implementing agencies to submit the Utilization Certificates in time. Copies of the sanction orders are also invariably endorsed to local Member of Parliament/Member of Legislative Assembly for their kind information.

Under the ADIP Scheme, detailed guidelines/procedures for timely release are prepared with the approval of Hon^{ble} Minister (SJ&E) at the beginning of the financial year itself. All the implementing agencies are taken on board and pursued vigorously for timely submission of proposals along with furnishing of data relating to unspent

balances, and proper action plan for urgent utilization of the unspent balances, if any, available with them. All State Governments are also addressed to recommend proposals of suitable implementing agencies in time so that the same could be examined and processed for release of funds.

(b) Under Scholarships for Students with Disabilities, the Budget Estimate for 2019-20 was ₹125.00 crore which was reduced to ₹108.67 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) stage due to requirement of funds under other schemes of the Department. Out of RE of ₹108.67 crore, an amount of ₹95.75 crore (88.11%) was released during 2019-20. ₹12.92 crore (unspent balance) could not be released due to non receipt of payment files from the States due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department, apart from other modes of communication, had pursued the matter of creating awareness about scholarship schemes with the State Nodal Officers by conducting video conferences, to encourage more students with disabilities to apply for scholarship. In addition, advertisements were also released in English/Hindi and in regional languages to spread awareness about the scheme. All the State Nodal Officers are timely reminded about the verification of applications and pursued vigorously for timely completion of verification process and submission of payment files.

(c) The Department is implementing a Scheme for providing financial assistance for undertaking activities in pursuance of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, known as the “Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA)”. One of the components of the SIPDA scheme is for Creation of Barrier Free Environment other than the area covered under Accessible India Campaign. The Department in the first month of financial year invariably writes to all the Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of States/UTs inviting fresh proposals for Creation of Barrier Free Environment for PwDs. In this F.Y., the said letter was written on 20th April, 2020. The State/UT Governments are advised to submit proposals in respect of construction work in public centric buildings to be accompanied by cost estimates duly prepared/approved by an officer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer.

Under SIPDA, for Creation of Barrier Free environment, funds are released to State/UTs Government/Universities/Autonomous bodies/Statutory bodies only after

examining the validity of their proposals-- whether they fulfill the condition of the easy access of persons with disabilities in existing Government buildings by construction of Lifts, Accessible Toilets, Ramps, Railings, etc. as well as receipt of previous utilization certificates. For this purpose, reminder letters are written to States/UTs and other Autonomous bodies/Universities to furnish Utilization Certificates in order to process the next releases. The utilization certificate becomes due after 12 months from the release of sanction order date. This is a demand dependent scheme for which States/UTs have to send proposals.

In the beginning of F.Y. 2019-20, the SIPDA Budget was ₹315 crore and the budget was scaled down in RE ₹260 crore after anticipating that major component of SIPDA schemes have not received adequate proposals to meet the expenditure upto the level of Budget Estimate(BE) of SIPDA scheme. Where the releases were initially slow as already mentioned however, at the end of F.Y. 2019-20, an amount of ₹217.34 crore as 83.59% of the RE could be utilized under SIPDA. Since overall Department's budget was revised by the Ministry of Finance by downsizing the RE by ₹104.90 crore, SIPDA being an umbrella scheme with ten components had to be downsized by ₹55.00 crore.

In order to reduce the delay in time for processing the proposals, a checklist is also being prepared for processing the proposals quickly so that checking the documents of the proposals could be done timely following the requirement of scheme guidelines and in pursuance of the general requirements from finance point of view. The suggestion to seek the help of local public representatives has been noted.

(d) Under Accessible India Campaign (AIC), the total expenditure exceeded the proportionate BE of ₹105 crore under SIPDA and proportionate RE of ₹112 crore, since releases made were to the tune of ₹134.19 crore. This indicates that under AIC, the Department was able to call for UCs and even exceed the proportionate allocation to AIC under the umbrella scheme of SIPDA. Under AIC, proactive steps are being taken to ensure timely submission of Utilization Certificates and consistency in work progress was closely monitored by the following measures:

1. **MIS Portal** – Real time monitoring of progress is being done through the MIS portal which is required to be updated by States/UTs and concerned Central Departments on a monthly basis.
2. **Written Communication** – Regular monitoring is also done through letters sent collectively with the barrier free component of SIPDA and on case specific basis. The letters have been sent to States/UTs at the level of Secretary, Joint Secretary as well as Director on the subjects of submission of UCs along with work progress report, submission of fresh and revised cost estimates as well as completion of retrofitting work within the stipulated timeframe.
3. **One-to-one meeting by Secretary DEPwD** – As a new initiative, States/UTs were called to make presentations on the status of work in the respective States/UTs to DEPwD which helped
 - a. Clarify issues commonly found in the proposals related to the accessibility features being proposed; and
 - b. Gave States/UTs an opportunity to seek clarifications to send proper proposals which eventually helped in getting cleared in the last FY.

These direct meetings with deputed officers of social welfare departments and engineering departments, helped seek clarifications and get the documents, proposals as well as UCs from States of Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram to be in a position to release grants in an efficient manner, within targeted time frame. Details of fund released to these States are as follows:

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Buildings funded	Total Amount Released (in ₹)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	6 buildings in Itanagar	78927625
2	Jammu & Kashmir	11 buildings (10 Jammu & 1 Srinagar)	69199500
3	Mizoram	10 buildings in Aizawal	41766809

4. To instill standardization in the proposals being submitted, AIC Division has:
 - a. **Circulated an Easy Reckoner** – A summarized compilation of 10 key features of accessibility in built up environment with specifications and minimum requirements have been prepared and circulated to all Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs, along with reminder letters, the latest being sent in February 2020.
 - b. **Sharing sample Checklists and cost estimates for replication** – The AIC Division, as and when requested, shares sample checklists and cost estimate formats with concerned agencies so that standard and correct documents are received. While it is understood that the format of proposal may differ from State to State, DEPwD emphasizes on provision of the 10 key accessibility features identified by the Department in the Easy Reckoner.

In regard to the suggestion of seeking the help of local public representatives to identify areas which need their schemes most and to pursue the issue with all concerned State authorities as well, the point has been noted and it would be explored how to operationalize it.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Recommendation (Para No. 2.13)

2.3 The Committee appreciate that the Department have taken a decision to relax the mandatory requirement of State Government Recommendations (SGR) for providing funds to implementing NGO/agency now. According to the said decision, if the approval of State Government is not received within 60 days, it will be deemed to have been given, if all other criteria have been met and the Centre is found well equipped and suitable. However, such a decision puts a huge responsibility on the Department as in such cases they have to finally decide on the fitness of proposals when State Government's recommendation is absent. The Committee hope that the Department officers are aware of this and are ready to shoulder the responsibility and be

accountable for it. They, therefore, expect that the Department in timely approval of Schemes/Programmes by the State Governments and also result in a balance and proper utilization of funds in all the four quarters of financial year.

Reply of the Government

2.4 There is a provision in Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) that Department may decide on the proposals which are not approved and sent by the State/UT administration within 60 days. As per the Scheme guidelines para 3.6.2.5, such proposals may be decided based on the inspection report submitted by the Inspecting Officer who is district welfare officer of the State Government . NGOs/Agencies which have won National Awards in the institutional category of the schemes being run by this Department and the NGOs which have been getting grant regularly for the last three years are only considered for determination of the eligibility to receive advance for the ongoing financial years. This, however, is subject to condition that the grant for last year has been cleared for full and final. It is agreed that Central Government has to bear huge responsibility in processing these cases for which reasons the State/UT Governments are also being impressed upon to send their recommendations timely.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Recommendation (Para No. 2.14)

2.5 The Committee recall that few years back, Parliamentary Constituency Monitoring Committees on Road Safety were constituted at district level by the Government for better road safety under the chairmanship of MPs. As the local public representatives, MPs/MLAs, are well versed with the ground realities of their constituencies and as their feedback could be of immense use in effective implementation of various welfare schemes for Divyangjan, the Committee feel that the Department of PwDs can also explore setting up such Parliamentary Constituency Monitoring Committees to put to use the experience of the public representatives in design, delivery, monitoring and implementation of welfare schemes for Divyangjan.

The Committee are also of the view that the experience of the local public representatives may come in handy in pursuing the issue of timely submission of UCs and proposals from State Governments, especially from North Eastern Region where this Department has not able to bring all Governments on board for their schemes, despite prioritizing it. Had the Department brought such issues to the notice of the local public representatives from NE states, such issues could have been resolved obviating the need for surrendering of the funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to consider setting up such Parliamentary Constituency Monitoring Committees on Welfare of Divyangjan, to help them to design assess, monitor, effectively implement various programmes and thus, utilize the allocated resources fully for the welfare of Divyangjan.

Reply of the Government

2.6 Under ADIP Scheme, in order to receive sufficient proposals from NE region, letters are sent to the concerned State Governments in the beginning of the financial year for forwarding the proposals of suitable implementing agencies. Further, in case of non-receipt of sufficient proposals from States/ Union Territories, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur and National Institutes functioning under the administrative control of the Department, the major implementing agencies, are involved in implementing the ADIP Scheme across the country including the Northern Eastern Region.

Under Scholarship scheme, in order to receive sufficient proposals from NE region, during 2019-20 advertisement was released by the Department in all national newspapers and regional newspapers. Besides, an advertisement was also released with special attention to NE States.

In addition, apart from other modes of communication, the State Governments particularly of the NE region have been sensitized through video-conferencing to create awareness about the Scholarship schemes amongst institutions & students with disabilities so that slots could be fully utilized.

Under the Scheme for implementation of Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), funds are provided to the States/UTs across the country including North

East for creation of barrier free environment for persons with disabilities in existing Government buildings other than the area covered under AIC by construction of lifts, ramps, accessible toilets, etc. for the benefit of persons with disabilities. Accordingly, the monitoring is done through physical inspection by the Department officials during the processing of related proposals under Barrier Free Environment other than area covered under AIC.

Under SIPDA-Barrier Free component, the total fund of ₹12.09 crore was released to North East for State Government of Meghalaya in F.Y. 2019-20 in order to make accessible existing Government buildings for persons with disabilities, the expenditure incurred under North East is 26.28% of the allocated RE of ₹46.00 crore for F.Y. 2019-20. The Department had made efforts in finalizing the proposals of Government of Meghalaya by organizing the Power Point Presentation for the proposed buildings in Shillong District of Meghalaya.

Under AIC, State nodal officers are already nominated from either the Directorate of Social Welfare at the State/UT or the Office of SCPD.

However, the option of Parliamentary Constituency Monitoring Committees of Welfare of Divyangjan has been noted for more focused implementation of the Schemes for the Department. The Department, with the approval of its Minister, would like to approach the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat in sending out communications to this effect to the Hon^{ble} MPs and the State Assembly Secretariats to inform the Hon^{ble} MLAs.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Recommendation (Para No. 3.10)

2.7 The Committee note that Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is the sole implementing agency to supply aids and assistive devices for ADIP Camps. In order to maintain and improve the quality of aids and appliances manufactured by ALIMCO, the Committee strongly feel the need for healthy competition

which must be infused by enlisting other agencies from this field. Even though, the Department is encouraging National Institutes (NIs) to produce aids and assistive devices but this is not likely to have desired results as each NI is catering to a specific category of disability and will manufacture equipment for that category only. Moreover, as ALIMCO and NIs are under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of PwDs, healthy competition in real sense can't be expected. Besides while the Department have tried to argue that Government-produced devices are on no profit-no loss basis, the Committee feel that Several Social entrepreneurs can be present in the field to manufacture for Divyangjan under „Make in India“ initiative with reasonable prices. The need is to identify those and extend them the opportunity to produce for general market too. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to consider enlisting other agencies with proven caliber/efficiency in the manufacturing of aids and appliances to given competition to ALIMCO because, if taken with the right perspective, it will not only improve the quality of products but also bring in cost-effectiveness.

Reply of the Government

2.8 It is submitted that ALIMCO is not the sole implementing agency for distribution of aids and assistive devices under the ADIP Scheme of the Department. Though ALIMCO is the major implementing agency, National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres(CRCs), District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), Indian Red Cross Societies (IRCS), State Govt. Corporations and NGOs are also entrusted with the task of distribution of aids and assistive devices. These implementing agencies can buy aids and assistive devices from any manufacturer after following the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR). Further, ALIMCO is not manufacturing all aids & assistive devices distributed by it under the ADIP Scheme, but buying some of these from Indian Manufacturers after following GFR provisions. In addition, ALIMCO also imports some aids and assistive devices such as Smart Cane, MSIED Kit, parts of Hearing Aid, Parts of Motorized Tricycle etc. Necessary action is being taken to change the Procurement Policy of ALIMCO to promote the „Make in India“ programme and indigenize these products, thereby promoting Indian Manufactures. Besides, National Institutes are also manufacturing aids and assistive devices relating to their respective field of disabilities.

As regards quality of aids and assistive devices manufactured by ALIMCO, the following is submitted:-

(i) The quality control system in the Corporation has multilayer system of quality checks at each stage of production.

(ii) 18 categories of fast moving products of ALIMCO are having valid ISI licenses. Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) undertakes periodical inspections of quality in this regard.

(iii) In July, 2017, ALIMCO was awarded ISO 9001:2015 for a period of three years. In addition, the Corporation is also having a valid Environmental Management System Standard ISO 14001:2015 awarded in March, 2019 by BIS.

(iv) In order to ensure third party inspection of the products of ALIMCO, the Quality Council of India (Govt. organization under the Ministry of Commerce) has been engaged to assess the quality compliance of 13 fast moving products of the Corporation. In the last report covering the fourth quarter of the Financial Year 2019-20, 13 products assessed by the Quality Council of India were found to be 100% quality compliant. The only exception was tricycle which was reported to be 98% quality compliant.

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Comments of Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3.11)

2.9 The Committee appreciate that efforts are being made by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to develop indigenous and low cost Cochlear Implant which is presently on clinical trial stage. In Committee's view, a successful launch of indigenous Cochlear Implant will not only bring down the present cost of

₹6.00 lakh to ₹1.00-1.50 lakh and eliminate the dependence on imported devices but also will be boost for “Make in India” apart from serving many more hearing impaired persons. The Committee hope that Department would be prompt in adopting the indigenous product as soon as it is proved to be better option than the imported device. The Committee would like to apprise about the progress of this project at action taken stage.

Reply of the Government

2.10 With a view to reduce the cost of Cochlear Implant and promote „Make in India” programme, concerted efforts are being made by the Department, for production of indigenous Cochlear Implant (SRAVAN) by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

As regards status of production of Cochlear Implant by DRDO, it is informed by Smt. Manimozhi Theodore, CE, Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and OS & Director, Defence Bioengineering & Electrometrical Laboratory (DEBEL) , that they have taken up Limited Series Production (LSP) for clinical trials in humans to evaluate safety and efficacy of the Cochlear Implant device. Ten implants were manufactured, sterilized and packaged and two implants each were handed over to five trial centres.

As per the latest information received from Smt. Maninozhi Theodore, Limited Production & multi-centric (5 Centres) Clinical Trials have been initiated out of which 4 have been completed, one in each trial centre. This will be resumed once the COVID-19 scenario improves. Trials are to be conducted in 50 persons and planned to be completed in 2021. Commercial production will be initiated in 2022. The Department has written to Smt. Manimozhi Theodore, Director, DEBL on 07.08.2020 to expedite the process.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Recommendation (Para. 4.43)

2.11 BE for SIPDA for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 at ₹300 crore and ₹350 crore respectively was reduced at RE stage to ₹258.30 crore and 260 crore. The Committee note that AE incurred for 2018-19 is slightly higher by ₹2.52 crore vis-à-vis RE. However, for the year 2019-20, BE of ₹315 crore was reduced to ₹260 crore at RE stage. Shockingly, the AE incurred till 31.01.2020 is ₹93.76 i.e. a mere 36% of RE. The Department has now merged many small schemes under SIPDA after the recommendation of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in September, 2017. In this backdrop, the Committee are of the view that SIPDA, being an umbrella scheme and having merged many schemes in it, should have been allotted more funds instead of reduced allocation at RE stage in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Committee apprehend that such a reduced allocation indicates that several small schemes, even after merger with SIPDA, probably are not in a position to use the allocated amounts, thereby defeating the very purpose of the merger, for instance schemes like AG&P, establishment of colleges for deaf etc. have not been able to utilize funds completely and have performed poorly in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Hence, the Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for reduced allocations for 2019-20 as well as their failure to even spend a significant amount of reduced allocation till 31.01.2020. The Committee impress upon the Department to ensure that a scheme like SIPDA, having components of national importance i.e. Accessible India Campaign, Composite Regional Centres, Unique Disability ID project, National Action Plan (NAP) etc. should not suffer for want of funds and be capable of fully utilizing the allocated amount.

Reply of the Government

2.12 Under SIPDA scheme revised allocations were done after assessing the frequency of expenditure of major components under SIPDA scheme during the month of October, 2019. However the major reduction of ₹60.00 crore was made under National Action Plan for Skill Development Program where BE for F.Y.2019-20 was allocated ₹100 crore which was revised to ₹40.00 crore as the reduction in the estimate corresponds to the current streamlining of the scheme wherein stress was emphasized on measures taken for identification of genuine training partners and conducting elaborate monitoring mechanisms. At the end of F.Y. 2019-20, an amount of ₹217.34

crore i.e. 83.59% could be utilized under SIPDA. The breakup of the expenditure done in the components of umbrella SIPDA scheme are given below:

**Funds released under the SIPDA Scheme during the 2019-20
(upto 31.03.2020)**

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Sub Scheme/ Programmes	BE 2019-20	RE 2019-20	Expenditure 2019-20	Percentage of Expenditure 2019-20 of RE
1	Creation of barrier free environment under the SIPDA Scheme, other than AIC	13.00	19.60	15.55	79%
2	Creation of barrier free environment under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC)	105.00	112.00	134.19	120%
3	Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)	70.00	70.00	50.10	72%
4	National Action Plan for Skill Development for PwDs	100.00	40.00	4.33	11%
5	District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRCs)	7.50	4.00	3.18	80%
6	Unique Disability Identification (UDID)	13.00	10.00	7.87	79%
7	Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP)	3.00	2.00	2.12	106%
8	Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues Scheme	1.00	0.40	0.0	0%
9	In Service Training And Sensitization of functionaries of State Govts, Local Bodies and other Service Providers.	2.00	2.00	0.0	0%
10	Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities.	0.50	0.00	0.0	0%
	Total	315.00	260.00	217.34	83.59%

The expenditure of the individual components of SIPDA scheme was more than 100% under Accessible India Campaign (AIC) & Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP). Expenditure between 70-90% was achieved under sub-schemes namely (i) Creation of barrier free environment under the SIPDA Scheme, other than AIC (ii) Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) (iii) District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRCs) (iv) Unique Disability Identification (UDID). However, less expenditure was achieved under four components of the scheme viz.(a) National Action Plan for Skill Development for PwDs (b) Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues Scheme (c) In Service Training And Sensitization of functionaries of State Govts, Local Bodies and other Service Providers. (d) Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities.

The reasons for less/no expenditure are given as under:

- e. The National Action Plan for Skill Training”(NAP), BE-100.00 crore and RE-40.00 crore has less releases due to drastic changes in the monitoring of the scheme. Therefore, the overall budget was also downsized initially at RE stage. NAP under SIPDA was undergoing a rigorous overhaul to enable streamlining of the process, to check financial irregularities by ETPs and to ensure a robust and secure fund flow mechanism. The scheme of NAP was reviewed so that the output reaches the correct beneficiaries as per laid down in the guidelines. Implementation of Centre guidelines including Aadhar Enabled Bio-Metric Attendance System(AEBAS), Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Video Conferencing (VC) facility, trained trainers and accessibility as mandatory features at trained centres. Training is imparted through Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs). Validity of most of the ETPs has been expired. The period from April-2019 to Dec.2019 was expended in effecting the above process of checks and balances. These initiatives slowed down the process of release of funds. Hence the expenditure of NAP could not meet upto the level of RE allocated of ₹40.00 crore.
- f. Due to non-receipt of any proposals as well as UCs of previous financial years under Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities.

- g. Due to non receipt of UCs of previous financial years under the scheme of In Service Training And Sensitization of functionaries of State Govts, Local Bodies and other Service Providers.
- h. Due to non receipt of adequate and complete proposals from the implementing agencies under Research on Disability Related Technology, product and issues.

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Comments of Committee

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

Recommendation (Para. 4.44)

2.13 The committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Department for retrofitting of all Central as well as State Government buildings under the Accessible India Campaign. The Committee have been informed that the Department is making every possible effort to persuade the States/UTs to accomplish the project by launching MIS portal for online monitoring of the progress made against each target of AIC, maintaining of all the functions on digital platform and capture all the data on real time basis. In spite of this, there is not even 50% achievement under this component as out of 1658 buildings, only 805 buildings have been made accessible to Divyangjan. The Committee feel that sincere efforts by the Department are unfortunately not translating into real achievement, except for railway stations where the change is becoming visible. The acknowledge the fact shared by the Department that retrofitting and construction work also depends on the proactiveness of the executing agencies and other challenges. Nonetheless they hope that new steps initiated by the Department for real time monitoring would be effective and the accessibility problem faced by divyangjan on day to day basis will be addressed expeditiously. The Committee desire to be informed about the progress and expect completion of all 1658 buildings by next Financial Year.

Reply of the Government

2.14 Under AIC of the 1662 buildings of State/UT Governments for which access audits were conducted, till 31st March 2020 funds amounting to ₹436.44 crore have been released for retrofitting of 1151 buildings across 32 States/UTs. Apart from these, 998 buildings of the Central Government out of a total of 1100 have also been retrofitted by CPWD, MoHUA. Funds amounting to ₹127.99 crore were sanctioned for 177 buildings in FY 2019-20 itself, including 2nd Installment for completing 134 buildings in State of Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The Actual Expenditure of Accessible India Campaign of ₹134.19 crore, for FY 2019-20 had exceeded the proportionate BE which ₹105 crore under the SIPDA scheme. Further, in FY 2019-20, 7 States/UTs namely, Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Haryana, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have reported to have completed retrofitting work in 263 buildings. In 2020-21 Chattisgarh has also reported completion of 12 buildings, thereby raising the tally to 275.

For FY 2020-21, completion of work and funding of buildings was anticipated but due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, construction work has been affected. Thus it is anticipated that that there might be a slowdown in the reports of completion of work in buildings under AIC this year.

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Recommendation (Para. 4.45)

2.15 The Committee are happy that as of now the Department have generated and issued 32.50 lakh Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards in 682 districts and started a drive further to speed up the generation of UDID cards. The Committee also note that 1.5 crores legacy certificates have been taken on board in the Unique Identification Cards System, an online Portal. Now States are required to just upload the revalidated Certificate to generate a UDID card and medical examination will be require only for newer disabilities listed in new RPwD Act, 2016. Even for that, the procedure has been

streamlined and norms for constitution of medical teams have been relaxed. However performance of some States is still quite poor, for instance in Manipur, only 737 cards were issued as against grant of ₹28 lakh fund and in west Bengal, a total of 4 cards were issued as against grant of ₹23 lakh funds. Many States and UTs, like, Bihar, Assam, Telangana, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh etc. did not receive any funds till 2018-19. In this connection, the Committee appreciate the Department initiation of a colour coded daily performance report with indicated level of performance of lagging the progress made by them. The Committee hope that Department will continue with their efforts to bring all the States and UTs on board and complete the project at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

2.16 The Department is implementing Unique Disability ID Project in all earnestness with a view to creating a National Database for Persons with Disabilities and also for the issuance for Unique Disability Identity Cards to each person with disability. As on 07.09.2020, all States/UTs have started implementing the project and 48.32 lakh e-UDID cards have been generated in 707 of the 734 districts across India.

State/UT wise details on e-UDID cards generate/issued to PwDs since inception of the project (year-wise) and the funds released is at Annexure-I and Annexure II, respectively.

As regards the slow implementation of the UDID project and for its proper implementation to see that the State/UT governments perform better and give focus to the UDID project meant for the persons with disabilities, the Department has been sending letters regularly, taking the issue up in the Central Advisory Board meeting as well as with all State Commissioners of disabilities. Letters have also been sent letters to States/UTs at the level of Hon^{ble} Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment again in this financial year on 18.06.2020 wherein State/UT governments have been requested and given suggestions on the steps to be taken for better and more efficient implementation of the UDID project by:

- I. Ensuring that all Districts the States/UTs are issuing UDID cards. (Now only 2 States are remaining, namely Nagaland (5 districts) and West Bengal (22 districts)).

- II. Digitization of manual certificates of disability is carried out in a time bound manner in .xml or excel format. It has been informed to the State/UT governments even earlier that the Ministry provides financial assistance for this purpose for which proposals could be sent by those States/UTs which have not done so till now.
- III. Considering the fact that the medical authorities are also grappling with the COVID19 pandemic, State/UT governments have been requested to assess and provide the soft copies of electronic data (approved by the health department) of PwDs available with their State/UT. The data may be available with States/UTs for purposes like for pension, scholarships, medical records, or for any other PwDs schemes. The data has been requested to be provided in Excel format which would help expeditiously convert the data for generation of UDID cards in large numbers.
- IV. Taking prompt action on all the fresh applications already received by the States/UTs which are lying unactioned so far by the medical authorities.
- V. States/UTs may consider linking benefits/concessions meant for persons with Disabilities with UDID cards as has been done by some of States, for instance for the purpose of concessional travel in STU buses to speed up the process of implementation.

2. As regards, Manipur, the State has started generating UDID cards w.e.f. 14.10.2019 only and till 07.09.2020, it has generated only 1442 e-UDID cards. Regarding West Bengal, Department has been writing letters and taking the issue up with the State Government regularly. Recently, on 18.06.2020, a letter was again written to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment with a request to take up the UDID project for the benefit of the persons with disabilities and mentioning that 22 of the 23 districts of West Bengal have still not started issuing UDID cards and that the progress of the project is at the bottom of the table across India with only 5 e-UDID cards having been generated so far.

3. Regarding Bihar and Assam, the Department has released an amount of about ₹1.5 crore in 2019-20 for Publicity and Awareness, IT infrastructure at Medical Offices and Remuneration of State Coordinator's salary. Funds have been released to Telangana in June 2020 related to publicity and awareness and IT infra structure at medical offices. Similarly, funds have also been released to Andhra Pradesh for I.T. infrastructure in July 2020 and for publicity and awareness in August 2020. In FY 2016-17, the Department received proposals from 3 districts of Tripura regarding publicity and awareness for which funds were released.

4. The close monitoring of the UDID project is being done by the Department on daily basis through the colour-coded daily performance report that has been yielding results with continuous generation of cards which is reflecting through the increase in numbers of the cards generated.

Annexure-I							
Year wise generated/issued UDID cards since inception (as on 07.09.2020)							
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
1.	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	0	130	1,381	1,768	205	3,484
2.	ANDHRA PRADESH	0	0	0	11,11,418	0	11,11,418
3.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	3	94	686	202	985
4.	ASSAM	0	0	0	14,168	7354	21,522
5.	BIHAR	0	1	1,464	7,796	89,854	99,115
6.	CHANDIGARH	0	140	1,713	2,742	110	4705
7.	CHHATTISGARH	0	44,017	69,908	33,309	7192	1,54,426
8.	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	0	0	19	6	0	25
9.	DAMAN AND DIU	0	0	330	438	15	783
10.	DELHI	0	0	14	1,188	601	1,803
11.	GOA	0	0	0	130	1	131

Year wise generated/issued UDID cards since inception (as on 07.09.2020)							
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
12.	GUJARAT	1,735	37,930	78,363	82,446	11,508	2,11,982
13.	HARYANA	0	7,392	22,211	6,565	1,138	37,306
14.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	22	2,543	20,607	7,338	30,510
15.	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	0	0	3,906	16,610	1,775	22,291
16.	JHARKHAND	0	3,812	6,287	4,222	86	14,407
17.	KARNATAKA	0	0	2	1,54,034	29,932	1,83,968
18.	KERALA	0	984	3,159	1,10,764	18,773	1,33,680
19.	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	27	6	33
20.	MADHYA PRADESH	19,696	2,26,457	60,341	61,661	88,104	4,56,259
21.	MAHARASHTRA	17	17,422	58,673	1,96,294	16,184	288,590
22.	MANIPUR	0	0	0	1,080	362	1,442
23.	MEGHALAYA	0	762	3,066	5,364	10,233	19,425
24.	MIZORAM	0	276	698	1,081	499	2,554
25.	NAGALAND	0	0	0	466	72	538
26.	ODISHA	437	85,012	1,17,406	1,19,781	20,530	3,43,166
27.	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0	3,536	6,968	10,504
28.	PUNJAB	0	663	22,994	92,910	20,518	1,37,085
29.	RAJASTHAN	0	2,52,280	42,555	55,812	2,759	353,406
30.	SIKKIM	0	16	111	356	878	1,361
31.	TAMIL NADU	0	22,001	15,733	1,21,508	83,431	2,42,673

Annexure-I							
Year wise generated/issued UDID cards since inception (as on 07.09.2020)							
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
32.	TELANGANA	0	0	1	4,77,105	0	477,106
33.	TRIPURA	0	461	701	1,591	415	3,168
34.	UTTAR PRADESH	34	27,835	1,33,063	2,09,754	89,051	4,59,737
35.	UTTARAKHAND	0	0	0	2,919	174	3,093
36.	WEST BENGAL	0	0	4	1	0	5
Total		21,919	7,27,616	6,46,740	29,20,143	5,16,268	48,32,686

Annexure-II							
Year wise Fund released to States/UTs under UDID project as on 27.07.2020							
Sl. No.	States/UT's	Fund released (₹ in Lakhs)					Total
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As on 27.07.20)	
1.	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	0.00	3.00	6.00	13.00	0.00	22.00
2.	ANDHRA PRADESH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	29.25
3.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0.00	3.00	31.00	24.72	0.00	58.72
4.	ASSAM	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.75	3.00	67.75
5.	BIHAR	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.28	0.00	87.28
6.	CHANDIGARH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	CHHATTISGARH	0.00	0.00	35.50	24.25	30.76	90.51
8.	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00
9.	DAMAN AND DIU	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.50	0.00	3.50

Year wise Fund released to States/UTs under UDID project as on 27.07.2020							
Sl. No.	States/UT's	Fund released (₹ in Lakhs)					Total
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As on 27.07.20)	
10.	DELHI	0.00	0.00	7.43	35.90	0.00	43.33
11.	GOA	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.50	3.50
12.	GUJARAT	3.75	6.00	38.50	41.10	1.50	90.85
13.	HARYANA	13.00	0.00	22.00	0.75	0.00	35.75
14.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.00	0.00	19.58	15.12	3.00	37.69
15.	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	0.00	0.00	25.00	4.00	0.00	29.00
16.	JHARKHAND	0.00	5.66	38.10	24.44	0.00	68.20
17.	KARNATAKA	0.00	0.00	33.00	36.11	0.00	72.11
18.	KERALA	3.50	3.00	24.00	14.50	0.00	45.00
19.	LAKSHADWEEP	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.75	7.75
20.	MADHYA PRADESH	19.25	3.75	51.00	1.00	0.00	75.00
21.	MAHARASHTRA	14.00	6.00	43.50	11.07	0.00	74.57
22.	MANIPUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.00	28.00
23.	MEGHALAYA	0.00	14.00	6.00	14.75	0.00	37.25
24.	MIZORAM	0.00	3.00	14.00	12.60	8.42	38.02
25.	NAGALAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.25	0.00	25.25
26.	ODISHA	23.00	35.00	3.05	0.00	0.00	61.05
27.	PUDUCHERRY	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	10.00
28.	PUNJAB	0.00	0.00	28.00	26.65	6.47	61.12

Annexure-II							
Year wise Fund released to States/UTs under UDID project as on 27.07.2020							
Sl. No.	States/UT's	Fund released (₹ in Lakhs)					Total
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As on 27.07.20)	
29.	RAJASTHAN	3.25	12.00	26.60	6.00	3.00	50.85
30.	SIKKIM	0.00	3.00	3.90	10.00	5.00	21.90
31.	TAMIL NADU	15.50	54.75	4.65	6.82	0.00	81.72
32.	TELANGANA	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	61.75	64.75
33.	TRIPURA	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.25
34.	UTTAR PRADESH	26.00	29.75	113.49	6.16	0.00	175.39
35.	UTTARAKHAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.50	0.00	26.50
36.	WEST BENGAL	0.00	0.00	23.00	0.00	0.00	23.00
Total		123.50	181.91	597.29	583.21	138.15	1654.82

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Recommendation (Para. 4.47)

2.17 The Committee are dismayed to note that out of 325 districts identified for setting up of DDRCs, only 264 districts have DDRCs as of now and out of these, only 92 DDRCs are functioning regularly. Initially the Department was attributing the same to lack of awareness of the scheme and shortage of qualified staff due to low rates of honorarium. But, even after revising the Scheme and increasing the cost norms by 2.5 times, the performance of the scheme has not improved. The Committee are also surprised that the DDRCs of Tripura and Sikkim even do not have complete address

available in the Ministry's Annual Report (Annexure-7). Hence, the Committee desires the officials to personally visit the DDRCs to see their function and assess their competence. Overall, the Committee are of the firm view that the Scheme needs to be revisited and hence feel that the Department needs to recast the scheme to make it workable.

Reply of the Government

2.18 (i) It is admitted that it is only in 264 districts that DDRCs have been set up so far, out of the 325 approved districts. However, the scheme has been revised in terms of cost norms and is expected to perform better. Moreover, the Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) has also written a D.O. letter to all Chief Ministers in November 2019, for sending proposals for setting up of DDRCs, in response to which proposals are being received which are under active consideration of the Department. Since the DDRCs are run by the State Government/District Management Teams (DMTs) selected by State Government/UT administration, hence the role of the State /UT administration is more functional. It is informed that the situation regarding the number of DDRCs is likely to improve since the DDRCs are being given focus in the current year.

(ii) Committee's observation for personal visits of DDRCs in order to ascertain their functioning and assess their competence has been noted for compliance as and when it is feasible to undertake the inspection in view of the COVID pandemic. The Committee's concerns about the performance of DDRC scheme are humbly noted. The Department would revisit and recast the scheme to make it workable. The Scheme is being taken up under Third Party Evaluation in FY 2020-21.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Recommendation (Para. 4.49)

2.19 From the information submitted on the AG&PS, the Committee observe since 2015-16 (barring 2016-17), the Department could not fully spent allocation made available even at RE Stage. Even simplification and revision of the Scheme could not salvage the situation. Despite under utilization of 45% to 50% of the funds allocated during 2015-16, 2017-18 and 2018-19, far higher amounts were allocated in subsequent years and ultimately the scheme was merged with SIPDA owing to its poor performance. Such resources allocation and spending pattern over the years, the Committee believe, is due to lack of foresight as NGOs/agencies could not send proper proposals, faulty planning, failure to assess capability of NGOs and not taking into consideration the ground realities at the time of allocation itself.

The Committee are of the view that the successful implementation of any welfare programme for the benefit of marginalized sections of the society, creation of awareness of the Programmes/Schemes/Project among the intended beneficiaries is the first and foremost requirement. Such awareness in mass media-print, electronic and social media. The under utilization of the funds for the last five/six years, however, shows that awareness generation has not been done through advertising & publicity of the requisite extent.

It has often come the notice of the Committee that many a time even the public representatives, MPs/MLAs leave alone the intended beneficiaries, are not made aware of the various programmes/projects/schemes meant for the benefit of Divyangjan. There is huge demand from Divyangjan for help and support, hence, the Committee are of the view that since AG&PS is now part of umbrella scheme i.e. SIPDA, more publicity and awareness campaigns should be held at regular intervals in the relevant areas to make them aware of these schemes/projects/programmes etc. The Committee accordingly recommend that suitable steps be taken including active support to concerned stakeholders for preparation of viable proposals to ensure full utilization of resources allocated for the purpose. The Committee hope that merging the AG&P Scheme with Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) will give the desired boost to it. As a first step they recommend that all the

Members of the Committee as well as DMs should be regularly updated on the ongoing schemes for Divyangjan alongwith contact resources persons in the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

2.20 As per the recommendation of the committee for creating awareness of the Schemes, the Schemes are being arranged to be advertised on social media platform to get more proposals. As per scheme parameters, the following actions are taken regularly for seeking proposals:

- I. Letters are being written to Principal Secretary/Secretary of all States/UTs to submit more proposals under AGP scheme and requested to have a Video Conference with the AGP Section to increase the number of proposals in a financial year. In addition, University Grants Commission (UGC) and all Central Universities are also being requested to submit their proposals under AGP scheme for the welfare of PwDs.
- II. States/UTs would also be requested to give wide publicity in order to receive more and more proposals from NGOs/Government Institutes.
- III. During this pandemic period of Covid-19, they may also be requested to hold virtual events in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines.

As per scheme guidelines, proposals from NGOs require the recommendation of concerned state government. Under this scheme, awareness programme is conducted by the organizations mainly through holding conferences and awareness camps. Normally, the events are held in one or two days and Grantee organizations are supposed to invite local representatives also. However, keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee, henceforth a copy of the sanction/approval letter will be endorsed to the DM of concerned district where the event is to be held. If any event is proposed to be held in the constituency of any member of the Committee, a copy of the letter will also be endorsed to the concerned member of the Committee.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Recommendation (Para. 4.50)

2.21 The Committee observe that since 2015-16 the Department could not utilize the resources allocated even at RE stage fully. The under utilization is pronounced in 2015-16 and 2017-18 during which utilization was 30% and 65% of respective REs: The allocation for 2019-20 was almost double the actual expenditure incurred in 2018-19 which, however, was reduced by 1/4th at RE stage. Out of 7 crore RE, 54% only could be utilized till 31.01.2020 leaving the rest 46% for spending in the remaining two months of the financial year. Such large-scale spending of the resources in the last quarter of the financial year, the Committee observe, goes against the relevant rules on expenditure issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

The Ministry's reply is silent on the Committee's query as to why the increased amount of 28 crore, allocated for 2019-20 for giving wide publicity even in the rural areas, through different electronic and digital media tools, got reduced to 7 crore (1/4th of BE). The Committee desire to be apprised whether the Ministry actually assessed the availability of the resources in rural areas since they are of the view that the relevant factors were not taken into consideration while projecting the same for 2019-20 resulting in reduction at RE stage and spending only 54% of the funds till 31.01.2020. They, therefore, recommend that resource allocation may be made in such a way that Department are able to spend the entire amount allocated at least compared to Revised Estimates in the same financial year. The Committee hope that the merger of this Head alongwith AG&PS -with -Scheme for Implementation of Rights -of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) will in no way diminish the importance of the scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.22 Regarding the 46% spending in the last two months of the financial year 2019-20, it is clarified that there were two major events (Surajkund and Ekam Fest) already approved by the Department under Media scheduled to be held in last quarter of 2019-20. Suraj Kund is a yearly event which is held every year in the month of February and Ekam Fest which was scheduled to be held in the month of December was postponed and held in the month of March due to the unrest arisen in Delhi. Since the fund is released after the event is held on receipt of bills and expenditure details, the amount

on account of these two major events could be released only in last month of the Financial year. The total expenditure in 2019-20 under Media was ₹6.63 crore which was 94.71 % of RE.

Under Media Head, approval of proposals and release of funds depend upon various factors. Approval of PMO is required for all the display advertisements including in Print and Electronic Media. Though the Department had prepared an outdoor Campaign with a view to giving wide publicity across the country through different media tools yet PMO advised the Department to focus on Social Media for advertisements of the Schemes of the Department.

Expenditure under Media also depends upon the number of proposals received from various agencies for participation in events and melas, proposals for sponsorship etc. However, considering the less number of proposals received and actual expenditure during first six months of the financial year 2019-20, the budgetary requirement was reduced in RE stage so that allocated fund could be spent in the same financial year. However, considering the past experience as well as observations of the Committee only an amount of Rs 8 Cr has been kept for Media in the Financial Year 2020-21.

As far as merger of Media with SIPDA is concerned the relevance of Media won't be affected adversely; rather it would provide the scope of fund flexibility.

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Recommendation (Para. 4.51)

2.23 The Committee note that for want of sufficient/proper documentation from implementing agencies, the Department of Empowerment of PwDs had to surrender large amount of funds allocated even at RE stage in 2017-18 and 2018-19. It is clear that the Department could not address the issue with all the stakeholders when the underutilization of the funds first occurred in 2017-18 due to insufficient documentation. As a result, funds had to be surrendered once again in the following year i.e. 2018-2019

due to same reason. This shows the casual approach of the Department in resolving the basic and mundane procedural issues hampering the fund utilization year after year resulting in delay in establishing more Braille printing presses/ augmentation of the existing Braille presses, etc. The Committee accordingly recommend that suitable steps including regular communication with the stakeholders be taken to ensure full utilization of the allocated resources. The Committee also feel that the fund allocated was fully utilized in 2017-18 and 2018-19, probably the number of new Braille Presses would have gone up. The Committee hope that the merger of this Head with Scheme for Implementation of rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. (SIPDA) will in no way reduce its importance and change the given targets for establishing new Braille presses. Also the Committee would desire to be apprised of the total number of Braille text books produced by the Braille presses established so far as well as the State wise number of visually impaired school children who were given these books free of cost.

Reply of the Government

2.24 The target of the scheme and achievements so far are as under:

Category	Target (No.)	Achievement (No.)	Remarks
New Braille Press	18	11*	*In addition to 11 new Braille presses, 2 more proposals were approved but for want of fulfillment of certain conditions relating to bank guarantee etc. the grants sanctioned for two organizations were refunded to the Department.
Modernization of existing Braille Press	12	12	Target Achieved
Capacity Augmentation	3	3	Target Achieved

Small Scale Press for UTs	3	0	This was aimed at setting up of small scale Braille Press in UTs; however, no proposal has been received from any of the Union Territories.
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As per information provided by the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme; i.e. National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) Dehradun, during the last 4 years i.e. from 2016-17 to 2019-20, 23,426 titles have been printed and distributed by the functional Braille presses to approximately 1,22,716 individuals and 1,641 institutions/agencies who have further distributed these titles to visually disabled children. The details are given below:-

Total titles printed by the functional Braille presses	23,426
Copies of the titles printed by the functional Braille presses	5,71,739
Total individual beneficiaries served by the functional Braille presses	1,22,716
Total institutional beneficiaries served by the functional Braille presses	1,641
Total volume produced by the functional Braille presses	6,09,689

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Recommendation (Para. 5.7)

2.25 The Committee note with deep concern that 75% of children with disabilities in the age group of 0-5 years never attend any educational institution, owing to societal prejudice, lack of accessible infrastructure in schools especially in rural areas, lack of trained teaching staff and above all delayed identification of disability. The Committee further note that concerted efforts are being made by the Department under „Accessible India Campaign (AIC)“, opening of early intervention centres and in-service training of

existing teachers. They still feel that the Department should undertake a Social Awareness Campaign to bring the desired attitudinal shift towards disabled persons of society in general. The AG&P Scheme of the Department, which hitherto has not performed as expected and has now been part of SIPDA, must be revived with vigour to undertake this gigantic task.

Reply of the Government

2.26 The recommendations of the Committee has been noted and the scheme is being arranged to advertise on Social Media Platform for its wide publicity, so that more and more proposals may be received from the NGOs/Govt. Institutions relating to upliftment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

As per scheme parameters, the following actions are taken regularly for seeking proposals:

- I. Letters are being written to Principal Secretary/Secretary of all States/UTs to submit more proposals under AGP scheme and requested to have a Video Conference with the AGP Section to increase the number of proposals in a financial year. In addition, University Grants Commission (UGC) and all Central Universities are also being written to submit their proposals under AGP scheme for the welfare of PwDs.
- II. States/UTs would also be requested to give wide publicity in order to receive more and more proposals from NGOs/Government Institutes.
- III. During this pandemic period of COVID – 19, they may also be requested to hold virtual events in accordance with COVID -19 guidelines.

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Recommendation (Para. 6.5)

2.27 The committee note that Rehabilitation Council of India's (RCI) mandate includes regulation and monitoring the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel, promotion of research and special education and maintenance of Central Rehabilitation Register. The grants in aid are released by the Department of Empowerment of PwDs for the purpose of meeting the expenditure for salary and other office expenses by RCI. The utilization pattern of the funds from 2015-16 to 2018-19 (except 2016-17) reveals that funds have not been spent fully even compared to REs. Despite lower actual vis a vis Res, higher allocations were made in subsequent years. While furnishing the reasons for under utilization, the Department informed the committee that the entire amount available for rest of India since been released and unutilisation of fund was on account of North-Eastern Head for the year 2015-16, as there are fewer institutions/organizations in North Eastern region running RCI approved courses. The Department further submitted that the reasons for under utilization from 2017-18 to 2019-20 was due to non- receipt of appropriate demands from RCI. The committee would like to be apprised them as to whether the Department consulted RCI before formally allocating funds to them which, however, after allocation, were surrendered due to non- receipt of the proposals from RCI. The committee are of the view that surrendering of the funds allocated year after year reflects that due care was not taken while formulating the proposals for funds. Non – receipt of proposals from North – Eastern region need to be specifically addressed in view of the substantial population of Divyangjan there. For this region, the committee recommend that public representatives may be involved to identify areas where RCI can work. The committee, therefore, recommend that those factors which are likely to result in underutilization may, atleast be identified at RE stage to enable unutilisable funds under this head to be used for other purposes in RCI instead of surrendering. The Committee accordingly suggest to take suitable steps to ensure utilization of allocated funds.

Reply of the Government

2.28 Every year the Department consults RCI while preparing budget estimates. The Department reviews the expenditure status at RE stage based on net requirement for the year. It may be noted that entire amount of 5.00 crore available for the year 2019-

20 has been fully utilized. The Department has drawn a quarterly plan for release of funds to RCI in 2020-21 so as to ensure complete utilization. The 15% limit for the first quarter of 2020-21 set by Department of Expenditure has been met for RCI w.e.f 30.06.20.

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Recommendation (Para. 7.10)

2.29 The Committee note that National Trust could utilized the funds allocated under the General Head (meant for all the regions except North-Eastern Regions). The funds meant for North-Eastern Regions could not be utilized due to non-availability of sufficient number of registered organizations in North-Eastern Region. However, the reply of the Department remained conspicuously silent on the efforts made/proposed to be made to encourage setting up of such institutions, if need be, in cooperation/consultation with the State Governments concerned. The repeated surrendering of funds for the purpose for the same reasons since 2016-17 appears to suggest that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities have not taken proactive measure to utilize the funds.

The Committee are of the view that had the Department made concerted efforts in co-ordination with all the stakeholders including State Governments concerned, NGOs, community organizations of North-Eastern Regions, resulting in setting up of organization for the welfare of the disabled in North-Eastern Region, surrendering of the much needed funds could not have occurred. The Committee accordingly recommend suitable steps be taken to create awareness programmes in consultations with the State Governments of North-Eastern Region and NGO/Community organizations of the North-Eastern Region for the same.

Reply of the Government

2.30 Suitable steps have been taken to create awareness programmes in consultation with the State Government of North Eastern Region & NGOs/ Community organizations of the North Eastern region for the same.

National Trust has been conducting workshops and seminars on Awareness Generation, Legal Capacity and Legal Guardianship, Programs and Schemes of the National Trust etc. in these states in collaboration with the State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC), Registered Organisations (ROs), and State Governments, wherein a large number of stake holders of the NE states have been participating. These workshops were very useful in spreading the information about the activities of the National Trust in the region. Still, there is lot more to be done in order to cover the entire NE region.

Earlier, the National Trust had planned to organize a “Regional Workshop on Digital Best Practices and NE Summit for Persons with Disabilities” in North East Region on 1st May 2020, as a lot of coordination with various stakeholders namely State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC) and Registered Organizations (ROs) of the National Trust, State Government officials of 7 NE States, etc. are being done. The focus of regional workshop was mainstreaming Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PwIDDs) and popularizing the digital technologies for improving the quality of life of Persons with Disabilities; unfortunately it could not be held due to COVID19 pandemic.

The Board of the National Trust in its 77th meeting held on 20.3.2018 decided that no new sanction under any scheme of the National Trust shall be made till further decision of the Board or a sub-committee constituted especially for this took a decision. However, this will not be applicable for North Eastern States.

Apart from this, the Board of the National Trust in its 79th meeting held on 10.09.2018 agreed to waive the condition of 2 years experience after Registration from the National Trust for allocation of funds of any scheme in the North Eastern region, so

that more and more NGOs are motivated to Register with the National Trust schemes in the North East region and implement these schemes of the National Trust.

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CHAPTER-III

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

- NIL -

CHAPTER-IV

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

Recommendation (Para. 4.46)

4.1 The Committee find that the Department have set up 20 CRCs to provide rehabilitation services to Divyangjan, train persons, create awareness, etc. of which three are yet to start functioning. However, a scrutiny of the details given in the Department's latest Annual Report suggests that out of 18 CRCs, 5 CRCs have been given only 1st installment of funds while some have got 3 each. The Department may apprise as to how these CRCs are functional with just one installment. Also out of seven NE states, only Assam and Tripura have CRCs, which would mean that a total of 1,74,389 Divyangjan of the rest five states (as per census 2011) have not been served by any CRC so far. The Committee hence recommends that the Department may pay special attention to the remaining NE states in the matter. They further note that of the remaining three CRCs, one in Andaman and Nicobar has been inaugurated recently and other at Sikkim is likely to start functioning soon. During the evidence, the Department have informed that efforts are being make to have one CRC in each State. While it is a laudable target and ideally should be done, the Committee feels that a small State or UT with lesser population and State/UT with large population cannot be on the same page because of vast difference in their requirements. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to aim realistically for establishing CRCs in consonance with the population of a State.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The Department is working towards establishing CRCs in various States/UTs across the country subject to concerned States/UTs making available suitable land (free of cost) and built up space for temporary accommodation. So far the establishment of 21 CRCs across the country have been approved. In the State of Uttar Pradesh, two

CRCs have been set up at Lucknow and Gorakhpur as per the land and other facilities provided by the State Government.

In respect of NE States, approval has already been granted to set up CRCs in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim. CRC in the State of Assam and Tripura is functional respectively at Guwahati and Agartala and efforts are on to expeditiously operationalise the CRCs sanctioned for other four States also.

The Committee's advice to the Department to aim realistically for establishing CRCs in consonance with the population of a State rather than one-State-one-CRC formula is accepted and the Department will work on that. But this is subject to the concerned States and UTs making available suitable land (free of cost) and built up space for temporary accommodation.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Comments of Committee

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

CHAPTER-V

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3.9)

5.1 The Committee note that the Department is holding ADIP camps to distribute aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan through National Institutes/ Composite Region Centres/ALIMCO. These camps are organized on the recommendations of State Governments/UT administration and the Members of Parliament. The Committee have time and again emphasized that whenever an ADIP camp is organized on the recommendations of other than Members of Parliament, the MP of the concerned constituency must be involved in organizing the camp rather than just inviting them as a guest because they are more aware of the requirements and problems of the PwDs of their constituencies and can identify and benefit the really deserving persons from those areas. As these camps directly benefit the Divyangjan, the Committee are of the view that the camps must be held regularly and as frequently as possible. As per the Department, proposals from North-Eastern States are less forthcoming hence the Committee desire that the Department can take assistance of Members of Parliament from North-Eastern States from this Committee and in general too apart from sending a model draft of proposals to DMs/State Officials, to desired number of proposals from North-Eastern States. The steps taken in this regard may be apprised to the Committee at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

5.2 Under the ADIP Scheme, camps for distribution of aids & assistive devices are organized on the demand of Members of Parliament/other dignitaries across the country including the North Eastern Region. During the last six years, 577 such camps, including 28 Camps in North Eastern Region, have been organized for distribution of aids & appliances to 5.21 Lakh beneficiaries involving a total expenditure of ₹428.73 crore. In 130 cases, assessment has been carried out and distribution will be undertaken soon.

In respect of camps other than those held on the recommendations of Hon^{ble} Members of Parliament, every effort is made to involve them in the process. While releasing the grant-in-aid to implementing agencies for distribution of aids and assistive devices the sanction order clearly states that "The organization should Notify the Local MLA/MP about the camp". A copy of the sanction order is also endorsed to the concerned Member of Parliament/MLA for their kind information. The Hon^{ble} Members of Parliament/Hon^{ble} MLAs are not only invited during distribution camps but their valuable involvement and support is also sought for mobilization and assessment of beneficiaries before holding the distribution camps.

As regards, holding camps regularly and as frequently as possible, it is submitted that during the last three years 3876 Camps have been held across the country benefitting 8.29 Lakh Divyangjan. Under the provisions of the ADIP Scheme, aids and assistive devices are provided to Divyangjan once in three years. However, it is the endeavor of the Department to hold camps before three years also, in order to cover left out Divyangjan of the area.

In order to receive sufficient proposals from NE Region, letters are sent to the concerned State Governments at the beginning of the financial year for forwarding proposals of implementing agencies. The observations of the Committee for taking assistance of Hon^{ble} Members of Parliament from North-Eastern States from the Committee has been noted for compliance. Copies of letters to State Govts. to forward proposals from the Northern Eastern Region have also been endorsed to them for seeking their necessary support. **The Committee will be informed of the action taken in this regard.**

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Recommendation (Para. 4.48)

5.3 The committee note that the National Action Plan for Skill Training to PwDs under SIPDA was launched by the Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship(MSDE) in 2015 with the objective of training PwDs to enable them to have gainful employment. However, to the Committee’s dismay, even after reducing the beneficiary target from 50,000 to 20,000 beneficiaries in February 2020 for the year 2019-20, the Department could only provide skills to a minuscule 457 beneficiaries in the first three and a half quarters as it probably was busy in overhauling the scheme and streamlining the process. The Department is confident of achieving the target in terms of number of trained beneficiaries in light of the MIS portal being developed by it, in the remaining part of the financial year and even have set an ambitious target of 80,000 beneficiaries in the financial year 2020-21. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Department to streamline the process and development of dedicated Management Information System (MIS). However, achieving the revised target this year appears to be difficult. Nonetheless, the Committee would like to urge the Department to strive for it and also strengthen the employability of the beneficiaries after they complete the skill training. The Committee would, further desire the Department to maintain the data of beneficiaries who got employed after getting skill training under the programme and use this data as input for future streamlining of the scheme, if need be”

Reply of the Government

5.4 As pointed out, NAP under SIPDA had been undergoing a rigorous overhaul last year to enable streamlining of the skill ecosystem of PwDs. The streamlining process that the Department exacted to make the delivery of Skilling to Persons with Disabilities is as under:

- (a) Fund Flow Mechanism changed from “release in advance to release after commencement” of training and from “project wise to batch wise mode” to avoid parking of funds with Training Partners;
- (b) Introduction of centre guidelines including AEBAS, CCTV, VC facility, trained trainers and accessibility as mandatory features at training centres;

- (c) In order to ensure suitability of Centres, physical inspection/audit of Training Centres was made mandatory by 3rd party;
- (d) Surprise inspection of ongoing training by the Department officials;
- (e) As part of monitoring mechanism, Department owned centralized AEBAS has already been introduced; and
- (f) MIS is also almost ready and will become operational shortly.

Above mentioned initiatives slowed down the process of release of funds considering which the target was revised from 50,000 to 20,000 during last financial year. Though after effecting those changes/initiatives, a target of training around 30,000 was approved by the Department but the training that was expected to commence during the last quarter could not take off as planned by the ETPs because of the situation arising out of COVID 19 and subsequent lockdown. Nevertheless, there is a target of training 5 lakh PwDs in 5 years from 2019-20 to 2023-24 and now efforts will be made to adjust the shortfall of 2019-20 by increasing the targets gradually in next 4 years. Various initiatives such as online training, associating good training partners and Sector Skill Councils with NAP etc. are underway to expedite the process of training without compromising on quality. The MIS Portal of the Department for skill is in the final stage of development and it is expected to be operational soon.

As regards placement data, it is submitted that 3rd instalment of the grant is linked with placement and it is released on the basis of documentary evidence as per guidelines, and after ascertaining the genuineness of the data. The Department has not yet released the 3rd installment in any of the cases and the genuine data is being collected. The Department is in the process of conducting the Third Party Evaluation of its schemes, including Skill Training conducted under NAP, which will also help in ascertaining the genuineness of the claims of the training partners regarding training as well as placement after training.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Recommendation (Para. 5.6)

5.5 The Committee observe that the Department have merged their six scholarship schemes into an Umbrella Scheme viz. „Scholarship for Students with Disability“ in 2018-19 with a view to remove the demand-supply imbalance of budget allocation, streamline the implementation process and allow use of surplus funds of one segment in the other one. The Committee welcome the flexibility in the use of funds within the segments of the scheme, but they would, at the same time, like to caution that the weaker segment of the Umbrella Scheme should not be left unattended and concerted efforts be made by the Department to strengthen those segments to obviate the recurrence of less demand and surplus funds in the following financial year.

Reply of the Government

5.6 From the year 2018-19, six scholarship schemes i.e. Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Fellowship, National Overseas Scholarship, Free Coaching have been merged into an umbrella scheme titled- „Scholarships for Students with Disabilities“. The merger/ unification of the schemes with effect from 2018-19 has been done to remove the demand-supply imbalance of budget allocation and streamline the implementation process. In umbrella scheme, if there is surplus fund available in one segment, that surplus can be utilized in the other one. However, in order to avoid the extreme situation where a major chunk of the budget allocation gets consumed by only one segment of the scheme leaving little fund for others, the amount that can be spent on a segment shall vary from a minimum of 5% to a maximum of 50% of the total budget allocation for the entire scheme.

Consequent upon merger of all the scholarship schemes, remarkable progress has been noticed. During 2019-20, 42972 beneficiaries have been awarded scholarships as compared to 21206 beneficiaries during 2017-18, registering an increase of 103%.

As regards certain segments of the Scheme viz., Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship, and Free Coaching, the Department has taken various measures to popularize them. Under the Top Class Education Scheme, Graduate level courses have been included as a result of which 239 students with disabilities were

awarded scholarships during 2019-20 as compared to 37 Students with disabilities during 2017-18. Besides, applications for National Overseas Scholarship can be made throughout the year. Further, the amount of solvency certificate, which was earlier equal to the total scholarship amount payable to the students, has now been reduced to ₹50,000/- only, to encourage students with weak economic background to apply. The main hindrance in getting proposals from Coaching Institutes for imparting free coaching is the lack of accessible features in such institutes. To address the issue, a letter is being issued to Coaching Institutes for making their premises accessible within three months. As such, it is the endeavor of the Department to implement all segments of the Umbrella scheme effectively and use the available funds optimally for the benefit of students with disabilities.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Recommendation (Para No. 5.8)

5.7 The Committee appreciate that since Divyang Children must not face any segregation in the school education, the Department, through one of its organization i.e. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), is developing a module for five day in-service training of existing teachers in all the schools of the country to sensitize them about the needs in an inclusive set up. In Committee" view, this is an enormous task and will require complete convergence with the similar efforts/programmes run by the Ministry of Human Resource & Development and other stake holders. There are around 42 lakh schools in the country and many of them are located in remote and difficult terrains. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to geo-tag and every school of the country to ensure that even a single school teacher is not left out of the ambit of in-service and training and also that no child is left out of the inclusive school education due to any form of disability. The Committee have also commented on RCI further in the relevant section.

Reply of the Government

5.8 The Department of School Education and Literacy is the Central nodal agency for implementing provisions of inclusive education. The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Samagra Siksha Abhiyan and inter-alia aims at strengthening Teacher Education and training. The Department is in touch with Department of School Education and Literacy in this regard. This Department is only supplementing the efforts through technical support by way of developing curriculum, accessibility issues, etc. The curriculum being developed by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) will be shared with Department of School Education and Literacy for in service training of teachers.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has been requested to geo-tag each and every school of country to ensure universal coverage of in- service training of all teachers vide O.M dated 02nd July 2020.

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

Recommendation (Para No. 6.6)

5.9 The committee in their previous Report on Demands for Grants 2019-20 had also urged the Department to continue the efforts to develop the curriculum in collaboration with Melbourne University to ward off the shortage of trained professionals to provide better rehabilitation services to PwDs. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to apprise about the progress made so far in this regard along with the year wise expenditure incurred under this activity.

Reply of the Government

5.10 The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is developing a six-month course curriculum on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) to develop grass root level community workers for rehabilitation of Persons with disabilities. The course and lesson plans are ready. Currently its study/ learning materials is under finalisation. The programme is likely to be launched on pilot basis through National

Institutes during this financial year. The year-wise expenditure incurred by RCI under this activity is as under:

Sl. No.	Financial year	Expenditure incurred in ₹ (Lakhs)
1.	2018-19	0.43
2.	2019-20	13.44
Total		13.87

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
O.M. No.1/4/2020-21/Budget/DEPwD dated 11th September, 2020)**

NEW DELHI;
10 November, 2020
19 Kartika, 1942 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2020-21) HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2020

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1430 hrs. in Committee Room No. 2, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
3. Shri Y. Devendrappa
4. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
5. Smt. Geeta Kora
6. Shri Akshaibar Lal
7. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras
8. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Ramilaben Bara
10. Shri N. Chandrasegharan
11. Shri P. L. Punia
12. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and congratulated Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras, MP (LS) for his nomination to this Committee. The Chairperson, then informed the Committee that the term of Shri P.L. Punia, MP (RS) was ending on 25th November, 2020 and expressed appreciation for his support and valuable contribution to the functioning of the Committee to which Shri Punia reciprocated. Thereafter, the Committee paid their humble tribute to Shri Durga Prasad Balli and Shri Ashok Gasti, Members during the previous term of the Committee (2019-20) on their sad demise. All the Members and officers of the Committee stood in silence for one minute in honour of the departed souls.

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

- | | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| (i) | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| (ii) | 16 th Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 7 th Report of the Committee on “Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.” | | | |
| (iii) | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| (iv) | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. Then the Reports were adopted without any modifications. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to present the Reports to both the Houses of Parliament in the next Session.

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|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 6. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 7. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 8. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 9. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 10. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 11. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 12. | ***** | ***** | ***** | ***** |

(The Committee then adjourned.)

*** Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2020-21)' OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
Total number of Recommendations	21	
(I) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government : Paragraph Nos. – 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 3.10, 3.11, 4.43, 4.44, 4.45, 4.47, 4.49, 4.50, 4.51, 5.7, 6.5 and 7.10	15	71.43
(II) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government : Paragraph No. – Nil	0	0
(III) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration: Paragraph No. – 4.46	1	4.76
(IV) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of in nature: Paragraph Nos. – 3.9, 4.48, 5.6, 5.8 and 6.6	5	23.81