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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

**(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2024-25)**

**SECOND REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2024/ Pausha, 1946 (Saka)**

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(2024-25)**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2024**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2024**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2024/ Pausha, 1946 (Saka)**

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

**SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**  
**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
6. Km.Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi
7. Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi
8. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
9. Shri Murari Lal Meena
10. Smt. Bag Mitali
11. Shri Bhojraj Nag
12. Shri Godam Nagesh
13. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
14. Shri Rajkumar Roat
15. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
16. Adv. Priya Saroj
17. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
18. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
19. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
20. Dr. Lata Wankhede
21. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav

**Rajya Sabha**

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
24. Shri Narayana Koragappa
25. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
26. Shri Ramji
27. Shri Rameswar Teli
28. Smt. Mamata Thakur
29. Smt. P. T. Usha
30. Shri Abdul Wahab
- #31. Shri Niranjana Bishi

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**\*Constituted w.e.f. 26.09.2024 vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part – II para no. 847 dated 26.09.2024.**

**# Nominated w.e.f 21.11.2024**

## LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi - Director
3. Smt. Banani Sarker Joshi - Under Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Second Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) which were laid on the Table of the House on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2024. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 16.12.2024.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)'.

4. For ease of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

New Delhi  
**18 December, 2024**  
27 Pausha, 1946 (Saka)

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

**REPORT**  
**CHAPTER-I**  
**INTRODUCTORY**

The Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to give focused attention to policy issues and meaningful thrust to the activities aimed at welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 and subsequently renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) (Divyangjan) on December 8, 2014. The Department acts as a nodal agency for matters pertaining to disability and persons with disabilities including effecting closer coordination among different stakeholders, related Central Ministries, State/UT Governments, NGOs etc. in matters pertaining to disability.

1.2 The Mission of the DEPwD is to empower persons with disabilities through its various Acts/Institutions/Organizations and Schemes for rehabilitation and to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and enables them to participate as independent and productive members of society.

1.3 The main objectives of the Department are enumerated as under:-

- (i) Physical rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling and medical rehabilitation and assistance in procuring appropriate aids and appliances for reducing the effect of disabilities;
- (ii) Educational rehabilitation including vocational education;
- (iii) Economic rehabilitation and social empowerment;
- (iv) Developing rehabilitation professionals/personnel;
- (v) Improving internal efficiency/responsiveness/service delivery; and
- (vi) Advocating empowerment of persons with disabilities through awareness generation among different sections of the society.

## **A. Overview of Disability in India.**

1.4 The following Constitutional provisions guide legislation related to persons with disabilities in India :

- (i) **Article 41:** "Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases states the following: "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want".
- (ii) **Eleventh Schedule to Article 243-G:** "Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded" ,
- (iii) **Twelfth Schedule to Article 243-W:** "Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded".

1.5 The Department deals with the following legislations governing different aspects of disability and welfare and empowerment of the persons with disabilities: -

- (i) The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992,
- (ii) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 and
- (iii) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Disability in India is largely administered by the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which has been brought into force from 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

### **Statutory Bodies under the Department**

1.6 Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) regulates and monitors the training programmes for professionals and personnel in the field of rehabilitation and special education, promotes research in rehabilitation and special education, and maintains the Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR).

1.7 The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) reviews the safeguards provided by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force for



the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend measures for their effective implementation; review the factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend appropriate remedial measures; as per Section 75(2) of the aforesaid act. c) The Chief Commissioner may also on his own motion or on the application of any aggrieved.

1.8 The National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities conducts training, awareness and capacity building programmes and shelter, care giving and empowerment. The National Trust is committed to facilitate equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disabilities (Divyangjan), covered under the Act.

### 1.9 **Types of Disabilities**

In India, the RPwD Act classifies various specified disabilities into five broad categories, as outlined below:

- (i) Physical Disability:
  - a. Locomotor Disability including: Leprosy cured person, Cerebral Palsy, Dwarfism, Muscular Dystrophy, Acid attack victims. Visual Impairment (only Blindness and Low Vision)
  - b. Hearing Impairment (only Deaf and Hard of Hearing) Speech and Language Disability
- (ii) Intellectual Disability including: Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder
- (iii) Mental Behavior (Mental Illness)
- (iv) Disability caused due to: (a) Chronic Neurological Conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. (b) Blood Disorder namely Hemophilia, Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease
- (v) Multiple Disabilities

1.10 According to Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India which constitute 2.21 percent of the total population. Out of the total population of persons with disabilities, approximately 1.50 crore are male and 1.18 crore, are female.

1.11 The details of number of persons with disabilities, state-wise, as per Census 2011, is at the table below:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total disabled population as per Census 2011</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	12,19,785
2	Arunachal Pradesh	26,734
3	Assam	4,80,065
4	Bihar	23,31,009
5	Chhattisgarh	6,24,937
6	Delhi	2,34,882
7	Goa	33,012
8	Gujarat	10,92,302
9	Haryana	5,46,374
10	Himachal Pradesh	1,55,316
11	J&K	3,61,153
12	Jharkhand	7,69,980
13	Karnataka	13,24,205
14	Kerala	7,61,843
15	Madhya Pradesh	15,51,931
16	Maharashtra	29,63,392
17	Manipur	58,547
18	Mizoram	15,160
19	Meghalaya	44,317
20	Nagaland	29,631
21	Odisha	12,44,402
22	Punjab	6,54,063
23	Rajasthan	15,63,694

24	Sikkim	18,187
25	Tamil Nadu	11,79,963
26	Telangana	10,46,822
27	Tripura	64,346
28	Uttar Pradesh	41,57,514
29	Uttarakhand	1,85,272
30	West Bengal	20,17,406
31	A&N Islands	6,660
32	Chandigarh	14,796
33	Daman & Diu	2,196
34	D& N Haveli	3,294
35	Lakshadweep	1,615
36	Puducherry	30,189
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,68,14,994</b>

1.12 The details of the total number of persons and the those of their numbers by type of disability, as per the 2011 Census is as under :-

<b>Type of Disability</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
In Seeing	50,33,431	26,39,028	23,94,403
In Hearing	50,72,914	26,78,584	23,94,330
In Speech	19,98,692	11,22,987	8,75,705
In Movement	54,36,826	33,70,501	20,66,325
Mental Retardation	15,05,964	8,70,898	6,35,066
Mental Illness	7,22,880	4,15,758	3,07,122
Any Other	49,27,589	27,28,125	21,99,464
Multiple Disability	21,16,698	11,62,712	9,53,986
Total	2,68,14,994	1,49,885,93 (55.89%)	1,18,264,01 (44.11%)

1.13 The classification of Persons with Disabilities by Residential Area is as under: -

<b>Population of Persons with Disabilities by Residence India, 2011</b>			
<b>Residence</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>Urban</b>	81, 78,636 (30.51%)	45,78,034	36,00,602
<b>Rural</b>	1,86,31,921 (69.49%)	1,04,08,168	82,23,753
<b>Total</b>	2,68,10,557	1,49,86,202	1,18,24,355

1.14 Regarding the working status of the Persons with Disabilities, it has been informed that as per Census, 2011, about 36% of the persons with disabilities are working. While 47% of disabled male persons are engaged in employment, the corresponding number for females is only 23%. Among the workers with disabilities, 31% constitute agricultural laborers. While 50% of the PwD population in the age group of 15-59 years are working around 4% of children with disabilities in the age group below 14 years are engaged in work.

**CHAPTER-II**  
**BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION**

The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for the year 2024-25 are given under Demand No. 94. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 30 July, 2024.

2.2 To a query on the proposed allocation of the Department, the Committee was informed as under :-

“The Department had proposed to retain the BE allocation of FY 2023-24 for the financial year 2024-25 with the objective of maintaining momentum of the ongoing activities and also to initiate new activities as approved by the Cabinet”.

2.3 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure (including both Schemes and Non Schemes) of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the last three years and Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 along with the percentage variation, year wise are as under:

(₹. in crore)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Budget Estimates</b>	<b>Revised Estimates</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
2021-22	1171.77	1044.31	1009.45
2022-23	1212.42	1015.98	989.35
2023-24	1225.15	1225.01	1143.89
2024-25	1225.27		

<b>Percentage variation over the preceding year</b>			
Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	-11.59%	16.03%	17.15%
2022-23	3.47%	-2.71%	-1.99%
2023-24	1.05%	20.57%	15.62%
2024-25	0.0098	-	-

2.4 The Budget Allocation for FY 2024-25 in respect of schemes and non-schemes as approved by Ministry of Finance is tabulated as under :

₹ in crore		
<b>S.No</b>	<b>Schemes</b>	<b>BE 2024-25</b>
1	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of Fitting Devices (ADIP)	315.00
2	Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	165.00
3	Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA)	135.33
4	Scholarships for Students with Disabilities	142.68
	<b>Total Schemes</b>	<b>758.01</b>
<b>Non Scheme</b>		
5	Budgetary Support to National Trust	25.00
6	National Institutes (NIs)	370.00
7	Rehabilitation Council Of India (RCI)	4.50
8	Grants -in-aid to National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies	0.01
9	Establishment of Centre For Disability Sports	25.00
10	Secretariat (Est. Exptd.)	37.25
11	Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Est. Exptd.)	5.50
	<b>Total Non Scheme</b>	<b>467.26</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1225.27</b>

2.5 The Department was asked to provide the details of the main objectives/thrust areas of the Annual Plan 2024-25 and the details of road map for implementation of Annual Plan of ₹ 1,225.27 crore. In reply they have submitted as under:-

“The objectives of the Annual Plan 2024-25 is to maintain momentum of the ongoing activities such as distribution of aids and assistive devices under ADIP Scheme, disbursement of scholarship to PwDs under Scholarship Scheme and under Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons under Disability Act (SIPDA), making/distributing Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Cards, constructing accessible buildings for PwDs , providing Skill Training to PwDs, providing rehabilitation services for PwDs through NGOs, construction of new CRC/NI buildings, Construction of Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior etc”.

2.6. Regarding new initiatives proposed to be undertaken by the Department during the year 2024-25 to improve the lives of persons with disability, the Committee were informed as under :-

“The Department has taken various initiatives for successful implementation of the various schemes being implemented by this Department for betterment of lives of persons with disability. The initiatives taken by this Department are as under:

(i) The Department has approved 51 new DDRCs in various districts of the country. Out of 51 new DDRCs, the Department has already released funds to 42 DDRCs.

(ii) The Centre for Disability Sports has been established which will help in providing training to PwDs participating in various State/National/International level Sports activities.

(iii) 4 new CRCs were approved for being set up in Jaipur, Madurai, Chattarpur and Jammu.

(iv) Divya Kala Programmes are being organized for showcasing and providing marketing support for products manufactured by Divyangjan entrepreneurs for boosting their livelihoods.

- (v) Adoption of National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2024 in place of the existing National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2006 is being proposed for approval of Cabinet.
- (vi) Publication of Pathways to Access- Part III which is a compilation of relevant orders/notifications/circulars/interventions and advisories pertaining to various Central Ministries/Departments and regulatory authorities.
- (vii) A training module on the RPwD Act, 2016 has been on boarded on IGOT Karmayogi Portal.
- (viii) Issuance of guidelines on identification of suitable posts for persons with disabilities in Central Government Establishments. Simultaneously, action has also been initiated for constituting an Expert Committee to review identification of posts for PwDs
- (ix) Department has made Aadhaar seeding mandatory for getting benefits of Scholarships and the scholarships amount is directly disbursed to the Beneficiary's account through Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS). AEPS delivers financial services to individuals who live in remote or underdeveloped locations. UDID has been made mandatory for getting benefits of Scholarships.
- (x) Free Coaching scholarship Scheme is operational from 2024-25. One Time Registration (OTR) has been implemented on NSP for this scheme".

### **Analysis of the performance of the DEPwD**

2.7 The Committee have been informed by the Department that the Budget Estimates 2024-25 in respect of the Central Sector Schemes namely ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS and Scholarship are based on amounts recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 11.08.2021 for continuation for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. All the four schemes are appraised and approved with financial allocation and physical targets for the entire period of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission's recommendations.



2.8 From 2021-22 to 2023-24, there was a slight shortfall in actual expenditure compared to the Revised Estimates (RE). In 2021-22, actual spending was ₹1009.45 crore, 3.3% below the RE of ₹1044.31 crore, achieving 96.7% utilization of the RE. In 2022-23, actual expenditure of ₹989.35 crore was 2.6% below the RE of ₹1015.98 crore, achieving 97.4% of the RE, with a 16.2% reduction from the BE of ₹1212.42 crore. In 2023-24, the RE and BE were nearly identical at ₹1225.01 crore and ₹1225.15 crore, respectively, with actual expenditure falling short by 6.6%, at ₹1143.89 crore, achieving 93.4% of the RE. For 2024-25, the BE is set at ₹1225.27 crore.

2.9 While taking into account the limitations set on allocation for schemes administered by the Department by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on 11.08.2021 for continuation for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the Committee desired to know what specific barriers were contributing to the Department's recurring under-utilization of funds within these established limits. In reply the Department has stated as under :-

"During 2021-22, the Department spent Rs. 1009.45 crore which was nearly 96.66 % of the RE. During 2022-23, the Department spent Rs. 989.35 crore which was nearly 97.37 % of the RE and during 2023-24, the Department has spent Rs. 1143.89 crore which was nearly 93.37% of RE. It is also noted that the Department has seen the highest expenditure in FY 2023-24 in comparison of expenditures of last 10 years".

2.10. While it is seen that there have largely been shortfalls in respect of utilisations of allocation over the years, the Committee wanted to know whether the EFC Recommendations was likely to impact functioning of schemes negatively for want of funds. The Department in their written reply submitted as under:

"if additional demands are required on account of increased demand for aids and assistive devices, requests of VIPs for holding camps, increased number of proposals of Scholarships on NSP Portal and proposals from StateGovernment and training partners, the demand for additional funds are sought in RE/BE stage".

2.11 The overall achievements in physical targets during last three years along with targets fixed for 2024-25 under various schemes are as under:-

Scheme Name	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25
	Physical Target	Achievement	Physical Target	Achievement	Physical Target	Achievement	Physical Targets
ADIP	2.00 lakh	2.43 lakh	2.05 lakh	2.89 lakh	2.15 lakhs	3.15 lakhs	3.15 lakhs
DDRS	40,000	30,173	40,000	35,349	40,000	30,589	40,000
Scholarships for Students with Disabilities	44,520	42,131	44,520	44,162	44,520	29,374	44,520
National Action Plan for Skill Training under SIPDA	22,000	2,911	16,000	2,019	17,000	9,333	15,000

2.12 The Committee sought clarification on the criteria adopted by the Department in setting physical targets for the implementation of the schemes and programs under its administration. In response, the Department explained that both budget allocations and physical targets are determined by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for a five-year period, covering the years 2021-22 to 2025-26. This process ensures alignment between financial resources and achievable objectives over the specified timeframe.

2.13 An Analysis of Physical Targets and Achievements for Key Schemes show that

- (i) Over the past three years, the ADIP scheme has consistently surpassed its physical targets, assisting 2.43 lakh beneficiaries in 2021-22 (+21.5%), 2.89 lakh in 2022-23 (+41%), and 3.15 lakh in 2023-24 (+46.5%) against targets of 2.00 lakh, 2.05 lakh, and 2.15 lakh, respectively. For 2024-25, the target has been set at 3.15 lakh, aligning with the previous year's achievement.

- (ii) The Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) has consistently underperformed against its targets over the years. In 2021-22, the achievement was 30,173 against a target of 40,000 (-24.6%). Although there was some improvement in 2022-23, with 35,349 beneficiaries reached, it still fell short by 11.6%. The performance dipped again in 2023-24, achieving only 30,589 (-23.5%). Despite these challenges, the target for 2024-25 remains unchanged at 40,000, highlighting the need for enhanced efforts to meet objectives.
- (iii) Scholarship targets have been nearly achieved in 2021-22 (achievement: 42,131 against a target of 44,520, -5.4%) and 2022-23 (achievement: 44,162, -0.8%). However, there was a significant drop in 2023-24, with only 29,374 scholarships awarded (-34%). The target remains steady at 44,520 for 2024-25, suggesting a focus on regaining earlier performance levels.
- (iv) Performance under the National Action Plan for Skill Training (SIPDA) has consistently fallen short of targets. In 2021-22, only 2,911 individuals were trained against a target of 22,000 (-86.8%). Similarly, in 2022-23, the achievement was 2,019 against a target of 16,000 (-87.4%), and in 2023-24, 9,333 were trained out of a target of 17,000 (-45.1%). For 2024-25, the target has been adjusted to 15,000, reflecting a more realistic approach based on previous performance.

2.14 A specific query was raised by the Committee seeking clarification on whether the Department has undertaken an assessment to identify specific problem areas of shortfall and what corrective measures have been implemented to address these identified issues. In reply, the Department has submitted as under

“The specific reasons for the slow trend/under-utilization of expenditure seen in preceding financial years are:

- i. Skill Training was undergoing a rigorous overhaul to enable streamlining of the process, check financial irregularities by Empanelled Training Partners

(ETPs) and to ensure a robust and secure fund flow mechanism. This caused some delay in release of funds to ETPs.

- ii. UCs from State Governments was not received on time under SIPDA Scheme.
- iii. Non-receipt of adequate proposals under SC, ST and NER categories of various schemes.
- iv. Less demand under Capital Expenditure.
- v. Due to non-receipt of State Governments recommendations on time and mandatory documents from the organization in various schemes, including Utilization Certificates.
- vi. Inadequate number of proposals received from States/UTs/stakeholders/NGOs/organizations/institutes;
- vii. Receipt of incomplete proposals/Late receipt of proposals of NGOs/organizations/institutes”.

2.15 Given that the persons with disabilities are already at the lowest economic strata and struggle to find gainful livelihood, medical care, rehabilitation etc, the Department was asked to justify having lowered Revised Estimates and an even lower Actual expenditure. The Department, in response have submitted as under :-

“The Department is implementing various Central Sector schemes namely SIPDA, DDRS, ADIP, Scholarship which are demand driven and funds are released to implementing agencies based on the proposals received from States/UTs/Institutions/NGOs, individuals etc.

The Department has taken up the matter with IAs/States/NGOs and conducts regular meetings for sensitizing them on the need for providing UCs and complete documents so that funds under various schemes are released on time.

The Department has developed many portals namely ARJUN Portal, PM-DAKSH Portal, NSP Portal, E-anudaan Portal for NGOs and UDID Portal for proper implementation and monitoring the schemes so that benefits of the schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a transparent manner.

ARJUN Portal has been developed under ADIP Scheme. All ADIP beneficiaries data since, 2014 has been uploaded on the portal. It helps in checking duplicity of beneficiaries, online submission of beneficiaries data, and reduced time lag in providing devices and digitization of records of beneficiary data. It also facilitates beneficiaries to apply for aids and appliances through online mode.

PM-DAKSH Portal- The Skill Training Scheme is being monitored through PM-DAKSH Portal. This portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need

skilling and employment, and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs. Monitoring the bio-metric attendance of PwDs, getting skill training from NGOs are also being done through this portal.

NSP Portal- The Scholarship Schemes are being monitored/implemented through NSP Portal.

E-anudaan Portal for NGOs- The Department has developed centralized on-line application software with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Programme Implementing Agencies have to register on NGO-Darpan portal and apply on E-Anudaan for release of GIA. All requisite documents along with disability certificate/UDID cards of beneficiaries are uploaded on the E-Anudaan portal and financial assistance is provided to the Implementing agencies through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

UDID Portal- This is a national data base for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). PwDs can register on this portal for obtaining Unique Disability ID cards. UDID cards are issued through the UDID portal”.

2.16 During examination of Demands for Grants (DFG) 2023-24, the Department attributed the non-utilization of funds across various schemes to delays in implementing the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) module. The Committee wanted to whether the CNA module is functioning as intended across all Central Sector (CS) schemes and the actual position with regard to the implementation of this initiative. In response, the Department submitted in their reply:-

“The CNA Module is fully operational under ADIP, SIPDA and DDRS Scheme since, 2022-23. Though the department faced challenges while on boarding all the implementing agencies in the CNA Module, now this module is functioning smoothly without any recurring issues or delays in funds disbursement under the said Schemes of the Department.

Further, As per DOE letter No. 3/(06)/PFMS/2023 dated 05.02.2024, all Central Sector Schemes with annual outlay of Rs. 100 more or more, irrespective of implementation through Central or State agencies, shall be implemented through Model-1 of DoE's guidelines dated 09.03.2022. The mode of funding between the Department and all the stakeholders is currently being converted from CNA Module 2 to TSA Module 1. Also, Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) have been circulated amongst the stakeholders for further clarity on the operation of the module and seamless transition from CNA Module 2 to TSA Module 1”.

2.17 To a query on the measurable benefits that have been observed since implementing the CNA module in terms of fund release speed, transparency, and administrative efficiency and how this initiative has improved the accuracy or timeliness of fund disbursements across schemes like ADIP, SIPDA, and DDRS, the Department informed as under :-

“The benefits of adopting the CNA Module are transparency and efficiency in administrative control over fund flow. Adopting the CNA Module also results in avoidance of the problem arising due to parking of funds with the implementing agencies. However, release of funds is affected by many factors such as timely submission of documents like UCs, project reports, photos of the project in question, Submission of proposals and documents in proper formats, acclimatization with the CNA module etc”.

**2.18 The Committee observe that from 2021-22 to 2023-24, there has been a consistent trend of under spending compared to both Revised Estimates (RE) and Budget Estimates (BE), with actual expenditures falling short across various schemes of the Department. While the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has locked both the allocations and physical targets for the schemes under the Department, including ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships, for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the Department must address the recurring shortfalls in fund utilization. The Committee urge the Department to conduct a thorough review of the factors contributing to the underutilization of funds and take immediate and focused remedial actions. The Committee are also of the opinion that proactive engagement with stakeholders is essential to address delays in proposal submissions from State Governments, NGOs, and implementing agencies, ensuring timely and complete proposals to facilitate smooth fund release. Streamlining fund disbursement processes, particularly for skill training programs and capital expenditure, is crucial to mitigating delays and enhancing program delivery. Furthermore, given the challenges in meeting the fixed targets for schemes like SIPDA and DDRS, the Department should reassess the targets setting to ensure they are realistic and achievable while maintaining flexibility in adjustments based on performance trends. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department should take decisive actions to improve fund utilization and achieve the intended outcomes of all the schemes in the remaining years of the current financial cycle (2023-2026). This will ensure that the resources allocated for the welfare of persons with disabilities are utilized effectively, enabling the Department to meet the targets set under various Schemes.**

## CHAPTER III

### ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS/APPLIANCES (ADIP)

The main objective of the Scheme is to provide grants-in-aid to the various implementing agencies (National Institutes/ Composite Regional Centres /Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India(ALIMCO)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres/State Handicapped Development Corporations/other local bodies/ NGOs) to assist needy persons with disabilities in procuring durable, scientifically manufactured standard aids and appliances to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities through reducing the effects of disabilities and at the same time enhancing their economic potential. Assistive devices are given to Persons with Disabilities with the aim of improving their independent functioning, and arresting the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability.

3.2 Regarding eligibility criteria under the Scheme, the Committee were informed as under:-

- (i) Holding a UDID card issued by the Ministry with at least 40% disability.
- (ii) Monthly income from all sources not to exceed ₹22,500/ per month for 100% assistance and ₹22,501/- to ₹30,000/- per month for 50% assistance.
- (iii) New assistive devices are provided after 3 years. However, for children below 18 years of age, the minimum time of assistance is one year for customized items.

3.3 The following statement shows the BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the ADIP Scheme for the last three financial years and BE for 2024-25:-

(₹ in Cr )

Financial Year	Budget Allocation	Revised Estimates	Actual expenditure
2021-22	220.00	180	198.70



2022-23	235.00	230	242.29
2023-24	245.00	305	290.60
2024-25	315.00		247.25 (as on 29.10.2024)

3.4 From the above table it is observed that the ADIP Scheme has shown a consistent performance over the past three financial years in terms of expenditure utilization. In 2021-22, the Budget Allocation (BE) was ₹220 crore, but the Revised Estimates (RE) were lowered to ₹180 crore, with actual expenditure of ₹198.70 crore, reflecting an 8.5% over-expenditure compared to the RE. In 2022-23, the BE increased to ₹235 crore, and the RE was ₹230 crore. Actual expenditure in this year exceeded the RE, reaching ₹242.29 crore, showing an efficient utilization of resources. For 2023-24, the BE was ₹245 crore, but the RE was significantly revised upward to ₹305 crore. Actual spending stood at ₹290.60 crore, achieving 95.3% of the RE and 118.6 per cent of the BE, reflecting strong financial management and an increased demand for aids and appliances under the scheme. The Budget Allocation for 2024-25 is set at ₹315 crore and as of October 2024, actual expenditure is ₹247.25 crore which suggests the need for effective expenditure management in the remaining part of the year to fully utilize the allocated funds.

3.5 The Committee sought details of the persistent upward revision of revised and actual expenditure for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 and whether the Department has thought of making changes to its projecting mechanism. The Department has informed as under:-

“The persistent upward revision of revised and actual expenditure for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 can be attributed to several factors. Primarily, there has been an increasing demand for high-end assistive devices such as motorized tricycles, cochlear implants, High-end prostheses, smart phones, etc., for PwDs. Additionally, requests from Members of Parliament and other dignitaries across the country to organize camps for the distribution of aids and assistive devices have further contributed to the rise in expenditure under the ADIP Scheme. Furthermore, there has been an approximate 20% increase in beneficiaries from

2022-23 to 2023-24, which has also necessitated a corresponding increase in expenditure”.

3.6 The Committee were also informed that

“The enhanced demand of allocation has been made under the ADIP Scheme. During the current financial year, out of the allocation of ₹315.00 crore, so far ₹247.52 crore has been released for distribution of aids & assistive devices under various activities. Further, it is to mention that Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is one of the major implementing agencies under the ADIP Scheme distributing aids & assistive devices across the country. ALIMCO has demanded an amount of ₹275.99 crore for distribution of aids & assistive devices under Headquarter Activities, Camp activities, ADIP- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), out of which ₹106.45 crore has been released to ALIMCO, and ₹169.54 is yet to be released. 1403 camps have been organised by ALIMCO this year. Further, it is also to mention that 145 camps have been held wherein assessments have been completed for distribution of aids & assistive devices of worth ₹79.81 crore on the request of Hon’ble Member of Parliament/other dignitaries. There are additional 331 districts/places wherein assessments are to be carried out”.

3.7 To a query on the manner in which the allocations are disbursed, the Department has submitted as under :-

“The allocations under the ADIP Scheme is spent through Grant-in-Aid released to various Implementing Agencies viz., ALIMCO, National Institutes, Composite Regional Centre/ Non-Government Organisation etc who undertake Headquarter and Camp activity for distribution of aids and assistive devices. Apart from this, ADIP Scheme in convergence with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) i.e. ADIP SSA, distributes aids and assistive devices to students with special needs (SwSN) in collaboration with Ministry of Education in 60:40 ratio of cost sharing. Also, Cochlear Implantation is being conducted through Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai that act as the nodal agency for implementation of Cochlear Implantation. Advertisements & publicity are also released in local newspapers where camps are organized for enhancing awareness of ADIP Scheme”.

3.8 The Committee were informed by the Secretary during the course of oral evidence regarding the various initiatives taken with regard to the ADIP Scheme during the last one year as under :-

*"Sir, we have done lot of simplifications in the scheme last month. For high end prosthetics which cost up to ₹30-35 thousand, very good artificial knee joint etc. We have reduced criteria from 80 per cent to 40 per cent. For school children, earlier it was only for schools with education department. Now, even children doing home schooling children who are really immobile or in special schools, they can get this benefit. Sir, earlier, up to 12 years, we used to give an item every year to children. We have increased it to 18 years. There was demand that children are in growing age bracket even up to the age of 18 years. So, they want replacement every year. So, we increased age from ten to 18 years. Then, they had to get a certificate from Patwari or SDM or a Notary Gazetted officer or something. We said self-certification of income. This we did last month. Then, Sir, if someone gives with let us say whose leg is cut off, then we do not even wait for disability certificate. We can see that your leg is not there, we will immediately give you without asking the papers. For example, this motorized wheel chair etc was ₹42000. Now, we are giving lithium battery based also and we subsidise it up to ₹50,000. There, I will request all the hon. Members also that for normal battery thing is about ₹40,000. We take hundred per cent care. Our lithium battery motorised vehicle is ₹62,000 I guess. There, we are requesting hon. Members or CSR funding or beneficiary pays etc ₹12,000. Up to ₹50,000 we cover. So, people are taking lithium battery and they are demanding. In fact, Alimco gets almost hundred crore rupees as CSR from all our profit-making PSUs and lot of private companies also".*

### **Physical progress under the ADIP Scheme**

3.9 The information pertaining to physical target and achievement under the ADIP Scheme for the last three years and for 2024-25 is as follows:-

<b>2021-22 Target</b>	<b>2021-22 Achieve ment</b>	<b>2022-23 Target</b>	<b>2023 Achieve ment</b>	<b>2023-24 Target</b>	<b>2023-24 Achieve ment</b>	<b>2024-25 Target</b>	<b>2024-25 Achieve ment</b>
2.00 Lakh	2.43 Lakh	2.05 lakhs	2.89 lakhs	2.15 Lakhs	3.46 Lakhs	3.15 Lakhs	1.14 Lakhs (as on 29.10.20 24)

The ADIP Scheme has demonstrated consistent performance in assisting beneficiaries over the past several years, with achievements surpassing the set targets. In 2021-22, the target of 2.00 lakh beneficiaries was exceeded with 2.43 lakh beneficiaries receiving assistance, achieving 121.5 per cent of the target. In 2022-23, the target was increased to 2.05 lakh, and the scheme exceeded this with 2.89 lakh beneficiaries assisted, reaching 140.0 per cent of the target. Similarly, in 2023-24, the target was set at 2.15 lakh beneficiaries, and the scheme successfully reached 3.46 lakh beneficiaries, surpassing the target by 160.0 per cent be given to ensuring the timely and effective distribution of aids and appliances to meet the 2024-25 target.

3.10 Regarding physical target fixed for year 2024-25 under the ADIP Scheme , the Committee were informed that during 2024-25 the scheme is set to benefit 3,15,000 Persons with Disabilities. Till date, 33.49 percent of physical target has only been achieved. Due to imposition of Model Code of Conduct on account of General Elections, the pace of expenditure on distribution of aids and assistive devices was slow during the initial period of the current financial year. In order to make up for the shortfall in the first quarter, all out efforts are being made to organize camps across the country.

3.11 With reference to a query on the process for quality control of the aids and appliances supplied under this scheme, the Committee were informed as under :-

“Under the ADIP Scheme, the aids and assistive devices must have due certification. ALIMCO is the major implementing agency that is manufacturing/distributing aids & assistive devices to the Divyangjans under the Scheme. The quality control measures followed by ALIMCO are as under:

- a) There is a well-structured in-house Multi Level Quality control check system for incoming material, in-process and final products.
- b) Quarterly quality checks for 16 fast moving products is done by Quality Council of India (QCI), A Govt. of India Organization.
- c) Satisfactory Quality Compliance certified has been issued by QCI since FY 2019-20.

- d) Certifications of Quality Management System (QMS) & Environmental Management System (EMS) Certification *i.e.* ISO 9001-2015 & ISO 14001-2015 from Bureau of Indian Standards have been obtained for 19 categories of aids and assistive devices.
- e) ISI marked material are procured wherever available.
- f) Quality control has been upgraded through procurement of new quality check equipment/ machineries.
- g) State of the art CNC machines and automated plants have been introduced for production of parts and components in process controlled environment.
- h) Transportation is done by closed body containers at camp sites”.

3.12 Regarding the method of replacement of defective or poor quality aids and appliances, the Department has submitted as under:-

“The aids and assistive devices distributed to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are generally of high quality. As per the Scheme guidelines, repair/replacement for defective aids/appliances are taken care of by concerned implementing agencies for 01 year from the date of distribution. Further, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a Central Public Sector Enterprises under this Department is one of the major implementing agencies for providing aids & assistive devices to the Divyangjan. Hence, in case, any defect in aids & assistive devices is reported by any beneficiary, immediate appropriate action is taken to rectify the defect at the nearest Centre of the Corporation for the convenience of PwDs. ALIMCO has a well defined system of fixing responsibility and accountability in the event of any major problem concerning quality of aids and assistive devices. Disciplinary proceedings are undertaken in the event of failure to comply with the standardized quality of aids & assistive devices. ALIMCO has also opened 61 number of ALIMCO Authorized Sales and Repair Agency (AASRA) in different locations across India for after sales support of aids and appliances distributed by the Corporation”.

3.13 The Department has informed that Arjun ADIP-MIS' Portal for ADIP Scheme has been developed through C-DAC to facilitate near Real Time Monitoring of beneficiary data and also prevent & check duplication of beneficiaries. It also includes online registration of beneficiaries for new devices/repair and files grievances and facilitates the implementing agencies in data management and compliance. To a query on whether this portal is currently functional and how has it improved the data management under the scheme, the Department have informed as under:-

"The Portal was formally launched and became functional from 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. All ADIP beneficiaries data since, 2014 have been uploaded on the portal. It facilitates in checking duplicity of beneficiaries, online submission of beneficiaries data, and reduced time lag and digitization of records of beneficiary data. It also facilitates beneficiaries in applying for aids and appliances in online mode".

3.14 To a question on the response and challenges faced by the Department and the data on the number of users are registered in this portal till date, the Department has given the following information:-

"All the implementing agencies receiving grant-in-aid since 2014 have registered themselves on the portal and are uploading beneficiaries data. Till date, 116 Implementing Agencies are registered on ARJUN Portal and have uploaded data of 24,71,293 beneficiaries of ADIP Scheme. This portal facilitates Implementing Agencies feed the data of beneficiaries at the time of assessment and submit the beneficiary data at the time of distribution. This portal fetches beneficiary data directly from UDID number of beneficiary. Also, the Department has made it mandatory for the Implementing Agencies to submit the data of beneficiaries within two (02) days of distribution of aids and appliances on the Portal.

Implementing Agencies sometime face network issues in remote areas while uploading beneficiaries data resulting in time lag in date of distribution and feeding of data on the portal which affects real-time monitoring. Secondly, this Scheme caters to beneficiaries mostly from weaker sections with low literacy. Therefore, most of beneficiaries face difficulties in applying for aids and appliances in online mode".

## **Modernization of ALIMCO**

3.15 Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a Schedule 'C' Mini ratna Category-II, Central Public Sector Enterprises, is functioning under the Administrative Control of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. It is 100 per cent Government of India Enterprise with an objective of benefiting the differently abled persons and Senior Citizens to the maximum extent possible by manufacturing Rehabilitation Aids for persons with disabilities & Senior Citizens and by promoting, encouraging and developing the availability, use, supply and distribution of Artificial Limbs and other Rehabilitation Aids.

3.16 Profit is not the motive of Corporation and its main thrust is providing better quality of Aids & Appliances to larger number of differently able persons & Senior Citizens at reasonable price. The Corporation started manufacturing artificial aids in 1976. At present It has six Auxiliary Production Centres (AAPCs) situated at Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Jabalpur (M.P.), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Mohali (Punjab), Ujjain (MP) Faridabad (Haryana). The Corporation has five Marketing Centres at New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Guwahati.

3.17 ALIMCO has demanded an amount of ₹275.99 crore for distribution of aids & assistive devices under Headquarter Activities, Camp activities, ADIP- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), out of which 106.45 crore has been released to ALIMCO, and ₹169.54 cr is yet to be released. 1403 camps have been organised by ALIMCO this year. Further, it is also mentioned that 145 camps have been held wherein assessments have been completed for distribution of aids & assistive devices of worth ₹79.81 crore on the request of Hon'ble Member of Parliament/other dignitaries. There are additional 331 districts/places wherein assessments are to be carried out.

3.18 The Committee was informed that the modernization plan of ALIMCO was implemented at an approximate cost of ₹325 crore, comprising ₹200 crore as a

government grant and ₹125 crore from ALIMCO's internal accruals. This initiative has significantly enhanced the organization's operational capacity, leading to a remarkable increase in turnover from Rs 350 crore in 2021-22 to ₹634 crore in 2023-24. Additionally, the production capacity has increased by 2.5 times, reflecting the positive impact of the modernization efforts on ALIMCO's performance and efficiency.

3.19 The Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities during course of evidence before the Committee also stated as under:-

*"Sir, ALIMCO modernisation started almost five years ago. Last year, we actually started new production. So, about ₹325 crore was spend, ₹200 crore from Government grant and ₹125 crore from ALIMCO internal.*

*Sir, our turnover in last two years has increased from ₹350 crore to ₹634 crore. Our actual target in next two years is to touch ₹1000 crore in ALIMCO factory. Our production capacity has increased by 2.5 times. We are very proud of the production quality. We are doing robotic welding. We are doing automatic painting. We have got now European certification also and we have started some exports also even to western countries because we have got their certifications also".*

3.20 The Committee were also informed that the Department has taken a major step of opening Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) of ALIMCO. These PMDKs are the walk-in centres where eligible beneficiary can directly avail required aids and appliances free of cost by visiting these centers. So far, 64 PMDKs are functional.

3.21 Emphasizing this, the Secretary of the Department deposed before the Committee as under:-

*"Now, Sir, we have almost 65 PM-Divyasha kendra in different bigger cities and at bigger hospitals. If any one walks in, we try to give an assistive device on the same day. If we have to basically take the measurement of any amputated leg and then prepare the device, by next day, we try to give. But if it is wheel chair or hearing aid or something like this, we give on the same day and at the same time.*

*Sir, due to PM-Divyansha Kendras, if you see, one year back, we just had 10 locations and today, we have about 70 locations. Idea is that in the next two years, we will have 300 locations where people can walk in and get the fitments done on the same day".*



**3.22 The Committee find that the ADIP Scheme has consistently demonstrated commendable performance in empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) through efficient financial management, exceeding physical targets, and adopting innovative measures. The utilization of funds has been robust, surpassing revised estimates. The scheme's ability to achieve 121.5 per cent, 140.0 per cent and 160.0 per cent of its physical targets in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, respectively, reflects its effectiveness. The Committee are confident that the target in 2024-25 would be easily met .**

**3.23 The Committee find that while Digital innovations like the Arjun ADIP-MIS Portal have enhanced data management, the challenges like network issues in remote areas and difficulties faced by beneficiaries with low literacy must be addressed. The Committee in this regard would like to recommend that, offline data collection mechanisms that sync with the portal when connectivity is available which can bridge this gap may be explored by the Department. Additionally, user-friendly features and multilingual support can make the portal more accessible.**

**3.24 The Committee note that the Department has taken a major step to establish Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) of ALIMCO, the walk-in centers, where eligible beneficiary can directly avail required aids and appliances free of cost. The Committee find that expansion of Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) provides greater accessibility to services. The Committee commend the Department on the establishment of 64 functional PMDKs in the country and hope that the plan of the Department of scaling this initiative to the planned 300 centers over the next two years will improve accessibility and reduce dependency on ADIP camps. The Committee recommend that the Department ensure that these centers are equipped with adequate staff and resources for same-day fitments to the beneficiaries.**

**3.25 The Committee find that the production capacity of ALIMCO has enhanced by 2.5 times and its turnover increased from ₹350 crore in 2021-22 to ₹634 crore in 2023-24 after modernization. The Committee would like to commend the Department on the performance and efficiency of ALIMCO. The Committee are of the opinion that there is a requirement of Leveraging ALIMCO's Modernization. They feel that ALIMCO's enhanced capacity and European certifications open opportunities for global partnerships and exports. Encouraging ALIMCO to adopt cutting-edge technologies and explore newer product lines tailored to diverse disabilities can further elevate its impact. The Committee would like the Department to further explore this aspect.**

**3.26 The Committee find that many eligible beneficiaries may remain unaware of the scheme or its benefits. They therefore recommend that the Department may explore collaborations with local governments, NGOs, and media platforms for extensive awareness campaigns which can enhance enrollment.**

## CHAPTER -IV

### **SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016 (SIPDA).**

The objective of the Scheme is providing financial assistance for undertaking various activities outlined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act). The RPwD Act, 2016 endorses the rights of Persons with Disabilities for access to education, vocational training, employment, public transport, built-up environment, and information and communication ecosystems and upholds their independence and dignity.

4.2 SIPDA is an umbrella scheme of the Department comprising of following 10 sub-schemes:

- a. Creation of Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities
- b. Accessible India Campaign (AIC)
- c. Divyang Samarth Yojana [National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Training of Persons with Disabilities and Incentive to Private Employer].
- d. Unique Disability ID (UDID) Project
- e. Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) with In-service Training and Sensitization of key functionaries of Central & State Governments, Local Bodies and Other Provider.
- f. Financial support to Study and Research on priority areas of disability sector and to Research & Development of suitable product, aids & appliances for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- g. Assistance to Spinal Injury Centers (State Spinal Injury Centre (SSIC) and Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC))
- h. Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centre
- i. **Projects under SIPDA:**
  - Financial Support for Development of Accessible Learning Materials
  - Financial Assistance for the existing Deaf Colleges in five regions of the Country
- j. Central Project Management Unit (CPMU) cum Data Strategy Unit

4.3 Regarding the major highlights under SIPDA , the Department has submitted as under :-

- a. "The Department along with The Council of Architecture (CoA) conducted the 2nd phase of Training of Master trainers in July 2024 with the aim of enhancing the workforce in the field of accessibility audit. A mandatory course on inclusion in B.Arch course has also been formulated by the CoA.
- b. IIT Kharagpur has developed a mandatory courses for inclusion in B. Tech/ B. Plan curriculum. DEPwD has requested AICTE to include these courses in their model curriculum.
- c. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Department and Enable Me Association (EMA) with an aim to provide training on Universal Design using Indian accessibility Standards.
- d. Department has also signed 20 Non-financial MoUs with various companies like, Youth4Jobs, Atypical advantage, Volvo, Zomato etc. that are working for employment of PwDs.
- e. The revised guidelines for Assessment of Disabilities dated 12 March, 2024 have been notified and published in the Gazette of India on 14 March, 2024.
- f. Till date 04 workshops for training on revised disability assessment guidelines have been held. 1432 medical professionals attended these trainings programs. 4 more trainings are lined up in next couple of months.
- g. Since inception more than 1.13 crore UDID Cards have been generated
- h. The UDID portal was revamped on 06.05.2024.
- i. Formats of UDID certificates, application forms have been simplified and published in the Gazetted of India on 16.10.2024
- j. Many security checks have been introduced in Swavlamban portal to avert duplicity"

4.4 The major components of SIPDA are as under:

### **National Action Plan for Skill Training of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP)**

The National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)(NAP-SDP) is a Central Sector Scheme implemented across the country under which training is conducted via a network of empanelled training partners(ETPs) comprising Government organizations (including organizations of the Department such as NDFDC,NIIs/CRCs) and Non Govt. Organisations (NGOs). The PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment,

and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs. Skill training and employment to PwDs is being imparted via the (a) Divyangjan Kaushal Vikas (b) Divyangjan Rozgar Setu Modules.

4.5 Regarding the achievements under this sub-scheme , the Secretary DEPwD stated before the Committee as under

*" In the skills, we have done a lot of non-financial MOUs with a lot of companies. Sir, there are job aggregators like Youth for Jobs, Enable India, Atypical Advantage, Sarthak etc. These are, sir, big NGOs who work with a lot of private companies to bring jobs to people. For example, Sarthak must have created more than 5,000 jobs in private sector for people with blindness. Similarly, Youth for Jobs would have created 10,000 jobs for, practically, locomotor and deaf kids. A lot of companies like, sir, Amazon has now hired, after MOUs with us, more than 1,600 people already. They have promised us that by next year they will have 3,000 employees on their payrolls. Sir, Zomato and Swiggy and Flipkart, they have already deployed in the country more than ,2000 wheelchair users as delivery boys and girls. They have promised to take the number to 6,000 by next year. So, we are working very, very closely with, sir, all big players". Verbatim pg 14*

### **Accessible India Campaign/Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan**

4.6 Accessible India Campaign (AIC) was launched on December 3, 2015 for creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Built Environment, Transport, and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem. The Campaign has the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of PwDs so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives. The Secretary, DEPwD, during the course of oral evidence has stated about the programme as under :-

*"The Accessible India Campaign (AIC) is a flagship initiative of your Department, but the programme continues to face challenges such as slow progress and delays in utilization certificate submission. We seek a clearer understanding of specific measures the Department is adopting to expedite these processes and support States and Union Territories that may be struggling to meet the program's accessibility targets. In addition, we are interested in updates on the*

*Sugamya Bharat App's effectiveness in capturing real-time accessibility concerns and the feedback received from the PwD community on this tool”.*

4.7 The Secretary further informed as under

*"Sir, two years back, we just had three Departments who had issued the Gazette notifications, which were road transport, buildings, which is a MoHUA department, and digital accessibility. Now, sir, we have 17 departments, including health department, tourism department, MHA regarding police stations, education department regarding schools being accessible to the children with disabilities. Not only buildings, but the content also is under it. Not only school building, but school books and online material also, the way the exam is taken – all come under it. So, these are all parts of the harmonised guidelines. We have signed MOUs with the Kharagpur IIT and the Council of Architecture to train a lot of architects and town planners in the country so that whenever any building plan is made like a shopping mall or a cinema hall or a big building, the architect should know the disability especially the harmonised guidelines. With a lot of NGOs and companies, we are doing certification to become auditors for physical infrastructure or digital infrastructure”.*

### **Unique Disability ID Project (UDID)**

4.8 The UDID Card or Unique Disability Identity card is an initiative by Government of India for creating a National Database for PwDs and issue a Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities. The Department has instituted an online portal ([www.swavalambancard.gov.in](http://www.swavalambancard.gov.in)) where the medical authorities notified by the respective State Government have been on-boarded for issuance of disability certificate/Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The disability certificate/UDID card is issued by the notified medical authority of State/UT.

4.9 One of the primary issues generating the highest number of complaints is the cumbersome process of obtaining disability certificates. In this regard , the Secretary, DEPwD, during the course of oral evidence has stated:-

*"People still complain that they have to make multiple trips to hospital to get a disability certificate. So, we have really simplified the guidelines in March, 2024.*

*Discretion of doctor has been reduced. We have allowed the expansion of hospitals and the head will remain a Government doctor only. But they can hire private specialists also. So, we have really simplified the guidelines, sir. Sir, there are about 3,000 doctors in the country issuing disability certificates. We have already trained 1,432 and given them one or two-day full training on new guidelines. We have simplified and totally revamped the portal also. Again, only 15 days back we have further simplified the rules and further reduced the form. We have really made Aadhaar, etc. compulsory. So, some tightening also has been done despite simplification”.*

### **Performance of the SIPDA Scheme**

4.10 The Budget allocation, revised allocation and actual expenditure incurred under SIPDA Scheme for the last three financial years and BE 2024-25 are as under:-

(₹ in Crores)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals
2021-22	209.77	147.31	108.44
2022-23	240.39	100	65.59
2023-24	150	67	76.79
2024-25	135.33		21.67 (as on 29.10.2024)

4.11 Given the statistics above, the Committee enquired about the rationale for setting overly ambitious targets in the Budget Estimates (BE), which are later revised downward in the Revised Estimates (RE), and ultimately not achieving even the revised targets. In Reply, the Department has submitted as under:-

“Under the Accessible India Campaign sub- scheme, it was expected that the States/ UTs will submit the proposal for availing 2<sup>nd</sup> instalments for approximately 300+ buildings. But, the Department did not receive proposals as per expectations. Due to this aforementioned reason the targets were initially kept at higher side at BE which had to be revised to lower side in the year 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Skill Training: Due to COVID-19 related restrictions training commencement could begin only after August,2020. Validation of training centres was made mandatory.Allocation of targets and commencement of training was allowed only at centres validated by Sector Skill Council for Persons with (SCPwD) or Skill Management and Accreditation of Training Centres (SMART).Training under new projects was not allowed for those ETPs which had not completed previous projects.

During Financial Year 2022-23Grants-in-Aid to the various empanelled ETPs were to be released through Central Nodal Agency (CNA). However, in the initial stages, due to some difficulties, such as non-linking of CNA Account with various ETP accounts, release of payments could not be made as per anticipation of the Department”.

4.12 To a query on whether the funds allocated for 2024-25 are sufficient to meet the expenditure expected to be incurred to achieve the target fixed, the Department has informed as under :-

“The Department had proposed to retain the BE allocation of FY 2023-24 for the financial year 2024-25 with the objective of maintaining momentum of the ongoing activities and also to initiate new activities as approved by the Cabinet. In case of additional requirement of funds under Schemes or Non Schemes, the additional demand for grants would be raised at the RE stage. These schemes are demand driven and funds are released to implementing agency based on the proposals received from States/UTs/Institutions/NGOs and individuals etc. Accordingly, funds are released to NIs/CRCs on the basis of demand received from them”.

4.13 The details of measures taken/contemplated by the Department for achievement of targets fixed for 2024-25 are as under:-

“Department has taken up the matter by letter and meeting with IAs/States/NGOs and other stakeholders for sensitizing them for providing UCs and complete documents so that funds under various schemes could be released timely. Department is bringing out awareness about the benefits of the schemes being implemented by this Department by organizing Divya Kala Mela, Divya Sakti Mela, workshops, Seminars, Calendar events etc. under AGP Scheme of this Department.



Department also organises meetings with different stakeholders on the issue of grievance being faced by PwDs/NGOs and on the basis of suggestions/feedback, Department incorporates the suggestions as appropriate.

Department has taken various initiatives to streamline the implementation of the scheme and the entire allocation of funds would be utilized during the financial year. Proposals from various State governments are expected for release of GIA, training programs with premier institutions like The Council of Architecture, IIT Kharagpur etc are ongoing. Training in web accessibility along with NIC is also being imparted.

Under AGP Sub- Scheme, awareness generation campaign and sensitization programme such as Divya Kala Mela/Divya Kala Shakti are being implemented by NDFDC a PSU under the Department.

Under Skill Training Sub- Scheme, Department has launched PM- DAKSH-DEPwD Portal for effective implementation of NAP-SDP Scheme This portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment, and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs. Monitoring the bio-metric attendance of PwDs, getting skill training from NGOs are also being done through Portal.

Further, MOU with the various E-Commerce Companies like Amazon for placement of PwDs on Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD) model, Non-Government Organization like Youth4jobs, Saarthak, Swaraj Ability etc. to increase the placement opportunities of trained PwDs for achieving the targets.

Department has taken various initiatives as mentioned to streamline the implementation of the scheme and it is expected that the entire allocation of funds would be utilized during the financial year”.

4.14 Regarding the challenges faced in the implementation of the Scheme, the Department have submitted as under:-

“Creation of Barrier free environment and Accessible India Campaign are the two major sub-schemes under the umbrella of SIPDA. These are the demand driven sub-schemes. Expenditure under these sub-schemes depends upon the receipt of compliant proposal from the state/UT governments for retrofitting of existing public buildings. Further, the department released the GIA for retrofitting of approximately 1000 buildings upto 2020-21. During that period, outbreak of COVID-19 affected the construction activity which resulted in non-completion of retrofitting of buildings. The ongoing works were halted and took longer time to complete than expected, resulting in delay in submission of Utilization

Certificates of first installment of funds. Without Utilization Certificates, the release of further fund tranches was not possible.

There were various challenges in implementation of Skill Development Programme for PwDs. As a result; the funds earmarked during the past financial years could not be fully utilized”.

4.15 The Department have assured that the challenges are being addressed through various measures and it is expected that in future the scheme will be implemented properly and budget earmarked will be fully utilized.

4.16 Regarding the major areas of shortfall and measures taken by Department to overcome the shortfalls from 2021-22 to the current period, the Committee have been informed as under:-

“The main areas of shortfall for the Department has been under the Built up Environment section of the AIC scheme. It was expected that the States/ UTs will submit the proposal for availing 2<sup>nd</sup> instalments for approximately 300+ buildings. But, the Department did not receive proposals as per expectations.

To overcome the shortfall, the DEPwD has come up with innovative approaches like conducting various training programs for Accessibility Auditors in collaboration with the Council of Architecture and few private players as well. Also, the Department has been in constant touch with institutes like IIT Kharagpur and Council of Architecture to develop professional courses for inclusion into degree curriculum. Some initiatives of the Department include course development for B.Tech and B.Plan with IIT Kharagpur, developing a Manual for Universal accessibility with Council of Architecture, The Department is also in process to include the aforementioned courses into model AICTE curriculum.

Under Skill Training: Mobilization of PwDs for training, availability of suitable courses/curriculum linked to job demand in the market, tracking of placed candidates, insufficient availability of good training providers across the country, non-availability of sector specific certified trainers, non-availability of accessible training centres for all types of disabilities have been some of the major challenges in implementation of the scheme.

In order to address these issues, the Department has taken various initiatives like, preparing courses/curriculum based on the contemporary job demand in coordination with Sector Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD), signing of MOUs with E-Commerce Companies like Amazon for placement of PwDs on Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD) model, and Non-Government Organization like Youth4jobs, Saarthak, and Swaraj Ability to increase the placement opportunities of trained PwDs.

Further, the NAP-SDP has been on boarded on PM-DAKSH Portal which provides a vast pool of empanelled training partners. PwDs have the opportunity to apply for the skill training as per their choice of training partner, place of training centre and desired job role. Complete training data right from the registration of PwD for the training up to their placement will be available on the portal.

The above said measures will result in better implementation of the schemes”.

**4.17 The Committee find that the SIPDA scheme has made significant stride in enhancing the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Collaborative initiatives, such as training programs with IIT Kharagpur and the Council of Architecture, have strengthened professional expertise in accessibility auditing and design. Non-financial MoUs with prominent companies like Amazon, Flipkart, and Zomato have successfully expanded the employment opportunities for PwDs, utilizing models such as Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD). The PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal has emerged as a one-stop digital platform for skill training and employment tracking, offering a more integrated approach to empowering PwDs. The Committee believe that issuance of over 1.13 crore Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards and the launch of a revamped portal have improved accessibility and streamlined the identification process for PwDs. The Committee recommend leveraging the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal, establishing regional training hubs, and deepening industry collaborations to enhance skill training and placement opportunities for PwDs.**

**4.18 The Committee note that the scheme faces challenges, particularly in fund utilization. Allocated budgets have often gone underutilized due to delays in receiving project proposals and incomplete utilization certificates, especially under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC). Efforts to create a barrier-free environment remain slow, with limited participation from States and UTs. Given that SIPDA is one of the largest umbrella schemes administered by the Department, such underperformance raises concerns about the adequacy of planning and execution by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should emphasize improved coordination with States/UTs to ensure timely submission of proposals and optimal fund utilization, supported by a real-time tracking mechanism for project milestones. The Committee urge the Department to**

**scale accessibility efforts by forging partnerships with NGOs and private players to accelerate retrofitting initiatives and provide training in universal design principles.**

**4.19 To simplify the disability certification process, the Committee recommend deploying mobile certification teams and utilizing digital tools to improve access for underserved areas. The Committee further recommend organizing awareness campaigns, such as Divya Kala Melas, and conducting stakeholder workshops to improve outreach and implementation. The Committee urge the Department to allocate dedicated R&D funding and foster collaborations with premier institutions to develop assistive devices and innovative solutions tailored to PwD needs.**

**4.20 The Committee recommend incentivizing States/UTs with performance-linked grants for achieving significant progress under SIPDA and providing targeted support to underperforming regions. The Committee urge the Department to integrate universal accessibility principles into education curriculums and establish a National Center for Accessibility to serve as a hub for research, training, and policy advocacy. The Committee recommend strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms, using AI and digital tools like the Sugamya Bharat App to enhance real-time tracking, optimize training outcomes, and address accessibility challenges effectively, advancing SIPDA's mission to empower PwDs.**

## **CHAPTER V**

### **DEENDAYAL DIVYANGJAN REHABILITATION SCHEME (DDRS)**

Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme is a Central Sector scheme of the Department to provide grant-in-aid to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or socio-functional levels. The Scheme is being implemented since 1999 with the objective of ensuring effective implementation of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

5.2 Regarding disbursement, the Committee have been informed that Proposals for Grant-in-aid for DDRCs under Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) were accepted through offline mode till the FY 2023-24. Now the Department has developed centralized on-line application software with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC) on the website of the Ministry [www.grants-msje.gov.in](http://www.grants-msje.gov.in). The Project Implementing Agencies have to register on NGO-Darpan portal and apply on e-Anudaan for release of GIA. All requisite documents along with disability certificate/UDID cards of beneficiaries are uploaded on the e-Anudaan portal. All financial assistance is provided to the Implementing agencies through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

5.3 The eligibility conditions for Grants under DDRS are as under:-

Organizations registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), or any relevant Act of the State/Union Territory; or a Trust registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 or any other similar Act for the time being in force; or a Not-for-Profit company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 or any relevant Act for the time being in force.

a. Registration should have been in force for at least 2 years at the time of applying for grant under this scheme.

- b. Must be registered in the NITI Aayog portal (NGO-Darpan) portal and obtain Unique ID of NGO-Darpan before applying for Grant under the scheme.
- c. Must be registered either under erstwhile Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 or Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- d. An organization as specified above should have the following characteristics:
  - (i) It should have a managing body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in Memorandum of Association.
  - (ii) It should have resources, facilities and experience for undertaking the programme.
  - (iii) It should not be run for profit to any individual or a body of individuals.

5.4 The DDRS Scheme has been revised with effect from 01.04.2022 and now includes the following:-

- a. Provision of Home Based Rehabilitation (HBR) and Community Based Rehabilitation have been kept in all projects except two newly started projects.
- b. Maximum age limit of the beneficiaries of ID/CP etc has been increased from 18 to 23 years
- c. New Project for Preparatory/remediation centre for children with specific learning disabilities to continue inclusive education has been kept
- d. Another New project Cross- Disability Therapy and Counselling Centre has been provisioned for all type of disabilities
- e. During the period of country wide lockdown to contain the spread of
- f. During COVID-19 pandemic, almost all the projects under DDRS were closed for a certain period. However, they were supported by release of Grant-in-aid to ensure rehabilitation services to the beneficiaries.

5.5 After the revamp, the number of model projects under revised DDRS has been reduced from 9 to 8 which have been conceptualized to cover all 21 disabilities as per RPwD, Act, 2016. From 01.04.2023, funding pattern under the scheme has been kept

on Advance cum reimbursement mode. The list of eight (08) model projects under revised DDRS are as under:

- a) Cross Disability Pre-Schools and Early Intervention with provision for Home-Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project
- b) Special School for the Children with Hearing Disability with option for Home Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project
- c) Special School for the Children with Visual Disability (including Deaf and blindness) with option for Home Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project and Low Vision Centre Project.
- d) Special School for the children with other disabilities (ID/CP/ASD/MD/ Muscular Dystrophy, Deaf, blindness etc) with option for Home Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project
- e) Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation Project
- f) Half Way Home for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Treated and Controlled individuals with Mental Illness with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation Project
- g) Preparatory / Remediation Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities to continue Inclusive Education Project (Newly Introduced Model Project)
- h) Cross-Disability Therapy and Counselling Centre Project.

5.6 The Committee were informed that the activities/components admissible for grant under DDRS include:

- a. Recurring: Honorarium to staff, Transportation of beneficiaries, Stipend for beneficiaries/hostel maintenance, Cost of raw materials, and Contingencies to meet office expenses, electricity & water charges, rent.
- b. Honorarium is provided to teaching staff, part time rehabilitation professionals, non teaching staff etc.
- c. Transport allowance is provided for transportation of beneficiaries from ₹625 to ₹1000 per month as per A, B, and C cities.
- d. Stipend of ₹500 per month is provided to beneficiaries



- e. Hostel maintenance of ₹2,125/- per month per beneficiary is provided towards residential beneficiaries.
- f. Contingency of ₹4,000 per beneficiary per annum is provided for office expenses, electricity & water charges etc.
- g. Non Recurring: Furniture, Equipments, Books etc.

5.7 The other component of the DDRS are the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC). DDRC Scheme is a sub component under the DDRS scheme from year 2019-20. Before that it was under SIPDA. DDRC is being implemented since 1999-2000. DDRCs are established for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). 325 districts were initially identified for establishing DDRCs, out of which, DDRCs were set up in 269 districts. Presently all districts of the country are authorized to establish DDRC. About 87 DDRCs are functional, including the newly inaugurated DDRCs in the month of March,2024.

5.8 The Main functions of DDRCs are: Early Identification and Intervention, awareness generation, assessment of need/provision/fitment of assistive devices, therapeutic services *e.g.* Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, etc., referral and arrangement of surgical correction, assistance in providing scholarships, skill training, arrangement of loans for self-employment, survey & identification of persons with disabilities through camp approach, assisting in the issue of UDID Cards, and to act as outreach centres for the services provided by the National Institutes and for promoting barrier free environment.

5.9 The Budgetary allocation under the Scheme alongwith target/achievements for the last 3 years and for 2024-25 are as follows:-

Year	BE (₹in Cr)	RE (₹in Crore )	AE (₹ in Crores)	Physical Target	Achievement
2021-22	125.00	105.00	100.90	40000	30173
2022-23	125.00	105.00	58.60	40000	21230
2023-24	130.00	130.00	129.98	40000	30589
2024-25	165.00	165	25.26 (as on 08.11.2024)	40000	

5.10 Analysis of the allocation and utilization under this scheme for the last three years show that the budgetary allocation for the scheme remained consistent at ₹125 crore in 2021-22 and 2022-23, increased to ₹130 crore in 2023-24, and rose to ₹165 crore in 2024-25. Revised Estimates (RE) closely matched the Budget Estimates (BE) in the first three years. Actual expenditure (AE) showed mixed results: in 2021-22, 96% of RE was utilized; in 2022-23, only 56% was utilized due to delays; in 2023-24, near-complete utilization (99% of RE) was achieved, while by November 2024, only 15% of the 2024-25 allocation had been spent. In respect of physical achievements against the target of 40,000 beneficiaries showed variability: 75% in 2021-22, 53% in 2022-23, and 76% in 2023-24.

5.11 To a query on the reasons for almost static allocation under this scheme, the Committee have been informed that Budget allocation is decided by EFC for the five year period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The details of the funds approved by the EFC in respect of DDRS are as under:-

**(₹ In crore)**

Scheme	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total
DDRS	118	117.50	117	126.50	131	610
DDRC	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>650</b>

5.12 The Committee were also apprised that :-

“As per recommendation, DEPwD will have annual budgetary flexibility for the scheme within 5 years allocation and the Department will also flexibility in budgetary outlay for two components of the scheme depending upon yearly requirement. But this will subject to that no committed liability is created beyond XVth Financial Commission Cycle period”.

5.13 Regarding the reasons for non-revision of physical targets under the scheme and the ameliorative steps being taken by the Department for realisation of the objectives of the scheme , the Committee were informed as under:-

“The number of beneficiaries under the scheme depends upon the number of projects being assisted. Number of projects supported under the scheme during previous years are almost same. From 01.04.2022, two new model projects have been started by the Department under the scheme keeping in view of the RPwD, Act 2016. Proposals for GIA under these projects are yet to be received. The number of beneficiaries will increase once the GIA is released for these projects. Screening Committee of the Department is constituted for recommendation of new projects under the scheme and necessary action for release of GIA is taken as per recommendation of the committee”.

5.14 Regarding the steps initiated to overcome barriers to the successful implementation of the Scheme, the Department has submitted as under:-

- i. Model projects have been conceptualized to cover all 21 disabilities as per RPwD, Act, 2016 and the no. of model project reduced from 9 to 8.
- ii. Maximum age limit of the ID beneficiaries has been increased from 18 to 23 years.
- iii. Grant-in-aid to the Implementing Agencies is being released on Advance-cum-reimbursement basis.
- iv. In order to provide advance GIA to the Implementing agencies to ensure the smooth implementation of projects, the scheme has been placed under CNA (Central Nodal Agency) mechanism.
- v. The implementing agencies are required to submit UDID cards form the year 2023-24 of all the beneficiaries. The data regarding UDID cards is being directly fetched through API from UDID Portal (Swavlamban Portal) *w.e.f* the year 2023-24.

vi. As per revised DDRS scheme effective from 01.10.2024, If the proposal submitted by the PIAs/NGOs on E-anudaan portal is pending at District level for one month without any action, then it will automatically be forwarded to the State Government. Further, if the same proposal is pending with the State Government for one month without any action, then it will automatically be forwarded (without recommendation of State Government) to the Department. However, this will not be applicable in case of supplementary grant being given by the State Government to the PIAs/NGOs”.

**5.15 The Committee find that while the Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) has made progress in reaching its targets, there are significant challenges in fund utilization and physical achievements. The Committee note that there were variations in actual expenditure, as only 56 per cent utilized in 2022-23 and 15 per cent utilized as of November 2024 for 2024-25, indicating inefficiencies in fund disbursement and implementation. The Committee would like to recommend that the Department enhance fund utilization efficiency by streamlining the disbursement process and implementing real-time tracking mechanisms. The Committee urge the Department to expedite the approval of new project proposals, particularly those targeting cross-disabilities and specific learning disabilities, to meet the consistent target of 40,000 beneficiaries. To address delays in project implementation, the Committee recommend strengthening the monitoring and reporting systems, alongside introducing automatic escalation for pending proposals. The Committee also recommend that the Department should incentivize timely project proposals, expand collaborations with NGOs, and provide capacity-building support to all the stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of the scheme. These steps will help overcome current bottlenecks, ensuring DDRS achieves its objectives and impacts the lives of persons with disabilities more effectively.**

## CHAPTER VI

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is implementing the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Scholarship for Students with Disabilities. The main objectives of these scholarship schemes are to empower students with disabilities to study further in order to prepare themselves for earning their livelihood and find a dignified place for themselves in the society, as they face several barriers-physical, financial, psychological in pursuing studies and living a dignified life.

6.2 The six Scholarship Schemes have been merged into an Umbrella Scheme for Scholarship for Students with Disabilities *w.e.f.* FY 2018-19. The Scholarship Scheme being implemented by this Department are as under:

- a. National Fellowship (For M.Phil./Ph.D. in Indian Universities)
- b. Pre-Matric (For Classes IX & X)
- c. Post-Matric (For Classes XI to Post-graduate degree/diploma)
- d. National Overseas Scholarship (For Master's Degree/Doctorate's in universities abroad)
- e. Top Class Education (For Post-graduate degree/diploma in notified institutes of excellence)
- f. Free Coaching (For appearing in competitive examinations for Government jobs for Group A,B and C posts and admission to technical and professional courses).

6.3 The General Conditions of Eligibility for Scholarship Scheme:

- (i) The scholarships are open only to Indian nationals.
- (ii) All the components of scholarships are open to students with benchmark disability *i.e.* 40% or more disability as defined in 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Further, the applicants should have/possess:

- (i) Aadhaar based biometric authentication.

- (ii) UDID/UDID enrolment with valid certificate of disability issued by the competent authority
- (iii) Not more than two children with disabilities of the same parents will be entitled to receive benefits of the scheme. In case the second child is a twin, the scholarship under the schemes will be admissible to the twin.
- (iv) Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, she/he would not get scholarship for that class for a second (or a subsequent) year.
- (v) A scholarship holder under this scheme will not avail any other scholarship/stipend. No scholarship will be paid to the students under this scheme from the date he/she accepts any other scholarship/stipend.

6.4 To a specific query on the criteria for various scholarship schemes, the Committee were informed as under:-

Sl.No	Scheme	Admissible allowances
1	Pre-matric Scholarship (For Classes IX and X)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance Allowance of ₹500 to ₹800 p.m.</li> <li>• Book grant @ ₹1000/-p.a. and</li> <li>• Disability allowance from ₹2000/- to ₹4000/- p.a.</li> </ul>
2	Post-matric Scholarship (For Class XI to Post-Graduate Degree/Diploma)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ₹1,200/- per month for hostellers, ₹650/- per month for day-scholars</li> <li>• Tuition fees Up to ₹1.40 lakh – per annum (subject to actual amount).</li> <li>• Miscellaneous fee Up to ₹10,000/- per annum (subject to actual amount).</li> <li>• Book allowance @ ₹1500/- p.a. and</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ₹4,000/- per annum for Visual Impairment/Intellectual Disabilities</li> <li>• ₹2000/- per annum for All other types of disabilities</li> </ul>
3	Top Class Education (For Graduate and Post-Graduate Degree/Diploma in notified institutes of excellence in education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance Allowance ₹3,000/- per month for hostellers, ₹1,500/- per month for day-scholars</li> <li>• Tuition fees Up to ₹1.90 lakh – per annum (subject to actual amount)</li> <li>• Miscellaneous Allowances Up to ₹10,000/- per annum (subject to actual amount)</li> <li>• Reimbursement of expenses for purchase of a computer/ laptop with accessories upto ₹45,000/- as a one time grant in the first year of the course.</li> <li>• Reimbursement of expenses for purchase of *Aids and Assistive devices relating to the particular disability of the selected candidates upto ₹30,000/- as a one time grant in the first year of the course</li> <li>• Special Allowances/Disability ₹2,000/- per month</li> <li>• Book allowance ₹5,000/- per annum</li> </ul>
4.	National Overseas Scholarship (For Master's Degree/Ph.D. in Institutions/Colleges/Universities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition fee As per actual</li> <li>• Maintenance allowance US\$15400 p.a for For US &amp; Other and GBP</li> </ul>



	abroad)	<p>9900 p.a for For U.K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contingency allowance US\$1500 p.a For US &amp; Other countries and GBP 1100 p.a for For U.K</li> <li>• Incidental Journey Allowance US \$ 20/-(US dollar twenty only) or its equivalent in Indian Rupees-One time</li> <li>• Equipment Allowance US \$20/-( US dollar twenty only)-One time</li> <li>• Visa Fees , Medical insurance premium Poll Tax, Mandatory travel expenditure on medical tests etc as per actual</li> <li>• Examination fee for appearing in English language/other tests</li> <li>• Local travel Second Class railway fare from the port of disembarkation to the place of study and back</li> <li>• Earning from research/teaching assistance-ship up to US\$ 2400/- (US dollars two thousand four hundred) per annum and for awardees in United Kingdom, GBP 1560/- (Great Britain Pound One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty only) per annum</li> </ul>
5	National Fellowship (For *M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fellowship @ ₹37,000/- per month</li> </ul>

	Phil and Ph.D. in Indian Universities)	<p>on the pattern/norm of JRF for in2 years And @ ₹42,000/- per month on the pattern/norm of SRF for subsequent period of maximum 3 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contingency @ ₹10,000/- p.a. for initial two years and @ ₹20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure.</li> <li>• Escort/Reader assistance @ ₹2,000/- per month</li> <li>• House Rent Allowances (HRA) @ 9%, 18% and 27% to those students who are not provided with hostel accommodation, in accordance with Govt. of India norms as applicable in the research fellows are working</li> </ul>
6	Free Coaching (For recruitment examinations for Group A, B and C posts and entrance examinations for admission to various technical and professional courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course fee from ₹40,000/- upto ₹75,000/-</li> <li>• Stipend/ Maintenance allowance : ₹4,000/- per month</li> <li>• Disability Allowances : ₹2,000/- per month</li> <li>• Book Allowance: ₹5,000 per course (One Time)</li> </ul>

These rates were fixed by EFC in 2021-22 for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

6.5 The following changes have been made in top class Education, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and Free Coaching Scholarship Scheme for effective and proper implementation for the benefit of the Divyangjan with effect from 1 April 2022:

- (i) In Top Class Education , Parents'/ Guardians' Annual Income ceiling has been enhanced from ₹6 lakhs to ₹8 lakhs per annum and One time laptop grant of ₹30,000/- has been enhanced to ₹45000/-.
- (ii) In National Overseas scholarship the Parents'/ Guardians' Annual Income ceiling has been enhanced from ₹6 lakhs to ₹8 lakhs per annum.
- (iii) Two sureties (solvency certificates) separately for a minimum amount of ₹50,000/- instead of actual amount spent by the Government have to be submitted by scholarship holder to allow extension of stay abroad beyond completion of the course or duration of the scholarship without any financial support, if a candidate obtains employment abroad, or joins any other course or is married to a person settled abroad, which was not permissible earlier.
- (iv) One time reimbursement of actual examination fee for selected candidates for appearing in English language/other tests such as GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, IELTS etc or maximum of ₹50,000/- whichever is less.
- (v) In Free Coaching Scholarship, the Parents'/ Guardians' Annual Income ceiling have been enhanced from ₹6 lakhs to ₹8 lakhs per annum

### **Performance of the Scheme**

6.6 The Budget allocation under the scheme for the last three years are given below:

(₹ in Crores)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	125.00	110.00	120.32
2022-23	105.00	145.00	142
2023-24	155.00	155.00	130.07
2024-25	142.68		

6.7 On being enquired about the physical targets and achievements under the Scheme for the last three years, the Department submitted in their written reply as under:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Physical Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
2021-22	44520	42131
2022-23	44520	44162
2023-24	44520	29374
2024-25	44520	

6.8 The Component wise financial and physical performances of Scholarship Schemes are as under:

(₹ in Crore)

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Scheme</b>		<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25 As on date 17/10/2024</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Pre-Matric</b>	Amount	12.35	21.39	11.50	3.97
		Beneficiaries	12592	21170	10791	3772
<b>2</b>	<b>Post-Matric</b>	Amount	83.12	72.31	72.68	20.40
		Beneficiaries	28347	21498	17231	6838
<b>3</b>	<b>Top Class Education</b>	Amount	5.04	7.82	8.47	7.64
		Beneficiaries	519	825	706	443
<b>4</b>	<b>National Overseas</b>	Amount	2.39	3.15	2.88	1.51
		Beneficiaries	4	15	13	8
<b>5</b>	<b>National Fellowships</b>	Amount	29.27	40.53	34.93	13.59
		Beneficiaries	669	654	633	315
<b>6</b>	<b>Free Coaching</b>	Amount	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
		Beneficiaries	0	0	0	21

Total	Amount	132.17	145.20	130.47	47.19
	Beneficiaries	42131	44162	29374	11397

6.9 Regarding the lowering of BE inspite of Revised estimates of previous year being substantially high, The Committee have been informed as under :-

“Due to implementation of UDID and various sanity checks, the duplication of beneficiaries has been reduced. Due to this, so far only 19,432 applications have been received against 42,300 slots. Therefore there is reduction in BE *vis-à-vis* previous RE allocation. Department will be able to utilize only ₹92.48 cr. (Projected expenditure) till 31.03.2025 out of allocated BE ₹142.68 Crore in year 2024-25. As per trend receipt of applications, we have reduced an amount of ₹50.20 crore at RE 2024-25 stage.

6.10 The major funds are utilized under three schemes *i.e.*, Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Top Class Education Scholarship Schemes and the status of received applications are as under:

Sl. No.	Scheme	Available slots	Total Applicants As on date 22.10.2024
1	Pre Matric Scholarship	25000	9033
2	Post Matric Scholarship	17000	9873
3	Top Class Education	300	526
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42300</b>	<b>19432</b>

6.11 To a specific query on the performance of the Scholarship Schemes, the Department has informed as under:-

“As per the trend of preceding years, only 80% applications would be finally verified by the State Nodal Officer and rest applications will be out in the sanity checks, de-duplication, red flag, re-validation mechanism. Out of ₹560 crore allocation, ₹439.94 crore has already been released between 2021-22 and 2024-25 (as on date 17.10.2024). Consequently, ₹120.06 crore remains for disbursement in the remaining period for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26. Accordingly, Department will utilize only ₹92.48 cr. as per trend of receipt of applications and its projected

expenditure till 31.03.2025 in year 2024-25. Approximately, an amount of ₹50.20 crore have to reduce at RE 2024-25 stage out of allocated BE ₹142.68 Crore for the year 2024-25.

6.12 The Department has additionally informed that while they had requested for allocation of ₹660 Crore for five year period in the EFC in 2021, only ₹560 Crore was approved . Presently, Out of BE 560 crore allocations, ₹439.94 crore has already been released between 2021-22 and 2024-25 (as on date 17.10.2024). Consequently, ₹120.06 crore remains for disbursement in the remaining period for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26. The Department has informed that they would be able to utilize only ₹92.48 cr. as per trend of receipt of applications and the projected expenditure till 31.03.2025. An amount of ₹50.20 crore have to be reduced at RE 2024-25 stage out of allocated BE ₹142.68 Crore. Further, based on current trends, the estimated ₹110 crore funds will be required for the next academic year 2025-26. Therefore, Additional fund of ₹34.80 crore will be required to fully meet the scholarship needs and ensure continued financial support for students with disabilities to access and succeed in education. For additional funds, proposal will be sent to EFC for raising demand for additional funds of ₹34.80 Crores.

6.13 Regarding the actions undertaken by the Department for timely disbursement of scholarships and preventing pendency at any level, the Department informed as below:-

“DO letters has been sent from Joint Secretary (Scholarship), DEPwD to all Principal Secretaries with request to direct State Nodal Officers to verify each application within stipulated timeline. Department is actively organizing meetings with State Nodal Officers (SNO) to ensure effective implementation of the schemes. Department is also taking necessary steps to sensitize concerned officials to clear the pendency at the level of State Nodal Officers and other Stakeholders.

Department is taking various steps to streamline the process. UDID and Aadhaar have been made mandatory for getting scholarship benefits. The scholarship amount is disbursed through the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) for smooth and fast credit.

UDID and Aadhaar seeding is reducing the need for uploading unnecessary documents. Beneficiary details are now being fetched through API from Aadhaar and UDID Portal for NSP onboarded schemes.

6.14 Regarding the monitoring mechanism in the Department to monitor the utilization of funds and steps taken to minimize fraud or mismanagement of resources, the Committee have been informed as under:-

“Under Pre-matric, Post-matric and Top Class Scholarship Scholarships, monitoring of the scheme is done by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through the National Scholarship Portal. The State Governments are required to maintain lists of beneficiaries, with necessary particulars, district-wise, and category-wise.

6.15 The following steps are involved in application verification process at National Scholarship Portal (NSP):

- (i) **Institute level verification:** The applications are verified at the school or institute level.
- (ii) **Nodal officer verification:** The applications are verified at the domicile district/state, or UT level. The State Nodal Officer verifies the application form and uploaded documents. The Nodal Officer can verify, reject, or mark the application as fake.
- (iii) **Sanity Checks/De-duplication/Red Flag/Re-validation:** National Scholarship Portal also checks applications through various online mechanisms. The doubtful applications are re-sent to the State Nodal Officers for re-validation.
- (iv) **Scholarship amount release:** The Department releases the scholarship amounts only if the applications are verified and approved by all verification authorities.

Aadhaar details of the beneficiaries are being collected through Scholarship and Fellowship Management Portal under National Fellowship. MoU has been signed with Canara bank for integration of UDID.

National Overseas Scholarship scheme is being implemented and monitored through Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)".

6.16 In addition to the above mechanisms, as per EFC recommendation, provision for at least 10% physical verification is being added in scheme guidelines *w.e.f.* 01.04.2022 whereby States/UTs Governments have to ensure physical verifications at Block/District/State levels covering at least 10% of the Institutes or Beneficiaries. The list of selected institutions/students for physical verification are generated by Department. The Department has already set up a Central Project Monitoring Unit which are doing physical inspections as and when required.

6.17 When asked about the steps taken for generating awareness amongst targeted beneficiaries, the Department have provided the following information:-

"The following steps have been taken by the department for raising awareness and greater outreach of the Scholarship schemes:

- (i) Advertisements were given in the leading Newspapers across the country to increase awareness of these schemes amongst students and other stakeholders.
- (ii) All other types of media channels are also tapped for spreading awareness. Advertisements are also given through twitter/web portals on social media platform.
- (iii) The Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of the States have been requested to raise awareness of the schemes through various media of communications in their States/UTs.
- (iv) Meetings through Video Conferencing are also arranged to sensitize the State Nodal Officers and other Stakeholders.



**6.18 The Committee find that while the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Scholarship for Students with Disabilities has made commendable efforts in empowering students with disabilities, several challenges persist in achieving its full potential. The Committee note that, despite an increase in budgetary allocations over the years, utilization rates have been inconsistent, and physical achievements have fallen short. Challenges such as delays in application verifications, insufficient awareness, and technical issues with UDID and Aadhaar-based systems have hampered effective implementation. The Committee would like to recommend strengthening the verification process at the State Nodal Officer level, enhancing the capacity of the National Scholarship Portal to address technical bottlenecks, and expanding the scope of outreach programs through targeted awareness campaigns. The Committee emphasize the need for timely disbursement of funds, regular monitoring through physical inspections, and improved coordination with State/UT Governments to reduce pendency and duplication. The Committee further recommend revising the scholarship guidelines to ensure adequate flexibility for addressing emerging needs and streamlining the documentation process for applicants. These measures will enhance the effectiveness of the scheme and better serve the educational aspirations of students with disabilities.**

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **CENTRE FOR DISABILITY SPORTS**

The Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.02.2019 approved the establishment of one Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior (M.P.). The Centre is registered as a society under the M.P Societies Registration Act, 1973 dated 22.09.2021 with authorities being the Governing Body & Executive committees supervising the activities of the Centre. Now named the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABV-TCDS), Gwalior, the centre was inaugurated virtually by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

7.2 The establishment of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABVTCDS) in Gwalior marks a significant step towards enhancing opportunities for athletes with disabilities, providing dedicated infrastructure and training programs to help them achieve their potential at the national and international levels. The centre in Gwalior is designed with state-of-the-art infrastructure to cater to the needs of athletes with disabilities. This includes accessible training facilities, specialized equipment for athletes with various types of disabilities. The design of the centre itself incorporates accessibility features, ensuring that athletes with different types of impairments have equal access to training areas, changing rooms, and other facilities.

7.3 The aims and objectives of the Centre is as under:-

- a. To establish a state-of-the-art international level Centre of Excellence for sports for Divyang sports persons (PwDs) with full accessibility as per norms.
- b. To create specialized sports infrastructure so that the para-sports persons can undergo rigorous and specialized training in the Centre.
- c. To ensure the participation of Divyangjan in sports activities in greater numbers and enable them to effectively compete in international events.

d. To help build confidence and develop a sense of belonging in Divyangjan to facilitate their integration into Society.

7.4 Giving more information on the Gwalior Sports facility, the Secretary submitted as under during the course of oral evidence:

*"Last year, on 2nd of October, hon. PM sir, he virtually inaugurated the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior. Let me tell you that about seven, eight years back, it was the philosophy of the Government that in five locations of the country, the facilities for disability sports should be established and CDS Gwalior is first of those facilities. We are in process of establishing another two facilities, one at Shillong and another one at Zirakpur in the outskirts of Chandigarh. This Gwalior Centre has come up in a good shape, and it has been able to organize a few events also regarding para swimming and boccia".*

7.5 The Secretary further gave information of a new initiative in this regard:-

*"It gives me delight to share with the Committee that, as we know, in many of the para-sports facilities, the medals in the Olympic Games, in the Paralympic Games, they come to our country because of efforts by many of them, but because of the efforts of our defence personnel. So, we have given assistance of ₹17.84 crore to Army to develop a para-athlete facility at Pune. This has been a very recent phenomenon. In the Kamrup district of Assam, the department is in the process of establishing a national university especially for the divyangjans".*

7.6 The Committee have been informed that since its establishment, the ABVTCS, Gwalior has been focused on enrolment of athletes with disabilities across all disabilities. Around 50+local athletes are training at ABVTCDS on regular basis and are benefitted by the same. Further different States and national level events are being organised at the centre and players all across the nation are being benefitted by the same. The ABVTCDS, Gwalior offers specialized coaching across various disciplines like athletics, football, swimming, badminton, table tennis, etc. specifically for athletes with disabilities. Regular coaching camps and competitions are held here under the aegis of different associations to identify promising athletes from various parts of the country.

7.7 A list of Events/Camps/tournaments etc. organised at ABVT-CDS and the Number of participants since inception is tabulated as below-

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sports and Athletic events on account of Disability Day</b>	<b>03<sup>rd</sup> December '2023</b>	<b>100+ athletes from the district</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Table Tennis event for para-sportsperson</b>	<b>06<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023</b>	<b>16 players</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BOCCIA</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Nov'2023</b>	<b>33 athletes</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>XIII -MP state para-athletics championship 2023</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>80 athletes</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>08th BOCCIA National Sub-Junior</b>	<b>07<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February'2024</b>	<b>100 athletes</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> National Para Swimming Championship</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March'2024</b>	<b>456para swimmers</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Gandhi Jayanti (Prabhat feri)</b>	<b>02/10/2024</b>	<b>150 wheelchair players</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Visiting program of student NIEPMD (Tamil Nadu)</b>	<b>09-13 September 2024</b>	<b>18 members</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Visiting program of student NIEPMD (Tamil Nadu)</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>36 members</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>National Wheelchair (Para) Rugby Championship 2024</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>200 participants</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Wheelchair (Para) Rugby Workshop 2024</b>	<b>September 28-30 2024</b>	<b>110 participants</b>

<b>12</b>	<b>National Championship Bocce (SOB)</b>	<b>01st-05th Sep 2024</b>	<b>183 members</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Referee and classifier clinic for wheelchair basketball</b>	<b>09-11 October</b>	<b>60 participants</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>National wheelchair basketball (women's) championship 2024</b>	<b>05-08 October 2024</b>	<b>150+ wheelchair</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>National wheelchair basketball (men's) championship 2024</b>	<b>10-13 October 2024</b>	<b>200 wheelchair</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>National Coaching Preparatory Camp-1 (Bocce) (SOB)</b>	<b>24th to 28th September 2024</b>	<b>163 members</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>sign language class for staff on the occasion of international sign language day</b>	<b>23 Sept 2024</b>	<b>20 members</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>State para yogasana championship 2024</b>	<b>26 October 2024</b>	<b>10 members</b>

7.8 Regarding Operationalization of the ABVTCDs, Gwalior, the Committee have been informed as under:-

"Already National Camp of Athletics and Volleyball for Deaf athletes have been initiated and conducted by AISC and Football, Floor ball and Bocce for Special athletes (SOB) not included in the earlier approved list of Sports, have been conducted at CDS, Gwalior. There may also be long-term plans to create structured athlete development pathways, from grassroots to elite levels, to ensure a continuous pipeline of talent for future sports competitions. Department is planning to initiate a well-structured "Training the Trainers" program dedicated to help para-athletes achieve their potential at the national and international levels".

**7.9 The Committee note with appreciation that the establishment of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABVTCDS) in Gwalior as a landmark initiative to empower Divyangjan athletes and foster inclusivity in sports. The Centre's state-of-the-art infrastructure and focus on disciplines such as athletics, football, swimming, badminton, table tennis, and Bocce provide significant opportunities for athletes with disabilities. The Committee find that the Centre has already hosted several national and State-level events, benefiting a substantial number of participants and showcasing its potential as a hub for para-sports in the country. The Committee recommend regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms to ensure the continuous improvement of the Centre's programs and infrastructure, making ABVTCDS a model institution for nurturing talent and promoting inclusivity in para-sports.**

**7.10 The Committee would like to recommend that efforts be intensified to ensure universal accessibility at the Centre, catering to athletes with diverse disabilities. Additionally, the Committee underscore the need for expanding outreach. The Committee also recommend the creation of a structured framework for talent identification and development, supported by a transparent ranking system to nurture promising athletes. The inclusion of emerging sports such as wheelchair rugby, para-yogasana, and Bocce should be further encouraged with targeted funding and the development of adaptive sports equipment.**

**7.11 The Committee further note that partnerships with global disability sports organizations and international athlete exchange programs may provide valuable exposure and elevate the standards of para-sports in India.**

**Furthermore, the integration of sports with education through initiatives like the proposed National University for Divyangjans in Assam is essential to holistically support athletes. The Committee emphasize the importance of community engagement through awareness campaigns and workshops to foster societal inclusion and reduce stigma around disabilities.**

## CHAPTER VIII

### MONITORING

The Department implements its schemes through (i) State Governments/UT Administrations, (ii) Non-Governmental Organizations and (iii) its own organizations *viz.* National Institutes, Corporations etc

8.1 To a query on the monitoring mechanism of the Department to monitor the physical implementation of the various schemes, the Committee have been informed as under:-

“The Department has developed following portals to monitor the Schemes being implemented by this Department:

- a) **ARJUN Portal** has been developed under ADIP Scheme. All ADIP beneficiaries data since, 2014 has been uploaded on the portal. It facilitates in checking duplicity of beneficiaries, online submission of beneficiaries data, and reduced time lag and digitization of records of beneficiary data. It also facilitates beneficiaries to apply for aids and appliances in online mode.
- b) **PM-DAKSH Portal-** The Skill Training Scheme is being monitored through PM-DAKSH Portal. This portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment, and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs. Monitoring the bio-metric attendance of PwDs, getting skill training from NGOs are also being done through Portal.
- c) **NSP Portal-** The Scholarship Scheme is being monitored/implemented through NSP Portal.
- d) **E-anudaan Portal for NGOs-** The Department has developed centralized on-line application software with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC). The PIAs have to register on NGO-Darpan



portal and apply on e-Anudaan for release of Grants in Aid. All requisite documents along with disability certificate/UDID cards of beneficiaries are uploaded on the e-Anudaan portal. All financial assistance is provided to the Implementing agencies through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

- e) **UDID Portal**- The Department developed the UDID portal to create a national data base for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and also to issue Unique Disability ID cards to each PwD through the portal.

8.2 Since the Department is implementing their schemes through various Agencies/ State Governments any scheme, they were questioned as to how they ensured efficient implementation of the schemes. In response, they have furnished as under

"Grants-in-Aid are released directly to agencies/organizations/institutes who are working in the field of disabilities and have qualified rehabilitation professionals. Following measures are undertaken for ensuring effective implementation of schemes:-

- a) Monitoring of the Scheme is undertaken regularly at the level of the Secretary (DEPWD).
- b) The organizations have to furnish an audited utilization certificate in time in respect of the previous grant (s).
- c) There is regular inspection of NGOs receiving grants from the Department by Project Monitoring Units (PMUs) of the Department. Release of funds are contingent upon satisfactory report on functioning of the NGOs by PMU.
- d) Implementing agencies are required to maintain a website and upload details of grants received under the ADIP Scheme, grants utilized and a list of beneficiaries along with photo and Aadhar Card Number/Mobile Number, as the case may be.

- e) Proposals of NGOs are being received and processed online on e-Anudaan Portal.
- f) Mandatory Registration of NGOs on NITI Aayog Portal (NGO Darpan).
- g) Arjun Portal facilitates near real-time monitoring of beneficiary data and also prevent duplication of beneficiaries.
- h) Sample checking of beneficiaries against the utilization of Grants-in-Aid released to Implementing Agencies by nearest NI/CRC/ALIMCO or by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities if required.
- i) Department has also launched PM- DAKSH-DEPwD Portal for effective implementation of National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP) Scheme. This portal is a one-stop digital destination for PwDs, who need skilling and employment, and for Training organizations and Employers/job aggregators of PwDs. Monitoring the bio-metric attendance of PwDs, getting skill training from NGOs is also being done through this Portal.
- j) Scholarships to Students with Disabilities are being released through NSP Portal. Department randomly reviews candidates who are availing the benefits of the scheme. In order to ensure proper accountability, physical verification at various levels viz. Blocks/District/State levels are done. The documents submitted by the candidate are open to inspection/reassessment by the Central Government as and when required by the Department.

Further, the following steps are involved in application verification process at National Scholarship Portal (NSP):

- a. **Institute level verification:** Applications are verified at the school or institute level.
- b. **Nodal officer verification:** Applications are verified at the domicile district/state, or UT level. The State Nodal Officer verifies the application

form and uploaded documents. The Nodal Officer can verify, reject, or mark the application as fake.

- c. **Sanity Checks/De-duplication/Red Flag/Re-validation:** National Scholarship Portal also checks applications through various online mechanisms. The doubtful applications are re-sent to the State Nodal Officers for re-validation.
- d. **Scholarship amount release:** The Department releases the scholarship amount only if the application is verified and approved by all verification authorities.

8.3 The committee were informed that the Department is also in the process of imparting training on web accessibility to technical and concerned resources within the Government Departments along with NIC for enhancing accessibility in digital landscape.

**8.4 The Committee find that the Department's efforts in implementing and monitoring its schemes through the development of various portals such as ARJUN, PM-DAKSH, NSP, e-Anudaan, and UDID are commendable, reflecting a strong commitment to improving accessibility, transparency, and efficiency. The meticulous approach to tracking beneficiary data, ensuring compliance through timely audits, and regular inspections demonstrates a solid foundation for effective implementation. The Committee also feel that the incorporation of biometric attendance, online verification, and de-duplication mechanisms further enhances accountability. However, it is essential for the Department to continue refining these systems, addressing any gaps in proposal submissions or delays, and ensuring greater engagement with all the stakeholders to ensure that the persons with disabilities, receive the full benefit of these initiatives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should focus on strengthening communication and capacity-building efforts with State Governments, NGOs, and other implementing agencies to ensure timely and complete proposals. The Department should also prioritize regular, real-time monitoring to identify and address any discrepancies promptly.**

**New Delhi**

**18 December, 2024**

**27 Pausha, 1946 (Saka)**

**SHRI P.C. MOHAN**

**Chairperson**

**Standing Committee on Social Justice and  
Empowerment**

**APPENDIX-I**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) (DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)) HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room No. '2', Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
4. Kumari Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi
5. Shri Murari Lal Meena
6. Smt. Bag Mitali
7. Adv. Priya Saroj
8. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
9. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava

**Rajya Sabha**

10. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
11. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
12. Shri Narayan Koragappa
13. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
14. Shri Rameswar Teli
15. Smt. Mamata Thakur
16. Smt. P.T. Usha
17. Shri Abdul Wahab

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                       |   |                  |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal     | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Dr. Vatsala Joshi     | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

## WITNESSES

### REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

- |     |                         |                                     |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Shri Rajesh Aggarwal    | Secretary, (DePWD)                  |
| 2.  | Ms. Debolina Thakur     | Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser |
| 3.  | Shri Rajeev Sharma      | Joint Secretary                     |
| 4.  | Shri K.R. Vaidheeswaran | JS & CEO, National Trust            |
| 5.  | Ms. Richa Shanker       | Deputy Director General (DDG)       |
| 6.  | Shri Praveen Kumar      | CMD, ALIMCO                         |
| 7.  | Shri Naveen Kumar Shah  | CMD, NDFDC                          |
| 8.  | Sh. Vikas Trivedi       | Member Secretary- RCI               |
| 9.  | Shri Vineet Singhal     | Director                            |
| 10. | Shri S.C. Tamta         | Director                            |
| 11. | Shri Pradeep A          | Director                            |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Secretary and other officers representing the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) to the sitting of the Committee convened to discuss 'Demands for Grants for 2024-25' of the Department. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson drew attention of the representatives of the Department to various ongoing welfare schemes meant for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. He expressed concern about ensuring effective fund utilization, making the program implementation impactful and measurable progress in areas critical to the inclusion and advancement of PwDs.

3. The Chairperson emphasized that the committee are aware that the Budget Estimates for 2024-25 are in compliance with the recommendations of the Government of India. He wanted to understand the barriers contributing to recurring under-utilization of funds, despite having these pre-determined financial guidelines. He noted that the Committee look forward to the Department's insights on challenges in fund disbursement, including issues that may arise from the newly implemented Central Nodal Agency (CNA) module and its role in ensuring timely fund releases and administrative efficiency.

4. The Chairperson drew the attention of the Department towards "Accessible India Campaign (AIC)" which is a flagship initiative of the Department. He observed that the program continues to face challenges such as slow progress and delays in utilization certificate submission. He asked the Department about the measures being taken by them to expedite the process involved and also to support States and Union Territories that are struggling to meet the program's accessibility targets. Further, he sought updates on the Sugamya Bharat App's effectiveness in capturing real-time accessibility concerns and the feedback received from the PwD community on this tool.

5. The Chairperson then drew attention of the representatives of the Department to Direction 55 (1) of the 'Directions by the Speaker of Lok Sabha' about maintaining confidentiality of the proceedings of the Committee until the report is presented to the House. Thereupon, Chairperson requested the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) to introduce Officers of the Department and brief the Committee about the performance of the Department, Budgetary allocations and targets fixed for financial year 2024-25.

6. Accordingly, the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), briefed the Committee through power point presentation on the performance of the Department during the last three years and the roadmap for financial year 2024-25.

7. The Committee, thereafter, *inter alia* deliberated on the following issues:

- (i) Budgetary allocation, expenditure and shortfall in expenditure etc. for the financial year 2023-24 and budgetary allocation regarding financial year 2024-25.
- (ii) Disbursement of amounts to the students with disabilities under various Scholarship Schemes;
- (iii) Setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS);
- (iv) Establishment of Sports Centres for persons with disabilities;
- (v) Implementation of the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP);
- (vi) Strengthening of National Institutes and promotion of research on disability related technology, products etc.;
- (vii) Role of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC);
- (viii) Appropriate publicity of the Schemes of the Department to enhance awareness among the persons with disabilities;

8. The Chairperson, then thanked the Secretary and other representatives of the Department for providing valuable information on the subject and also asked the Secretary to furnish written replies on the issues that remained unanswered during the sitting.

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

***The witnesses then withdrew.  
(The Committee then adjourned)***



**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024.**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, E-PHA, Block 'B', Extension Building, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**SHRI P.C. MOHAN- CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
6. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
7. Shri Murari Lal Meena
8. Smt. Bag Mitali
9. Shri Bhojraj Nag
10. Shri Godam Nagesh
11. Shri Matheswaran V.S
12. Adv. Priya Saroj

**Rajya Sabha**

13. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
14. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
15. Shri Narayan Koragappa
16. Shri Rameswar Teli
17. Smt. P.T. Usha
18. Shri Abdul Wahab

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                       |   |                  |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal     | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the following draft Reports:

(i) XX XX XX

(ii) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)

(iii) XX XX XX

(iv) XX XX XX

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Report was adopted by the Committee without any modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report and to present the same to both the Houses on 18.12.2024.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

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**XX Does not pertain to this Report**

## ANNEXURE

### STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl.No	Para No.	Observations/ Recommendations
1.	2.18	<p>The Committee observe that from 2021-22 to 2023-24, there has been a consistent trend of underspending compared to both Revised Estimates (RE) and Budget Estimates (BE), with actual expenditures falling short across various schemes of the Department. While the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has locked both the allocations and physical targets for the schemes under the Department, including ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS, and Scholarships, for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the Department must address the recurring shortfalls in fund utilization. The Committee urge the Department to conduct a thorough review of the factors contributing to the underutilization of funds and take immediate and focused remedial actions. The Committee are also of the opinion that proactive engagement with stakeholders is essential to address delays in proposal submissions from State Governments, NGOs, and implementing agencies, ensuring timely and complete proposals to facilitate smooth fund release. Streamlining fund disbursement processes, particularly for skill training programs and capital expenditure, is crucial to mitigating delays and enhancing program delivery. Furthermore, given the challenges in meeting the fixed targets for schemes like SIPDA and DDRS, the Department should reassess the targets setting to ensure they are realistic and achievable while maintaining flexibility in adjustments based on</p>

		<p>performance trends. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department should take decisive actions to improve fund utilization and achieve the intended outcomes of all the schemes in the remaining years of the current financial cycle (2023-2026). This will ensure that the resources allocated for the welfare of persons with disabilities are utilized effectively, enabling the Department to meet the targets set under various Schemes .</p>
2.	3.22	<p>The Committee find that the ADIP Scheme has consistently demonstrated commendable performance in empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) through efficient financial management, exceeding physical targets, and adopting innovative measures. The utilization of funds has been robust, surpassing revised estimates. The scheme's ability to achieve 121.5 per cent, 140.0 per cent and 160.0 per cent of its physical targets in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, respectively, reflects its effectiveness. The Committee are confident that the target in 2024-25 would be easily met .</p>
3.	3.23	<p>The Committee find that while Digital innovations like the Arjun ADIP-MIS Portal have enhanced data management, the challenges like network issues in remote areas and difficulties faced by beneficiaries with low literacy must be addressed. The Committee in this regard would like to recommend that, offline data collection mechanisms that</p>

		<p>sync with the portal when connectivity is available which can bridge this gap may be explored by the Department. Additionally, user-friendly features and multilingual support can make the portal more accessible.</p>
4.	3.24	<p>The Committee note that the Department has taken a major step to establish Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) of ALIMCO, the walk-in centers, where eligible beneficiary can directly avail required aids and appliances free of cost. The Committee find that expansion of Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) provides greater accessibility to services. The Committee commend the Department on the establishment of 64 functional PMDKs in the country and hope that the plan of the Department of scaling this initiative to the planned 300 centers over the next two years will improve accessibility and reduce dependency on ADIP camps. The Committee recommend that the Department ensure that these centers are equipped with adequate staff and resources for same-day fitments to the beneficiaries.</p>
5.	3.25	<p>The Committee find that the production capacity of ALIMCO has enhanced by 2.5 times and its turnover increased from ₹350 crore in 2021-22 to ₹634 crore in 2023-24 after modernization. The Committee would like to commend the Department on the performance and efficiency of ALIMCO. The Committee are of the opinion that there is a requirement of Leveraging ALIMCO's</p>

		<b>Modernization. They feel that ALIMCO's enhanced capacity and European certifications open opportunities for global partnerships and exports. Encouraging ALIMCO to adopt cutting-edge technologies and explore newer product lines tailored to diverse disabilities can further elevate its impact. The Committee would like the Department to further explore this aspect.</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>The Committee find that many eligible beneficiaries may remain unaware of the scheme or its benefits. They therefore recommend that the Department may explore collaborations with local governments, NGOs, and media platforms for extensive awareness campaigns which can enhance enrollment.</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>4.17</b>	<b>The Committee find that the SIPDA scheme has made significant stride in enhancing the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Collaborative initiatives, such as training programs with IIT Kharagpur and the Council of Architecture, have strengthened professional expertise in accessibility auditing and design. Non-financial MoUs with prominent companies like Amazon, Flipkart, and Zomato have successfully expanded the employment opportunities for PwDs, utilizing models such as Recruit-Train-Deploy (RTD). The PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal has emerged as a one-stop digital platform for skill training and employment tracking, offering a more integrated approach to empowering PwDs. The Committee believe that issuance of over 1.13 crore Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards and the launch of a revamped portal have improved</b>

		<p>accessibility and streamlined the identification process for PwDs. The Committee recommend leveraging the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal, establishing regional training hubs, and deepening industry collaborations to enhance skill training and placement opportunities for PwDs.</p>
8.	4.18	<p>The Committee note that the scheme faces challenges, particularly in fund utilization. Allocated budgets have often gone underutilized due to delays in receiving project proposals and incomplete utilization certificates, especially under the Accessible India Campaign (AIC). Efforts to create a barrier-free environment remain slow, with limited participation from States and UTs. Given that SIPDA is one of the largest umbrella schemes administered by the Department, such underperformance raises concerns about the adequacy of planning and execution by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should emphasize improved coordination with States/UTs to ensure timely submission of proposals and optimal fund utilization, supported by a real-time tracking mechanism for project milestones. The Committee urge the Department to scale accessibility efforts by forging partnerships with NGOs and private players to accelerate retrofitting initiatives and provide training in universal design principles.</p>
9.	4.19	<p>To simplify the disability certification process, the Committee recommend deploying mobile certification teams and utilizing digital tools to improve access for underserved areas. The Committee further recommend organizing awareness campaigns, such as Divya Kala</p>

		<p><b>Melas, and conducting stakeholder workshops to improve outreach and implementation. The Committee urge the Department to allocate dedicated R&amp;D funding and foster collaborations with premier institutions to develop assistive devices and innovative solutions tailored to PwD needs.</b></p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<p><b>The Committee recommend incentivizing States/UTs with performance-linked grants for achieving significant progress under SIPDA and providing targeted support to underperforming regions. The Committee urge the Department to integrate universal accessibility principles into education curriculums and establish a National Center for Accessibility to serve as a hub for research, training, and policy advocacy. The Committee recommend strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms, using AI and digital tools like the Sugamya Bharat App to enhance real-time tracking, optimize training outcomes, and address accessibility challenges effectively, advancing SIPDA’s mission to empower PwDs.</b></p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<p><b>The Committee find that while the Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) has made progress in reaching its targets, there are significant challenges in fund utilization and physical achievements. The Committee note that there were variations in actual expenditure, as only 56 per cent utilized in 2022-23 and 15 per cent utilized as of November 2024 for 2024-25, indicating inefficiencies in fund disbursement and implementation. The Committee would like to recommend that the Department enhance fund utilization efficiency by</b></p>



		<p><b>streamlining the disbursement process and implementing real-time tracking mechanisms. The Committee urge the Department to expedite the approval of new project proposals, particularly those targeting cross-disabilities and specific learning disabilities, to meet the consistent target of 40,000 beneficiaries. To address delays in project implementation, the Committee recommend strengthening the monitoring and reporting systems, alongside introducing automatic escalation for pending proposals. The Committee also recommend that the Department should incentivize timely project proposals, expand collaborations with NGOs, and provide capacity-building support to all the stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of the scheme. These steps will help overcome current bottlenecks, ensuring DDRS achieves its objectives and impacts the lives of persons with disabilities more effectively.</b></p>
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>6.18</b></p>	<p><b>The Committee find that while the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Scholarship for Students with Disabilities has made commendable efforts in empowering students with disabilities, several challenges persist in achieving its full potential. The Committee note that, despite an increase in budgetary allocations over the years, utilization rates have been inconsistent, and physical achievements have fallen short. Challenges such as delays in application verifications, insufficient awareness, and technical issues with UDID and Aadhaar-based systems have hampered effective implementation. The Committee would like to recommend strengthening the verification process at the</b></p>

		<p><b>State Nodal Officer level, enhancing the capacity of the National Scholarship Portal to address technical bottlenecks, and expanding the scope of outreach programs through targeted awareness campaigns. The Committee emphasize the need for timely disbursement of funds, regular monitoring through physical inspections, and improved coordination with State/UT Governments to reduce pendency and duplication. The Committee further recommend revising the scholarship guidelines to ensure adequate flexibility for addressing emerging needs and streamlining the documentation process for applicants. These measures will enhance the effectiveness of the scheme and better serve the educational aspirations of students with disabilities.</b></p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>7.9</b></p>	<p><b>The Committee note with appreciation that the establishment of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABVTCDS) in Gwalior as a landmark initiative to empower Divyangjan athletes and foster inclusivity in sports. The Centre’s state-of-the-art infrastructure and focus on disciplines such as athletics, football, swimming, badminton, table tennis, and Bocce provide significant opportunities for athletes with disabilities. The Committee find that the Centre has already hosted several national and State-level events, benefiting a substantial number of participants and showcasing its potential as a hub for para-sports in the country. The Committee recommend regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms to ensure the continuous improvement of the Centre’s programs and infrastructure,</b></p>

		making ABVTCDS a model institution for nurturing talent and promoting inclusivity in para-sports.
14.	7.10	The Committee would like to recommend that efforts be intensified to ensure universal accessibility at the Centre, catering to athletes with diverse disabilities. Additionally, the Committee underscore the need for expanding outreach. The Committee also recommend the creation of a structured framework for talent identification and development, supported by a transparent ranking system to nurture promising athletes. The inclusion of emerging sports such as wheelchair rugby, para-yogasana, and Bocce should be further encouraged with targeted funding and the development of adaptive sports equipment.
15.	7.11	The Committee further note that partnerships with global disability sports organizations and international athlete exchange programs may provide valuable exposure and elevate the standards of para-sports in India. Furthermore, the integration of sports with education through initiatives like the proposed National University for Divyangjans in Assam is essential to holistically support athletes. The Committee emphasize the importance of community engagement through awareness campaigns and workshops to foster societal inclusion and reduce stigma around disabilities.
16.	8.4	The Committee find that the Department's efforts in implementing and monitoring its schemes through the development of various portals such as ARJUN, PM-DAKSH, NSP, e-Anudaan, and UDID are commendable,

		<p><b>reflecting a strong commitment to improving accessibility, transparency, and efficiency. The meticulous approach to tracking beneficiary data, ensuring compliance through timely audits, and regular inspections demonstrates a solid foundation for effective implementation. The Committee also feel that the incorporation of biometric attendance, online verification, and de-duplication mechanisms further enhances accountability. However, it is essential for the Department to continue refining these systems, addressing any gaps in proposal submissions or delays, and ensuring greater engagement with all the stakeholders to ensure that the persons with disabilities, receive the full benefit of these initiatives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should focus on strengthening communication and capacity-building efforts with State Governments, NGOs, and other implementing agencies to ensure timely and complete proposals. The Department should also prioritize regular, real-time monitoring to identify and address any discrepancies promptly.</b></p>
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