

E.C. NO. 1437

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(2008-09)**

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMMES AND SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**



Presented to Lok Sabha on 20.10.2008

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

October 20, 2008/ Asvina 28, 1930(S)

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COMPOSITION

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES
(2008-2009)

1. Shri C. Kuppusami, Chairman

Members

2. Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale
3. Shri R. Dhanuskodi Athithan
4. Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi
5. Shri Lal Muni Choubey
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SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. P.K. Sandhu - Additional Secretary
2. Shri U.S. Saxena - Joint Secretary
3. Shri V.S. Negi - Director
4. Smt. Manju Chaudhary - Deputy Secretary II

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to present the report on their behalf, present this Eighteenth Report on the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – ‘Programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities’.

2. The subject ‘Programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities’ was selected for detailed examination by the Estimates Committee (2007-08) and the Committee took oral evidence of representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) on 3rd July, 23rd July and 9th October, 2007. The Estimates Committee (2008-09) took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and RCI on 20th June, 2008. They also heard the views/suggestions of the NGOs viz. (i) Handicapped Welfare Federation, (ii) National Federation of the Blinds and (iii) All India Federation of the Deaf on the same day. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Rehabilitation Council of India and NGOs for appearing before them and for furnishing information desired in connection with examination of the subject. The Committee also appreciate the frankness with which the officers/representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, RCI and NGOs shared their views, perceptions and constraints with the Committee.

3. The Committee would also like to express their gratitude to the Estimates Committee 2007-08 for the able guidance and right direction provided by them in obtaining information for indepth and comprehensive study of the subject.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 8th September, 2008.

5. The Report consists of six chapters. The Committee have *inter-alia* made the following important observations/recommendations :-

- (i) Noticing the unawareness about the implementation of National Policy for disabled persons, the Committee have made recommendation to device mechanism to effectively associate Panchayti Raj institutions, local bodies and involve MPs/MLAs in the process of implementation of the policy and work relating to evaluation of its implementation should be assigned to an autonomous body having expertise in the field.
- (ii) Taking note that disabilities like thalassaemia, flurosis, cochlear implant, etc. have not been recognized so far under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should examine all such disabilities and explore possibility to give recognition to these disabilities in the Persons with Disabilities Act.

- (iii) Finding a wide variation in budget allocation and actual expenditure made by the Ministry, the Committee expressing their deep concern on the under-utilisation of funds have recommended to ensure effective planning, implementation and monitoring to make optimum use of allocation received.
- (iv) With a view to give representation to disabled persons in a multi-disciplinary grant-in-aid Committee for supporting voluntary organisations of the State Government/UT Administration, the Committee recommend that efforts should be made to ensure the representation of disabled persons or their Associations in the Committee.
- (v) To ensure the quality of assistive devices provided to persons with disabilities, the Ministry should appoint some agency which may be authorized to give them certification like, BIS, to market these products for the safe use of the beneficiaries.
- (vi) Emphasising the need to have a full-time Chairman in Rehabilitation Council of India to guide about its activities and maintain close liaison with the Ministries and for interacting with State Governments, Vice Chancellor of the Universities and rehabilitation professionals inside and outside the country, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should take concerted steps to appoint a full time Chairperson in Rehabilitation Council of India.

- (vii) There is a great need to simplify the present complicated procedure of issuing medical certificate to persons with disabilities. The Ministry should review the procedure thoroughly and amend accordingly.
- (viii) Various travel concessions are provided to persons with disabilities. For availing these concessions different pass are issued to persons with disabilities. To overcome the problem of keeping so many passes for availing travel concessions, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should issue National Identity Card containing all the particulars of individuals to persons with disabilities which should be valid for availing all travel concessions.
6. For facility of reference, the recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
October 15 , 2008
Asvina 29, 1930(S)

(C. KUPPUSAMI)
Chairman
Committee on Estimates.

CHAPTER I

Introductory

Introduction

1.1 The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities. In the recent years, there have been vast and positive changes in the perception of the society towards persons with disabilities. It has been realized that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

1.2 According to the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in India who constitute 2.13 percent of the total population. This include persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotor and mental disabilities. Seventy five percent of persons with disabilities live in rural areas, 49 percent of disabled population is literate and only 34 percent are employed.

1.3 The Government of India has enacted three legislations for persons with disabilities viz.

- (i) Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, which provides for education, employment, creation of barrier free environment, social security, etc.
- (ii) National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999 has provisions for legal guardianship of the four categories

and creation of enabling environment for as much independent living as possible.

- (iii) Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 deals with the development of manpower for providing rehabilitation services.

National Policy

1.4 National Policy for Persons with Disabilities has been announced in February, 2006. The National Policy recognizes that persons with disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. The focus of the policy is on (a) prevention of disabilities and (b) rehabilitation measures.

1.5 The salient features of the National Policy are :-

- (i) Physical Rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counselling and medical interventions and provision of aids and appliances. It also includes the development of rehabilitation professionals.
- (ii) Educational Rehabilitation including vocational training and
- (iii) Economic Rehabilitation for a dignified life in society.

1.6 The Policy specifically focuses on issues concerning women and children with disabilities. Various Ministries/Departments in Central Government and the State Governments and UT

Administrations are implementing the policy, which is continuous process.

1.7 On being asked about the measures which have been taken/proposed to be taken to involve Panchayati Raj Institution in the process of implementing National Policy for Disabled Persons, 2006, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as also Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have requested State/UTs to ensure that disability related issues came up for discussion and implementation in Gram Sabha and the Standing Committee relating to health, hygiene and sanitation of Intermediate Panchayats (IPs) and Zilla Parishads (ZPs) etc. Panchayati Raj Institutions are also involved in the functioning of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs).

1.8 The Committee enquired about the procedure adopted by the Ministry to monitor the proper implementation of the policy by various agencies, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that Central Coordination Committee (CCC) and Central Executive Committee (CEC), which monitor the progress of implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 also monitor the implementation of National Policy.

1.9 When the Committee asked what is the mechanism of evaluation of National Policy for persons with disabilities, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during oral evidence stated as under:-

“Evaluation is probably best done by a body which can do it objectively. If it were to be done in house there would always be a kind of feeling that this was not done objectively. So, in general the policy is that any implementing agency should not get evaluation done by its own subordinate or adjunct agency. It is either, the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission which is outside the Ministry or it is a reputed institution of social science or other technical reputed institutions. Evaluation function is normally assigned to an outside agency.”

1.10 When asked whether any evaluation has been made regarding implementation of National Policy, the Ministry in their written reply stated that such evaluation study has not been made so far.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995

1.11 On being asked about the details of the Persons with Disabilities (Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that to give effect to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of the People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, the Government of India enacted “The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995”.

1.12 “Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995” is applicable to seven disabilities, which are (i) blindness (ii) low vision (iii) leprosy-cured (iv) hearing impairment (v) loco motor disability (vi) mental retardation and (vii) mental illness. The Act is very comprehensive and all encompassing. It provides for both preventive and promotional

aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability, etc.

1.13 For implementation of the provisions of the Act, a multi-sectoral collaborative approach, involving all the Appropriate Governments i.e. Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments/Union Territories, Central/State undertakings, local authorities and other appropriate authorities, is being followed.

1.14 The Act also provides for Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD) and Commissioner in each State/UT with quasi-judicial powers for redressal of grievances and protection of rights to persons with disabilities and monitoring utilization of funds allocated for their benefit.

1.15 The Committee asked whether any change has been felt necessary by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the Persons with Disabilities (Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that steps have already been initiated for amendment to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. National consultation with stakeholders was undertaken and four meetings had been held in northern, southern, eastern and western regions of the country. The suggestions received from the stakeholders are being examined for amending the Persons with Disabilities Act.

National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999

1.16 When asked about the main objectives of National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the main objectives of National trust are to enable and empower persons with disabilities to live as independently and as fully as possible, to extend support to registered organisations providing need based services, and to evolve procedure for appointment of legal guardians for persons with disabilities requiring such protection.

1.17 The National Trust Act covers autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation or a combination of any two or more of such conditions and includes a person suffering from severe multiple disability.

1.18 The Government of India has provided Rs.100 crore towards the corpus of the Trust. The income generated from the corpus is utilized to implement its programmes.

1.19 In this regard, a representative from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence also stated as follows :-

“..... we have a National Trust for persons suffering from autism, cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities. This Trust is functioning on the basis of a corpus.”

1.20 He further stated as follows :-

“The trust have a Rs.100 crore corpus fund given by the Government some years back. They are not dependent upon

us for budgetary support every year because it is a Trust and they operate in a fairly autonomous manner, working for persons suffering with these disabilities.”

1.21 About the functions of National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that National Trust for the Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities functions with the help of NGOs. It has registered more than 731 such organisations to take up its programmes. Major activities undertaken are :-

- (a) Constitution of Local Level Committees (LLCs) to screen, appoint and monitor legal guardian and create awareness of the activities of the Trust. So far, 588 LLCs have been constituted
- (b) The Trust is providing training to community based caregivers so that persons with disabilities may live independently and as fully as possible
- (c) The programmes of Trust are implemented through State Nodal Agencies Centres (SNACs) which include dissemination of information and training of parents and professionals. 22 SNACs are operational.
- (d) Supported Guardianship Scheme is being implemented in 36 districts to encourage relatives, friends and institutions to accept legal guardianship of destitutes and abandoned disabled persons. Under this scheme Rs.500/- per month per beneficiaries is provided for 10 beneficiaries per district.

The amount is utilized to meet basic needs of food, shelter, medical and rehabilitation.

- (e) It is implementing a Scheme called SAMARTH to provide residential services both for short term and long term. 105 such projects have been sanctioned. These projects also take up activities like early intervention, special education or integrated schools, open schools, vocational training, recreation/sports, etc.

1.22 The Committee asked how much income is generated and spent through corpus by the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability, during the last 7 years, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished the following statement:-

(In lakhs of Rupees)

| Sl. No. | Year | Income Generated | Utilisation |
|---------|---------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | 2001-02 | 551.98 | 396.31 |
| 2. | 2002-03 | 1289.83 (Includes the income of previous year received this year) | 505.69 |
| 3. | 2003-04 | 1032.11 | 607.31 |
| 4. | 2004-05 | 887.94 | 620.39 |
| 5. | 2005-06 | 895.17 | 375.86 |
| 6. | 2006-07 | 991.24 | 442.22 |
| 7. | 2007-08 | 971.52 (Till Feb, 08) | 651.90 Till Jan., 08 |

1.23 On enquiring about the reasons for lower utilization of funds in comparison to the income generated through corpus of the National Trust for welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that since the field of developmental disabilities (Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities) is evolving and many organizations are very new, they are not fulfilling the funding norms. 286 districts are having no NGOs working in this area. However, over the years, the norms are being liberalized and many steps are being taken to encourage the activities in unserved districts. In the current year, many new schemes have been launched. With strengthening of delivery system through SNAC/SNAP (State Nodal Agency Centre/State Nodal Agency Partner) and capacity building of NGOs registered with the National Trust; it is expected that funds will be adequately utilized and there will be more demand for fund to expand the coverage of various schemes which are being run on a pilot basis only.

1.24 The Committee enquired about the steps being taken by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to form NGOs in these 286 districts the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the position has improved with 45 new Local Level Committees of the National Trust (LLCs) having been constituted with the registered NGOs in the concerned districts. Further, LLCs have been constituted in 173 more districts with the help of NGOs in the neighboring districts. In 68 districts, no suitable NGOs could be identified and therefore it was

decided that the LLCs will be formed with Persons with Disabilities as members. Such LLCs have been formed in 64 districts. Thus, LLCs now cover 590 districts. The process for formation of the LLCs in the remaining districts is in progress.

Supported Guardianship Scheme

1.25 The Committee asked about the aim and objective of Supported Guardianship Scheme, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that since Legal Guardianship is a major objective of the National Trust, and is seen as a means of securing the future of disabled persons, this vacuum needs to be addressed. Therefore, a guardian who is willing and is approved by the Local Level Committee (LLC) may be supported with limited financial support for the up keep of the disabled person. The scheme of Supported Guardianship will provide encouragement to those relatives/friends who are willing but unable (financially) to look after their disabled wards.

1.26 The main objective of the scheme is to provide financial security to severely disabled persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities who are destitute and/or abandoned by supporting the cost of guardianship for the above mentioned group within their own communities.

1.27 To a question, whether Government is considering to implement Supported Guardianship in all the parts of the country and increasing the amount provided under this scheme, the Ministry of Social Justice in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that as also supported by an evaluation study, the Guardianship

Scheme can have significant impact over a large area in the country if the present coverage of the Scheme is enlarged. But to have a sizeable target population of at least 1 lakh, even at the present honorarium level the fund required will be 60 crores per annum. Therefore, the issue, particularly the financial implication and providing for logistic support, would need to be subjected to examination in proper perspective.

1.28 Keeping in view the limited availability of funds, at present, up to 10 beneficiaries per District are being covered under the Scheme, which can be increased if funds for the purpose goes up in future. An NGO in its memorandum submitted to the Committee have stated that the National Trust Act is totally a pro rich Act. the Act talks about the Guardianship Scheme, but it does not give any security to a child from poor families.

Samarth Scheme

1.29 The Committee further asked about the aims, objectives and features of the Samarth Scheme, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished the following details :-

Aims & Objectives of the schemes are :-

1. To provide permanent care for abandoned and destitute persons with disabilities
2. To provide support and protection to persons whose family support is gradually diminishing
3. To provide services to persons with disability whose family members are willing to pay for good quality services

4. To provide services to young persons with disability who need to stay in group homes and independent living situations
5. To provide services to senior citizens with disability
6. To create opportunities for family members to get respite time in order to fulfill other responsibilities
7. To support Registered Organisations and Local Level Committees in the development of a range of service delivery systems which respond more closely to the needs of disabled
8. To provide rehabilitation and relief to persons with disability whose family are unable or unwilling to support them any longer

Important features of this centre based scheme are :-

- This scheme will cover only Residential Care Projects for both Short Term Respite Care and Prolonged Stay
- There will be a ceiling for the number of projects for each State based on size and population; geographical spread within the State will also be considered
- The scheme is based on a tapering off of grants. The pattern of funding will be :-

| | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 st year | - | 100% of the recurring expenditure. |
| 2 nd year | - | 100% of the recurring expenditure |
| 3 rd year | - | 90% of the recurring expenditure |
| 4 th year | - | 75% of the recurring expenditure |
| 5 th year | - | 60% of the recurring expenditure |
| 6 th year | - | 45% of the recurring expenditure |
| 7 th year | - | 30% of the recurring expenditure |
| 8 th year | - | 15% of the recurring expenditure |

- 9th year - Grants-in-aid shall be stopped from 9th year.
- The building owned or hired (250 sq.mts.) should be clean, spacious, well lighted and ventilated to facilitate comfortable stay and learning by the trainees/beneficiaries
 - The entire building, including toilets should be barrier-free and accessible for persons with disabilities
 - The amount of assistance on account of rent will be regulated within the above ceiling keeping in view the parameters associated with it, the area occupied and used for the project, the number of beneficiaries, the prevailing PWD assessment rates in that area and the rent agreement
 - Individual Programme Plans and Individual files are to be maintained for each Resident and their progress regularly monitored and documented
 - Under the head of contingency, expenses such as postage, transport, telephone, stationery, medicines, office expenses, electricity, water charges, equipment maintenance only related to the project etc. would be covered
 - The Beneficiaries' should :-
 - (a) Belong to the four disability groups of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities
 - (b) Selection will be on a first come first served basis
 - (c) 30% should be from BPL families
 - (d) There should be a 40:60 ratio of girls and boys
 - (e) There will be prefunding, infunding and post funding inspections.

- Projects will be MENTORED (facilitated) by the State Nodal Agency Centres (SNACs) of that State, or the neighboring State as authorized by the National Trust
- There will be an Evaluation of the Centre Based Scheme after 3 years and if there is a negative report about any centre, the grant-in-aid will be terminated
- Out of the total of 30 beneficiaries for which sanction is given, all Centres should keep a ratio of 80:20 between Long term and Short term Residents (Prolonged stay 80% and Respite Short term stay 20%)
- Therefore, for the 6 seats under Respite Care, a minimum number of beneficiaries for the whole year should be 50 persons on a rotating basis
- A range of Rehabilitation services should be provided for by the Centre including Special Education, Therapies, Pre Vocational and Vocational Training, Recreation, Sports and Cultural activities etc.
- The National Trust is funding food component of 30% of the residents, who are from BPL families/destitutes/orphans at Rs.600/- per month per resident at 100% for the first two years and thereafter it will be tapered off
- The Accounts of Project holders will be audited by CAG approved auditors/National Trust authorized auditors
- Under Non-Recurring heads, items to be purchased would required sanction of the National Trust PRIOR TO

PURCHASE by the NGO. A list of items, with prices and names of shops (actual quotations) should be submitted along with the Project proposal

- The National Trust will sanction items both under Non-Recurring and Recurring items at the discretion of the Grants Sub-Committee (GSC) whose decision shall be binding and final.

1.30 An NGO in its memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that Samarth Scheme in this Act gives residential facility to 35 children, out of which only nine seats are for the BPL, whereas the rest are all paid seats. This scheme deprive a child of his family and community and is totally against its objective.

1.31 On being asked whether Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment would suggest any specific change in National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that a sub-committee, headed by Chairperson, National Trust and including the stakeholders and Experts is already considering the matter. In its meeting held on 16.1.2008, the sub-committee have come to the conclusion that there was no conflict between the objectives of the National Trust Act and the UN Convention of Rights for the Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) except there is a shift in thinking in the concept of legal guardianship. The concept of legal capacity has been introduced in the UNCRPD. There has also been a suggestion that mentally ill persons may also be included under the National Trust Act.

CHAPTER-II FINANCE

Budget

2.1 Statement giving the budget estimate and expenditure under plan and non-plan from the year 2002-03 to 2006-07 is as under :-

Rs. in crore

| Year | Plan | |
|---------|--------|---------|
| | BE | Exp. |
| 2002-03 | 229.50 | 193.27 |
| 2003-04 | 219.50 | 168.87 |
| 2004-05 | 250.60 | 177.15 |
| 2005-06 | 250.60 | 195.72 |
| 2006-07 | 243.00 | 183.06 |
| 2007-08 | 221.00 | 191.00 |
| Total | 1414.2 | 1109.07 |

(Scheme wise statement is annexed – Annexure I and II).

2.2 As regards, low plan expenditure, the Ministry have stated that the main reasons for lower plan expenditure vis-à-vis outlay were budgetary cuts and late receipt of recommendations from State Government on grants-in-aid proposals.

2.3 The Committee asked about the monitoring mechanism to check the utilization of funds and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the monitoring of utilization of funds in case of the NIs/PSUs is ensured through Executive Councils/Board of Directors, which meet quarterly to review their functioning as also utilization of funds. The performance and utilization of funds in case of NGOs is monitored through:-

- (a) Audited financial statements
- (b) Annual Reports/Half Yearly Progress Reports

- (c) Regular inspection by State Government District Welfare Officers

2.4 The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on the issue of monitoring the schemes stated as follows :-

“In June, 2007 the Central Government has constituted a Group of Ministers under the Chairpersonship of the hon. Home Minister to specifically go into issues of disability and to monitor all schemes/programmes/activities/legislative measures, etc. concerning the disability sector. The other Members of the Group – apart from our own Minister – are Minister of Urban Development, Minister of Finance, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. It has held five meetings so far, and it has reviewed a range of issues.”

2.5 The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment further stated as follows :-

“A number of Ministries have made their presentations before the Group of Ministers. For example, our own Ministry on the overview, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has on inclusive education; Ministries concerned with transport in regard to accessible transport system; Ministries concerned with construction in regard to barrier-free physical environment and so on and so forth. The first set of recommendations of this Group has been finalized and is likely to be submitted to the hon. Prime Minister in the near future.”

Grant-in-aid

2.6 The Committee asked about the procedure to release the grant-in-aid to NGOs, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that proposals for grant-in-aid under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) are required to be sent by NGOs to the concerned State Government/UT Administrations in the prescribed application form, along with project details, Annual Reports, and other documents such as audited accounts, utilization certificate for the previous year (in the case of continuing grants), etc. Proposals from various NGOs are examined by a multi disciplinary grant-in-aid committee of the State Government/UT Administration , along with inspection reports of the State Government. The recommendations of the Committee are forwarded by the State Government/UT Administration to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The recommendations from the State Governments/UT Administrations are to be sent in a consolidated manner, after duly considering the need to correct the regional imbalance. Inspections can be carried out by any agency other than the State Government/UT Administration that may be designated by the Ministry. Recommended proposals are considered by the Ministry on the basis of the model projects and detailed norms laid down in the scheme and the past performance of the organization. Grant-in-aid can be provided to a maximum of 90% of the admissible grant as per the norms, while 10% is expected to be borne by the organization.

2.7 The Committee enquired about the number of NGOs and grants sanctioned and released during the year 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (till March 2008), the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished the following statement to the Committee:

| Year | No. of proposals of NGOs received | No. of NGOs sanctioned grant | Grants sanctioned (Rs. in crore) | Grant released (Rs. in crore) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2004-05 | Not maintained | 688 | 67.31 | 67.31 |
| 2005-06 | Not maintained | 741 | 66.8 | 66.8 |
| 2006-07 | Not maintained | 687 | 54.51 | 54.51 |
| 2007-08 (as on 27.3.2008) | 1229 (of 2007-08) | 688 (of 2007-08) 628 (pending cases of 2005-06 and 2006-07) | 70.86 | 69.65 |

2.8 Regarding pendency of utilization certificate, the Ministry in a reply stated that the grant in aid for a financial year is being released only after receipt of the utilization certificate for the previous year. Therefore, no utilization certificates remain pending now.

2.9 When asked about Utilisation Certificate a representative of the Ministry during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“....That is endeavour that we are trying that is we get good quality proposals and also get utilization certificate. This was one issue which was creating problem. We were not getting the utilization certificates in time.”

2.10 About the time consuming procedure of releasing grant-in-aid, an NGO in their memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that not only the funds are inadequate, the application processing has long procedures. The application is first submitted at the State

Government which then forwards it to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The State Government first conducts the inspection and then sends report to the central Ministry. The inspection takes place after a long gap of application submission. Consequently the disbursement of first installment of the grant reach to the NGO at the end of the financial year and the second installment comes in the next financial year. The NGO needs to have a cushioning amount to meet its expenditures as the funding comes late.

2.11 Another NGO, in the memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that the system of grant-in-aid to the organization that runs a school be simplified. Presently, the papers are first handled at the district level, then forwarded to the State level and then sanctioned at the central level. This complicated procedure with several channels within the channel leads to a delayed release of aid which at times takes almost a year. In order to simplify the procedure after the inspection at the time of the release of the first grant, all subsequent grant-in-aid should be released to the district and further release to the organization should be subject to satisfaction reports form the District Magistrate for the release of such grants. This would largely simplify the release of grants-in-aid making such institutions viable in running the schools.

2.12 When the Committee asked whether Ministry have any proposal under consideration to simplify the procedure, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Ministry has streamlined the procedure for examination of proposals for grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations to

reduce the delay in various stages of processing. Under the new procedure, which became effective in 2007-08, the last date for submission of proposals by voluntary organisation to State Governments/UT Administrations for 2007-08 was fixed by the Ministry as 30th June, 2007. As a result an adequate number of proposals became available early in the financial year, instead of being received late in the year and in a piecemeal manner. Under the new procedure, State Governments/UT Administrations were constituted Multidisciplinary Grant-in-Aid Committees to examine proposals and make recommendations. Consolidated lists of recommended proposals, in order of priority, were forwarded by the State Governments to the Ministry, adequate time was available for processing cases in the States/UTs and in the Ministry and documents were wanting in fewer cases as compared to earlier years. This has led to a marked improvement in the efficiency of the system, utilization of available funds and timely release of grant-in-aid in 2007-08.

2.13 On enquiring about constitution of multi-disciplinary Committee, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that as per the instructions issued by this Ministry on 21.3.2007, multi-disciplinary grants-in-committees for supporting voluntary organisations are to be constituted by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration, with the suggested composition as below:

- i) Principal Secretary/Secretary of the State
Department looking after the welfare of
SC/OBC/Social Defence/Disabilities
Chairperson

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| ii) | Two other Secretaries from the State Government considering their relevance for the subject | Member |
| iii) | Three experts/reputed NGOs from the State/UT to be nominated by the Chairperson | Member |
| iv) | Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director Welfare/Social Welfare of the State Government | Member-Secretary |

2.14 In States where the welfare of SC/OBC/Persons with Disabilities and subjects relating to Social Defence are dealt with the different Departments, separate Committees may be constituted.

2.15 The Committee further enquired whether the Committee has the representation of disabled persons or their Association, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the suggested composition of the Committees includes three experts/reputed NGOs from the State/UT to be nominated by the Chairperson. While there is no stipulation by this Ministry to ensure representation of disabled persons or their associations in the Committees, the State Governments/UT Administrations can include experts who are disabled persons or reputed NGOs in the disability sector that may be associations of persons with disabilities.

2.16 In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence also stated as follows :-

“In regard to persons with disability at the State level grant-in-aid Committees, it is true that there is no express provision for doing that but it is possible to give them representation. There are three slots for experts and representatives of NGOs and State Governments can associate persons with disabilities under that category.”

2.17 The Committee asked whether any time frame has been fixed for the disposal of applications and release of the grant, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that no time frame has been fixed for the disposal of applications and release of the grant, since the time taken for processing up to the stage of actual release of grant varies from case to case. The time taken varies as it depends upon completion of the requisite documents by the organization and suitable response to queries that may be raised by the Ministry.

2.18 The Committee asked about the main reason for delay in sanctioning and releasing the grants, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the main reasons for delay in sanctioning and release of grant-in-aid under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme are as below:

- (i) Delay in submission of applications by the organizations to the State-Governments.
- (ii) Delay by State Governments in forwarding the applications with requisite recommendations to the Ministry.
- (iii) Delay in completion of procedural formalities and submission of wanted documents by the organization.
- (iv) Constraints due to the increasing number of proposals for grant-in-aid and non-availability of matching staff in the Ministry.

2.19 On being asked about the total sanctioned strength and actual strength the Ministry stated that the total sanctioned strength of staff is 9, including 2 posts of Section Officer and 7 posts of Assistant/UDC/LDC. The actual strength at present is 9, including 2

Section Officers and 7 Assitants/UDCs/LDCs. Thus, the sections dealing with the DDR Scheme proposals have been provided the sanctioned staff recently.

2.20 The Committee asked about the steps taken to procure matching staff to deal the increasing number of proposals for grant-in-aid, the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows:-

“On inadequacy of staff, it has been taken up at a higher level and I have just joined about two and a half months back. I propose to take it up with my counterpart in the Department of Personnel and Training to give us our full strength of staff so that there would not be any vacancies.”

2.21 The Committee wanted to know about the steps being taken to ensure timely release of grant-in-aid and strengthen the present scheme of grant-in-aid to NGOs for persons with disabilities for ensuring quality programmes, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that there is a need to further strengthen the inspection and monitoring system so that proposals are received in time from the State Governments/UT administrations. It is also necessary to deploy adequate number of persons in the Ministry to process the cases in time.

2.22 On enquiring about the procedure adopted for inspections/monitoring of the NGOs alongwith channels involved in the procedure, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that each proposal for grant under the DDRS scheme is considered in the Ministry on the basis of recommendations of the State Governments. The State

Governments send recommendations only after carrying out inspections and consideration of the proposals by a Multidisciplinary Grant-in-aid (GIA) Committee. Inspections can also be carried out by an agency designated by the Committee.

2.23 To a query, whether the persons engaged for the work of inspection/monitoring are specialized in the field, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that inspections reports are prepared by the inspecting team in a standardized and comprehensive format prescribed by the Ministry, which includes relevant details about the project, past performance, staff and beneficiary details, maintenance of records by the organization and specific remarks of the inspecting team on the feasibility of funding the project. The inspecting team includes officials with experience in the administration of welfare/rehabilitation schemes and accounts personnel wherever required. Special inspections by technical experts in the relevant field of disability are also carried out, wherever found necessary. Monitoring of implementation of the projects and utilization of grants is also done through examination of various documents submitted by the NGOs along with the application for grant, such as the Annual Reports, audited statement of accounts and utilization certificates. Independent evaluation of implementation of the projects under the scheme is also taken up by the Ministry through reputed agencies, which includes detailed inspections.

2.24 The Committee asked if an NGO can forward their proposal to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment directly to avoid

delay in grant, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as under:-

“First of all, on the delay in routing the proposals of NGOs through the State Governments, I would submit that there are alternatives and an NGO, if it so wishes, can also route its proposals through one of our seven National Institutes of Disability. So, it is not 100 per cent mandatory that only the recommendation of the State Government is required and there is a certain amount of flexibility there.”

Tapering off grant-in-aid

2.25 The Ministry in their written reply have informed the Committee that to encourage gradual self-reliance of NGOs, tapering of grant has commenced in 2007-08 in projects already funded for 7 years in urban areas. Tapering is by 5% every alternate year, so as to reduce the level of funding to 75%.

2.26 About reducing donations, a representative from an NGO during non-official evidence stated as follows :-

“The quantum of donations and public funds is also on the decrease. They have their problems. They expect something in return which perhaps through the NGOs they are not able to get. So, they are investing less and donating less.”

2.27 In regard to tapering off the grants, another representative from NGO during non-official evidence stated as follows :-

“One of the decisions taken in respect of this scheme – Deendayal Upadhyaya Scheme – is that for the NGOs, after certain years of running the programme with the grant-in-aid under this Scheme, the grants-in-aid will be phased out in a proportional manner and they will have ultimately to become

self-sufficient. The Committee Members would appreciate that the public donations are also drying up. Therefore, there are no other means. It is because, we are charitable organisations and we cannot venture into commercial ventures. Therefore, this decision of the Government will ultimately result into disappearance of the programmes in the NGO sector of which the ultimate effect would be that the educational programmes, the training programmes will also disappear and the legislative mandate of equality and full participation will be frustrated.”

2.28 On being asked about the reason for tapering off the grant, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“On the issue of tapering of Government grant, this is being done very selectively as was also mentioned by one of the hon. Members. It is confined only to the NGOs which are working in the urban areas. There is only 5 percent reduction in alternate year and the ultimate tapering is only to the level of 75 per cent. So, it is not really a drastic tapering. The intention was that over a period of time NGOs should be able to do these activities with somewhat lesser dependence on the Government although to the extent of 75 per cent, the Government’s commitment always stands at the very least.”

CHAPTER III

Programmes and Schemes

3.1 The Committee asked about the various programmes and schemes implemented for the welfare of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished the following details to the Committee about their programmes and schemes:-

(i) National Institutes

3.2 For the welfare of persons with disabilities, the Government have developed an extensive infrastructure. The following seven national Institutes, specialized in various disabilities are working for (i) development of rehabilitation manpower for providing specialized services to persons with disabilities; (ii) research & development of and (iii) development of models for delivery of services :-

- Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi
- National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
- National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata
- National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad
- National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai
- National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Cuttack
- National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai.

3.3 The National Institutes are knowledge centres and the expertise developed by them is utilized through Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) & District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)

to cater to the needs of the persons with disabilities. These Institutes have regional centres also.

3.4 In this regard, a representative from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated as follows :-

“We have seven National Institutes for persons with disability all around the country. More or less, these are disability-wise institutes. There is one for hearing handicapped at Mumbai; one for visually handicapped at Dehradun; and there is one for mentally handicapped at Secunderabad. For persons with orthopaedic disabilities, we have three institutes, that is, at Delhi, Kolkata and one at Ulatpur near Cuttack, and we have one for multiple disabilities near Chennai. Many of these institutions have started new courses at Masters, Bachelors, and Ph.D level in the recent past.”

3.5 There are also several National Institutions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, which are working in the field of medical treatment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These are :

- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore;
- All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mumbai;
- All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore;
- Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, etc.

3.6 The Committee desired to know whether the National Institutes are sufficiently well equipped to serve the persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that upgradation of National Institutes is a continuous process. However, these Institutes are adequately equipped to run a wide range of courses for manpower

development and training in disability sector. They are also providing rehabilitation services through outreach activities. To meet the evolving needs in the sector and in keeping with international best practices, several new courses have been introduced in the last few years.

(ii) Composite Rehabilitation Centres

3.7 Due to lack of adequate facilities for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment has set up five Composite Regional Centres for persons with disabilities at Srinagar, Sundernagar (Himachal Pradesh), Lucknow, Bhopal and Guwahati to provide both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, health, employment and vocational training, research and manpower development, rehabilitation for persons with disabilities etc. Basic objective of setting up CRCs is to create the infrastructure required for training and manpower development, research and development and providing services to persons with disabilities, particularly in those parts of the country where such infrastructure is lacking at present. These Centres are providing composite and comprehensive facilities for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities of all categories, training and organizing awareness programmes in the field of rehabilitation at regional levels. All the CRCs are functional. These Centres are being provided with assistance to build their own buildings, which will have all disabled friendly features and barrier free access. The CRCs also conduct various training programmes for professionals. Comprehensive rehabilitation services including aids and appliances are being provided to the persons with disabilities.

3.8 These Centres have been working as extended arms of National Institutes, in each of the disabilities and provide services to persons with all types of disabilities at one place.

3.9 To a question, whether Government have felt need to set up more CRCs in other regions also, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that there is a need to establish one CRC in each state.

(iii) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres

3.10 On being asked about the functions of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) Scheme basically seeks to provide comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities at the grass root level through creation of infrastructure and capacity building at district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation, training/guiding of grassroots level functionaries. Under the scheme, rehabilitative support to persons with disabilities is provided through :-

- Survey and identification of persons with disabilities through camp approach;
- Awareness generation for encouraging and enhancing prevention of disabilities, early detection and intervention, etc.
- Early Intervention;
- Assessment of need of assistive devices, provision/fitment of assistive devices, follow up/repair of assistive devices

- Therapeutic services e.g. Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, etc.;
- Facilitation of disability certificate, bus passes and other concession/facilities for persons with disabilities;
- Referral and arrangement of surgical correction through Government and Charitable institutes;
- Arrangement of loans for self employment, through banks and other financial institutions;
- Counselling of disabled, their parents and family members;
- Promotion of barrier free environment;
- To provide supportive and complimentary services to promote education, vocational training and employment for persons with disabilities through: -
 - (i) Providing orientation training to teachers, community and families
 - (ii) Providing training to persons with disabilities for early motivation and early stimulation for education, vocational training and employment
 - (iii) Identifying suitable vocations for persons with disabilities, keeping in view local resources and designing and providing vocational training and identifying suitable jobs, so as to make them economically independent
 - (iv) Provide referral services for existing educational, training, vocational institutions.

3.11 In this regard, Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“The DDRCs are supposed to be the centres at the district level, which will give these persons counseling for various kinds of problems of the disabled and also undertake the rehabilitation. We also have to integrate them with our programmes. This is an incentive which has been taken very recently. We are quite aware that in an ideal scenario, there should be a district disability rehabilitation centre, at least one in each district. We are quite aware of this fact. But then, initially the policy and thinking was that to begin with let us have it in those districts where there is no major NGO or no such agencies working for the disabled. So, 199 such centres have been sanctioned and I think 128 are operational.”

3.12 On being asked whether 128 DDRCs are sufficient to meet the needs of the disabled person in the country, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Government have already sanctioned 199 DDRCs, a list of which is at **Annexure III**. As soon as all these DDRCs become functional, the Government would consider sanctioning more DDRCs in the unserved districts of the country.

National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

3.13 On being asked about the objectives of setting up National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the National Handicapped Finance and

Development Corporation was established in 1997 with the following main objectives :

- a) To promote economic development activities and self-employment ventures for the benefit of persons with disabilities;
- b) To extend loan to persons with disabilities for upgradation of their entrepreneurial skill for proper and efficient management of self-employment ventures;
- c) To extend loans to persons with disabilities for pursuing professional/technical education leading to vocational rehabilitation/self-employment; and
- d) To assist self-employed individual with disabilities in marketing their finished goods.

Loans at concessional rates are provided to persons with disabilities for setting up enterprises, education, etc.

3.14 In this regard, a representative from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“We have the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. Its headquarters is in Faridabad. That Corporation works for the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. Basically they give loans for economic activities, income-generating activities.”

3.15 The Committee enquired about the eligibility criteria of sanctioning loan to a person with disabilities for setting up enterprise, pursuing education, etc., the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that NHFDC provides financial assistance for wide range of income

generating activities to persons with disabilities. Brief details of the schemes of NHFDC are as under :-

- 1) **For setting up small business in Service/Trading sector** : Loan up to Rs.1.0 lakh for sales/trading activity and Rs.3.00 lakh for service sector activity. The small business, project or activity, for which financial assistance has been sought will have to be operated by the disabled person himself and/or employing at least 15% disabled persons in his venture.
- 2) **For purchase of vehicle for commercial hiring** : Loan upto Rs.5.00 lakh. Purchase of vehicle including auto rikshaw for commercial hiring purpose.
- 3) **For setting up small industrial unit** : Loan upto Rs.5.00 lakh. Loan assistance is provided to disabled persons for manufacturing, fabrication and production. The disabled persons will be the owner/chief executive of the company and will employ at least 15% disabled persons.
- 4) **For Agricultural activities** : Loan upto Rs.5.00 lakh. Loan assistance is provided to disabled persons for agricultural production, irrigation, horticulture, sericulture, purchase of agricultural machinery/equipment for agricultural services, marketing of agricultural products, etc.

- 5) **For self-employment amongst persons with mental retardation, cerebral palsy and autism :** Loan upto Rs.3.00 lakh. In such cases, the financial assistance is extended through parents or spouse or legal guardian of the dependant mentally disabled person.
- 6) **Loan for Professional/Educational/Training courses :** Loan upto Rs.7.50 lakh for studies in India and upto Rs.15.0 lakh for studies abroad.
- 7) Financial Assistance for Skills and Entrepreneurial Development
- 8) Micro Credit Scheme by State Channelising Agencies implemented through NGOs. Loan upto Rs.5.00 lakh for each NGO and Rs.25000/- for each beneficiary.
- 9) Parents' Association of mentally retarded persons. Loan upto Rs. 5.00 lakh.

Rate of Interest :

- | | | | |
|------|---|---|---------|
| i) | Upto Rs.50,000/- | - | 5% p.a. |
| ii) | Above Rs.50,000/- and upto Rs.5.0 lakh | - | 6% p.a. |
| iii) | Above Rs.5.0 lakh (loan for education/training) | - | 8% p.a. |

Repayment :

| | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|
| General scheme | - | maximum 10 years |
| Education scheme | - | 7 years |
| Micro Credit Scheme | - | 36 months |

Rebate : A rebate of 1% p.a. on interest for disabled women.

Procedure for Obtaining Loan :

Applications on prescribed format to be submitted through the State Channelising Agency. Projects can also be submitted through the branches of Punjab & Sind Bank or Oriental Bank of Commerce who have entered into a collaborative arrangements with NHFDC for implementation of the schemes of NHFDC. Projects upto Rs.1.50 lakh are sanctioned by State Channelising Agency/Bank and applications for loan more than Rs.1.50 lakh are sanctioned by NHFDC.

3.16 The Committee asked about the status of pendency of applications for receiving the loan, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, 3282 beneficiaries, 4765 beneficiaries and 4563 beneficiaries respectively have availed loans from NHFDC. As on 10th July, 2007, 865 applications are pending for availing loan.

3.17 About disbursal by NHFDC, the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as under:-

“In regard to self - employment, the National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation provides loan to persons

with disabilities. They have disbursed about Rs.172 crore in the last four years to about 35,000 persons with disabilities. The NHFDC works through State channelising agencies and there are 44 of them around the country.”

3.18 Stressing on revising the limit of loan, a representative from an NGO during non-official evidence stated as under:-

“For working people I would suggest the Handicapped Finance Corporation should provide loans. For those who can afford and those who are working, they should provide loan at differential rates of interest to procure transport for them. NHFDC is basically to provide loans at subsidized rates for the working people. The limits for these were decided more than a decade before. Those limits should be revised because of the inflationary pressure. If they are providing Rs.1 lakh for a particular purpose then it should be increased accordingly as the cost of procuring capital and the working capital has gone up.”

Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Scheme

3.19 On asking about the procedure of acquiring assistive devices from the Government, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the persons with disabilities can get the assistive devices from the Government under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP Scheme). Under the Scheme, grants-in-aid is sanctioned to the NGOs/National Institutes/ALIMCO/DDRCs to distribute modern assistive devices to the needy persons with disabilities.

3.20 The main objective of the scheme is to assist the needy physically handicapped persons with durable, modern and standard aids and appliances, which can promote their physical, social and

psychological rehabilitation. To expand its coverage, the scheme has been revised w.e.f. 01.04.2005. Apart from revision in income eligibility, many new products have been brought under the purview of the scheme, which include motorized tricycle for persons with locomotor disabilities, software for persons with visual disabilities using computers etc. Further, it has also been provided that at least 25% of the beneficiaries should be women.

3.21 Under the revised scheme, the aids appliances costing up to Rs.6000/- are given to the disabled person free of cost whose monthly income is up to Rs.6,500/- and 50% of the cost to those having an income between Rs.6501/- and Rs.10,000/- per month. Under the Scheme medical and surgical correction and intervention, which is essential prior to fitment of aids and appliances is also included.

3.22 About this scheme, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“.....one is the Assistive Devices to persons with disabilities. Under this programme, we organize camps in various parts of the country and we provide them certain aids like tricycles, etc. either free of cost or at subsidized prices by holding such camps.

Basically these are to the poorer sections of the society. Under this scheme Rs.67.62 crore have been released for the year 2006-07. This scheme is implemented primarily through the NGOs. To some extent we are trying to involve the DDRCs also in this process. They are also taking it up. This serves also as an important channel for communication of various programmes for the disabled.”

3.23 During 10th Five Year Plan details of allocation, expenditure & coverage under the scheme are given below:-

| Year | Budget Allocation | Amount Released | Rs. in Crore |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | | No. of NGOs Assisted |
| 2002-03 | 55.00 | 57.00 | 139 |
| 2003-04 | 57.00 | 55.00 | 152 |
| 2004-05 | 60.00 | 63.19 | 147 |
| 2005-06 | 67.00 | 57.91 | 139 |
| 2006-07 | 71.20 | 49.39 | 64 |
| | | | (upto Dec. 2006) |

3.24 Elaborating the ADIP Scheme, the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as under;-

“We have a large scheme of providing concessional assistive devices to persons with disabilities free or at concessional rates. In the last four years, a total of 11 lakh beneficiaries have been provided assistive devices. This scheme is almost entirely implemented through non-government organisations. It has also been revised with effect from April, 2005 and provisions regarding eligibility have been made more liberal. We also hold special camps under the scheme to assess persons with disability and to provide them with assistive devices. In the North-Eastern Region, 387 such special camps were held, and 23 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.”

3.25 In this regard, an NGO in their memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that the aids provided are of low cost and not up to the mark under ADIP Scheme. Persons having income between Rs.6501/- to Rs.10000/- per month have to pay 50% of the total cost of the aid. In a country like our, where the number of family member is 6 to 8, it is very difficult to pay even this amount.

3.26 About the quality of assistive device provided under ADIP Scheme, a representative from an NGO during non-official evidence

stated as under :-

“The mobility aids, like the wheel chairs, which are available in the market are of sub-standard quality.”

3.27 Suggesting remedial steps to improve the quality of these assistive devices, representative further stated as under :-

“At the moment we do not have any agency which monitors the quality. We need to strengthen the standardization and if possible some agencies appointed. It should authorize them and give them labels, like the ISI, to market these products. Even as small a thing as crutch, which people use is of sub-standard quality. So many accidents have occurred and people have broken their bones because of this.”

3.28 To a question as to why the Government does not provide improved equipment under this scheme, like battery operated and some other things, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“.....That is because our scheme does not substitute the open market system, open market things which are available throughout the country either from Government sources or through the non-governmental sources. These are already there. Our scheme is a special intervention basically keeping in view the needs of the poorest persons where we give them this equipment, these aids either totally free or at subsidized costs. Therefore, when the scheme has been evolved there is a limit prescribed. So, we include those equipment and those appliances which are within that financial limits.”

3.29 The Committee wanted to know whether the Ministry have received any complaint about the supply of sub-standard assistive device under ADIP Scheme from any NGO/individual, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to

the Committee stated that no specific written complaints have been received. However, there have been oral complaints during meeting with Implementing Agencies of Schemes of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme. Chairman & Managing Director, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) has assured that he would take immediate remedial action in respect of each such complaint including instant replacement of defective/poor quality of assistive device.

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

3.30 About Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme is being implemented since 1999 with the objective of ensuring effective implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, by creating an enabling environment and encouraging non-governmental organisations through financial assistance for undertaking projects for the welfare of the disabled in different disciplines, including the areas of education, training and rehabilitative services.

3.31 The scheme provides support to Non-Government Organisations in delivering various rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. The activities supported under the scheme include special schools for children with orthopedic, speech, hearing, visual and mentally disabilities, vocational training centres to provide basic skills to person with disabilities so that they may live as independently

as possible, community based rehabilitation programme, half-way homes for psycho-social rehabilitation of treated and controlled mentally ill persons, community based rehabilitation programme, pre-school and early intervention programmes, manpower development programmes, support for setting up Braille presses and placement services, etc. District Disability Rehabilitation Centres set up by the Ministry are also funded under this scheme after they have been run for a period of five years in respect of such centres set up in Jammu & Kashmir or North East and three years in the rest of the country and handed over to a prominent NGO in the District for its further continuance and maintenance.

3.32 About this scheme, the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“.....which we are implementing is DDRS, the Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme. This scheme we are implementing through the NGOs. Under this they have special programmes for rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities, like they have special schools, vocational training centres, pre-school interventions, half way homes, etc. For this purpose the Ministry provides them support by way of grants. For the year 2006-07, we had provided Rs.54.51 crore for this.”

3.33 On being asked about the number of homes set up for the disabled person and number of inmates, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that eleven halfway homes for psychosocial rehabilitation of treated and controlled mentally ill persons are being run by the NGOs with the financial support under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme of the Ministry. The objective of these homes is to provide

vocational training, counseling to them and their families to facilitate reintegration with the family/society and medical advice/treatment to take care of occasional psychiatric disturbances. Nearly 450 persons are getting benefits in these homes.

3.34 About funding patterns of these homes, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment further stated that eligible NGOs running half way homes/hostels for a group of 25 inmates are eligible to get a maximum recurring grant of Rs.7.33 lakhs and non-recurring grant of Rs.2.78 lakhs under the scheme. The recurring part of the grant covers honorarium to staff and doctors/specialists and expenditure on other items like rent, maintenance, contingencies, medicines and non-recurring grant covers the equipment for vocational training, furniture and kitchen equipments etc. The Government provides support to the maximum of 90% of the admissible grant and rest 10% is to be met by the NGO.

Head Count

3.35 To a question, whether the grants are released on the basis of beneficiaries or head count on the day of inspection, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the number of beneficiaries to be considered for grant-in-aid to a voluntary organisation in a particular year is calculated keeping in view various factors such as the number of beneficiaries found present on the day of inspection, the number of beneficiaries covered in the grant for the previous financial year and the prescribed ceiling of 15% increase in number of beneficiaries over the previous year.

3.36 The Committee desired to know whether the Ministry have ever received any request from the NGOs to change the procedure, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that there is no general demand from NGOs to change this procedure. There have been requests from NGOs in a few cases in the past but sufficient cause has not been found to amend the procedure in this regard.

Procedure of Informing the NGOs

3.37 The Committee asked about the procedure being adopted by Ministry to intimate NGOs regarding the status of their application submitted for grant-in-aid by them, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that regular correspondence is made with the organization in connection with processing of the applications for grant-in-aid submitted by them. The organisations are also contacted over telephone to expedite submission of wanting documents. Further, any organization that contacts the Ministry over telephone or in person are provided the information sought. In the case of new proposals for grant-in-aid, the minutes of the Screening Committee constituted by the Ministry are made available on the Ministry's website so that the organisations become aware whether their proposal is recommended. If the proposal is not recommended, the reasons for not recommending the proposal can also be seen on the website.

3.38 In this regard, an NGO in their memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that many of the NGO's carry out the programmes as desired with the support of the Government through various grants. Many a times we were put into difficulties due to the inordinate delay in releasing the grants. We are also at dark to know the extent of the grant or release.

Salary Structure

3.39 The Committee asked about the pay scales given to teachers working in these schools/institutions for the disabled are at par with the teachers of general schools, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the pay scales given to teachers/professionals working in schools/institution for the disabled are not at par with the teachers in general schools, RCI is advocating equivalence of terms and conditions of service between teachers qualified with Diploma/Degree in General Education and Diploma/Degree in Special Education. The Ministry is also pursuing the matter with Ministry of Human Resource Development, which as per National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, is the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to the education of persons with disabilities.

3.40 On being asked whether any study has ever been conducted to know the reasons for staff leaving in NGOs at regular intervals for higher salary, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Ministry does not determine the salary structure of staff working in NGOs. Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme honorarium for

qualified teachers is provided to NGOs as per scheme norms. An evaluation study of the scheme was assigned to the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai by the Ministry in 2004. One of the recommendations in the evaluation study report is that, in order to attract and retain quality staff, it is necessary to reconsider the honorarium currently offered. The Committee further asked about the honoraria given to special educators at present, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that there is a proposal to revise the cost norms of the scheme, including honoraria, which is to be considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The present level of honoraria for special educators varies from Rs.2800 to Rs.6000 per month, depending upon the qualifications and experience.

3.41 The Committee desired to know whether the Expenditure Finance Committee have considered the proposal to revise the cost norms of the scheme including honorarium, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the proposal to revise the cost norms of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme including the honorarium has been considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 12.5.2008, and will now be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

3.42 In this regard, an NGO in their memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that there is a great disparity in the rate of honorarium for teachers in special school and those who are working in the Government sponsored schools, while both are giving same quantum of services. Naturally there is a dearth of good teachers in

special schools for educating the children with special needs. Moreover, there is no scope of retirement and other benefits for the teacher under these schemes. We think that Government should look into it to minimize the differences as far as possible.

3.43 Another NGO in this regard has also stated that disparity in salary structure of staff working in NGOs with other field of work is the cause for staff leaving at regular intervals for higher remuneration. It should be at par with other professionals and teachers to retain good quality staff. (eg. HRD salary structure is much higher than the MSJE).

National Scholarships to persons with disabilities scheme

3.44 In regard to scholarships, the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“About the scholarships, we have really not been able to do much about it. But then we have a small scheme under which some scholarships are given to the disabled students to pursue their higher professional courses.”

3.45 When asked about the details of schemes for national scholarship of person with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that scholarships for persons with disabilities are provided from the interest earned from investments made from National Disability Fund in various public sector banks. Students with 40% or more disability whose monthly family income does not exceed Rs.15,000/- are eligible for scholarship. A scholarship of Rs.700/- per month to day scholars and Rs.1,000/- per month to hostellers is provided to the

students pursuing Graduate and Post Graduate level technical or professional courses. Rs.400/- per month to day scholars and Rs.700/- per month to hostellers is provided for pursuing diploma and certificate level professional courses. In addition to the scholarship, the students are reimbursed the course fee subject to a ceiling of Rs.10,000/- per year.

3.46 So far 1443 scholarships have been awarded and 447 scholarships have been continued. The year-wise details are given below :-

| Year | Scholarships awarded | Scholarships continued |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2002-03 | 175 | --- |
| 2003-04 | 289 | 93 |
| 2004-05 | 505 | 131 |
| 2005-06 | 474 | 176 |
| 2006-07 | --- | 47 |
| Total | 1443 | 447 |

Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

3.47 On asking about the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the rights and facilities of the persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that Chief Commissioner/State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are mandated to take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities to the persons with disabilities. Based on the complaints filed before the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD)/State Commissioners, if the provisions Act, any rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders or instructions are violated or are not

implemented, CCD/State Commissioners take up the matter with the concerned authorities. The Act also empowers the Chief Commissioner/State Commissioners to issue suo-moto notice of any such non-compliance. CCD is required to coordinate the work of the Commissioners. CCD/State Commissioners have the same powers as are vested in the Civil Court for certain purposes.

3.48 Under Section 58 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 the CCD has been assigned the following functions :-

- (a) coordinate the work of the Commissioners;
- (b) monitor the utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government;
- (c) take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities;
- (d) submit reports to the Central Government on the implementation of the Act at such intervals as the Government may prescribe.

3.49 Section 59 of the Act provides that the CCD may of his own motion or on the application of any aggrieved person or otherwise look into complaints with respect to matters relating to :-

- (a) deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) non-implementation of laws, rules, bye-laws, regulations, executive orders, guidelines or instructions made or issued by the appropriate Governments and the local authorities for the welfare and protection of rights or persons with disabilities, and take up the matter with the appropriate authorities.

3.50 About the powers vested to Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows:-

“We have an Ombudsman under the PWD Act at the National-level as well as an Ombudsman at every State-level. At the National-level he is called the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), and at the State-level he is called the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. Like our various National Commissions such as for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Women, etc., the Chief Commissioners and the State Commissioners have powers of a Civil Court to examine complaints and to investigate them.”

3.51 The Committee asked whether the rights of Chief Commissioner/State Commissioner are sufficient in regard to redressing the grievances and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Chief Commissioner and (State) Commissioners have certain powers of a Civil Court under Section 63 of the PWD Act. These are similar to the powers vested in the National Commission for SC, ST, Minorities, Women etc., and seem adequate.

3.52 About the insufficient power of CCD, a representative from an NGO during non-official evidence stated as follows :-

“The Chief Commissioner for Disability is an institution which has been created under the Act for the redressal of the grievances but this institution has not been equipped with the powers to ensure implementation of the directions issued by the Chief Commissioner or at the State level, State Commissioners for persons with disabilities. Moreover, in many States, the State Commissioners for persons with disabilities are not separately appointed but it is the Secretary of the concerned department that is Social Welfare or Social Justice or Empowerment, as the case may be, in respective States. They are entrusted with the additional job of Commissioner for persons with disabilities. This is a clear violation of the accepted legal principle that implementer cannot judge the

enforcement part also. Therefore, I also recommend that while undertaking the exercise of amendment, all these areas also need to be reconsidered.”

Insurance Scheme

3.53 To a question about the insurance schemes meant for persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the persons with disabilities, who are gainfully employed, are provided insurance coverage under the normal insurance schemes of the LIC (may be with certain restrictions and extra premium). However, the persons with disabilities, not employed/not employable could be covered under Jeevan Adhar and Jeevan Vishwas Schemes. The National Trust has also formulated a Health Insurance Scheme (Niramaya) for the persons with four types of disabilities covered under the trust. The scheme is to be launched in the following 10 selected districts of the country in the first phase-

| S.No. | State/UT | District |
|-------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Bihar | Kaimpur |
| 2 | Chandigarh | Chandigarh |
| 3 | Delhi | Central Delhi |
| 4 | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 5 | Kerala | Ernakulam |
| 6 | Madya Pradesh | Jabalpur |
| 7 | Tamilnadu | Erode |
| 8 | Tripura | Agartala |
| 9 | Uttar Pradesh | Rae Bareily |
| 10 | Uttrakhand | Bageshwar |

The objectives of the scheme are:

- Ø To provide affordable Health Insurance to person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities
- Ø To encourage health services seeking behaviour among persons with disability
- Ø To improve the general health condition & quality of life of person with disability

The Scheme envisages to deliver 'Community based' cover, which will:

- Ø Have a single premium across age band
- Ø Provide same coverage irrespective of the type of disability
- Ø Insurance cover upto 1.0 lakh Rs. and
- Ø All persons with disabilities will be eligible and included and there will be no 'selection'

3.54 Stressing to introduce a cashless health-insurance scheme, a representative from NGO during non-official evidence stated as follows :-

“We wish that if cashless health insurance scheme is introduced for the physically challenged people, it would be good. It is because the Government hospitals are not able to cope with the pressure. If it is provided it would help us a lot.”

Incentive to Employees in the private sector

3.55 The Committee asked about the steps taken to encourage the private sector to employ persons with disabilities, the Secretary,

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as under :-

“Section 41 of the Act provides that there should be incentives given to the employers in public and private sector so that they are able to employ persons with disabilities amounting to at least five percent of the work force. In 2007 budget speech, the Hon. Finance Minister had announced a special scheme to provide incentive. It has been said that the employers’ share of contributions for EPF and ESI will be borne by the Government of India for three years. This was the announcement made by the Hon. Finance Minister in his budget speech of 2007. The Ministry of Social Justice and the Ministry of Labour and Employment are jointly developing this scheme.”

3.56 Further in a answer to a starred question no. 203 dated 13.3.2008, the Ministry has furnished following statement about the scheme ‘Incentive to employers in the private sector:-

- (i) Total outlay : Rs. 1800 crore for the 11th Five Year Plan
- (ii) Sector covered : Private Sector
- (iii) Jobs to be created : 1 Lakh per annum
- (iv) Salary limit : Employees with disabilities, with monthly wage up to Rs. 25,000/- per month, working in the private sector would be covered.
- (v) Incentives : Payment by Government of the employer’s contribution to the Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for the first three years. The administrative charges of 1.1% of the wages of the employees covered under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act will continue to be paid by the employer.

Conditions:-

- A. The scheme will be applicable to the employees with disabilities:-
- (i) Covered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.
 - (ii) In the private sector all over India on enrolment of the employees in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Employees State Insurance (ESI), under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 respectively. In the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the employees would be registered in EPF under the J&K Employee Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1961.
 - (iii) Appointed on or after 1.4.2008
- B. The employers would submit a copy of the disability certificate, issued to the disabled employee by the Competent Authority under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996, first time when such benefit under EPF and ESI is claimed.
- C. The Government will directly provide employer's contribution for the schemes covered under the Employees Provident Fund &

Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. This will be done in respect of employees for a maximum period of three years. The administrative charges of 1.1% of the wages of the employees covered under the EPF Act will continue to be paid by the respective employers.

3.57 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment would make available to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation and Employees State Insurance Corporation lumpsum funds by way of advance. These would be used for the purposes of adjustment of individual claims received from the employers under the scheme. The amount with the organisations would be replenished periodically. Initially both the organisations would be provided Rs. 5 crore each and considering the requirement, the amount would be subsequently enhanced. The advance amount would be subject to quarterly review by the high level committee to be set up.

3.58 The Committee enquired as to how Government propose to keep vigil on private sector to ensure the proper implementation of the scheme as there are irregularities in employee contribution towards ESI, EPF, etc., the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Ministry of Labour & Employment is in the process of finalizing the changes in EPF and ESI scheme/Rules. To monitor the implementation of the scheme, a high level Committee Co-chaired by the Ministries of Labour & Employment and Social Justice &

Empowerment would be constituted. The composition of the Committee will be as follows:

- (a) Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment – Chairman
- (b) Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Co-Chairman
- (c) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment – Member
- (d) Chief Provident Fund Commissioner of Employees Provident Fund Organisation – Member
- (e) Commissioner, Employees State Insurance Corporation – Member
- (f) Joint Secretaries & Financial Advisors from the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Labour & Employment – Member
- (g) Joint Secretary level officer in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment – Member Secretary

3.59 The Committee would meet periodically, as per requirement, with a minimum sitting of once in quarter and consider various issues necessary for the smooth functioning of the scheme. Also, as per Government's decision, an effective system will be evolved for central record keeping, on-line registration and monitoring.

Job Reservation

3.60 The Committee asked about the quota fixed for jobs in Government services for persons with disabilities, the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“The PWD Act of 1995, the Act for persons with disabilities is the main Act in this regard. Under Section 32 there is provision that the appropriate Government would identify the posts where these reservations are to be made. In the context of the Central

posts in the Ministries as well as in the PSUs, it is the Government of India. In the context of the States, these are the State Governments. It is also mentioned in Section 33 of the same Act that there would be reservations in employment on three per cent vacancies in identified posts. These are for blindness and low vision; hearing impaired and loco motor disability which also includes persons affected by cerebral palsy. The one point that I would like to submit is and in fact, here I am referring to the national Policy Document, the status of reservation in the Government of India posts in the Ministry under category (A) is 3.07 per cent, for category (B) it is 4.41 per cent, for category (C) it is 3.76 per cent and for category (D) it is 3.18 per cent.

For PSUs, the status is A – 2.78 per cent, B – 8.54 per cent, C – 5.04 per cent and D – 6.75 per cent. The basis of these figures is page 6 of the document on National Policy for the Disabled. This broadly indicates the status upto 2002. We have submitted it to the Hon. Committee. The Department which monitors it or the nodal Department is the Department of Personnel and Training. And as per the information gathered from them, 2004 figures are the latest available figures available with them and this is what we have submitted to the Hon. Committee also. In 2004, 6358 recruitments were made and out of that, 1352 posts were reserved for the persons with disability and 563 have been filled up. I have got the break-up with me. For visually handicapped, it is 140, hearing handicapped-94, orthopaedically handicapped-329. I would like to submit one grievance here. This highest posts in the Government for the persons with disabilities which are filled through UPSC have not been identified. Then how can reservation be done and how can the posts be filled up for the persons with disabilities? I am happy to submit before the Committee that in 2006, UPSC has made recruitment for 22 civil services and out of them, 19 services have been identified as suitable for recruitment of persons with disabilities. This has been done by the respective cadre controlling authorities. But the Ministry of Social Justice has played a small catalytic role in that direction.”

3.61 On being asked about the provision of identification of posts periodically, the Secretary Ministry, of Social Justice and Empowerment further stated as follows :-

“I would also like to submit that under the Act, there is a provision that posts should be periodically identified and revised in various categories of services in the PSUs. It has to be revised at periodical intervals of three years. The last such list circulated by the Ministry of Social Justice was as of 2001. We admit that there was a delay.”

3.62 The Secretary further stated as follows :-

“Whereas in 2001 list, in all the four categories, 3345 posts had been identified for the disabled persons but in the revised 2007 list, the number of such posts is 5026.”

3.63 The Committee enquired about jobs actually reserved and filled up including the name of organisations in which these jobs are reserved, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that according to DOPT, during 2004, 6358 direct recruitments were made in 42 Government Ministries/Departments, out of which 1352 vacancies (Visually Handicapped – 267, Hearing Handicapped – 309, Orthopaedically Handicapped – 776) were reserved for Persons with Disabilities. Against these reserved vacancies, 563 persons with disabilities (VH – 140, HH – 94 and OH – 329) were actually appointed. This works out as 8.85% of the total recruitments (instead of 3% as provided in the Act) made during the year. A list showing Ministry-wise/Department-wise position of vacancies reserved and appointments of persons with disabilities made is enclosed **(Annexure-IV)**.

3.64 The Committee asked about the mechanism which monitor the issue of 3 per cent reservation in CPSUs, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“On the issue of 3 per cent reservation in CPSUs, this is essentially being monitored by the Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities... However, I would like to inform the Committee that the CCPD regularly screens all advertisements for recruitment brought out either by Central Ministries or their organisations or CPSUs and whenever it comes to their notice that an advertisement does not comply with the provisions of reservations, they take up the matter with us or the Ministry or the CPSU as the case may be and follow it through.”

General Awareness

3.65 On being asked about steps taken to create awareness regarding the programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the following steps have been taken to create awareness regarding the programmes for persons with disabilities:-

- (a) The information is available with DDRCs;
- (b) The information is disseminated through the camps organized by the DDRCs, NGOs, NIs and ALIMCO for assessment and distribution of aids and appliances;
- (c) Sensitization/awareness programmes are organized by the NIs as part of the regular training programme. These programmes cover various sector including civil servants,

rehabilitation/professionals, Doctor, members of panchayati raj institutions etc.

- (d) To provide awareness in rural areas, Anganwadi workers are provided assistance to disseminate information to pregnant women and young mothers regarding prevention and early detection of disabilities. These programmes have been taken up on pilot basis in 30 districts of U.P. and Bihar and 13 districts in Assam. The programme will be further expanded based on its evaluation after the implementation of its pilot phase.
- (e) The NIs also disseminate information through simplified brochure in local languages wherever any camps are organized by them;
- (f) A Disability Help Line has been established in Delhi and Mumbai. It is proposed to expand this network through the country. This help line provides complete information about the disability and also the benefits available and procedure for obtaining the benefits by persons with disabilities.

3.66 The Committee also desired to know about general programme on prevention, early detection and intervention of disability, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that Section 25 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 lays down the following for Prevention and Early detection of disabilities: -

- (a) Undertake surveys and investigations
- (b) Research on causes of disabilities

- (c) Promotion of prevention of disabilities
- (d) Screening of all children at least once in a year for identifying at-risk cases
- (e) Provision of trained staff at Primary Health Centres (PHCs)
- (f) Creation of awareness through schools, PHCs, VLWs, Anganwadi Workers, TV, Radio, etc.

3.67 They further stated that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the following Schemes :

- National Leprosy Eradication Programme
- National Programme for Control of Blindness
- Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme
- Pulse Polio Immunization Programme
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had allocated Rs.1196.25 crore for the above programmes in the year 2006-07.
- A pilot project for creation of awareness on prevention and early detection and intervention of various types of disabilities covers 30 districts (17 in Uttar Pradesh and 13 in Bihar) has been taken up. The project envisages dissemination of information in rural areas through Anganwadi workers. Recently, a pilot project has been taken up in 13 districts of Assam also. The programme is under implementation.

3.68 The Committee asked about steps being taken to eradicate fluorosis, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their

written reply furnished to the Committee stated that launching of a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis is under active consideration of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

CHAPTER IV

Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

4.1 About constitution of Rehabilitation Council of India, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“Hon. Members are aware that the RCI is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It has been entrusted with twin responsibility of standardizing and regulating the training of personnel and professionals in the field of rehabilitation and special education. The RCI was set up as a registered society in 1986. It was given the status of a statutory body subsequently by an Act of Parliament, namely the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. The RCI Act was amended in 2000 to bring it in line with the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.”

4.2 About the objective of RCI Act, 1992, the Chairman, RCI stated as follows :-

“...- Regulating the training of trainers for persons with disability;
- Standardising the courses of trainers, and
- Maintaining the Central Rehabilitation Register of all professionals.

..... the Act was amended in the year 2000 which gave us two more mandates:

- Monitoring of services all over the length and breadth of India, and
- Undertaking research in rehabilitation and special education”.

Number of Institutions

4.3 About number of institutions imparting training to personnel and professionals, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows: -

“There were only 24 institutions which were training personnel and professionals in the field of rehabilitation and special education in 1986 when the RCI was started. This has now increased to 288.”

4.4 To a query about insufficient number of institutions, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment further admitted during oral evidence stated as follows: -

“However, 288 training institutions in the field of rehabilitation are not sufficient to train the required number of personnel. Thus, country needs about 8 lakh special educators and other professionals. Today, against 32,000 persons registered with RCI as rehabilitation professionals with the distance educational programme introduced by RCI approximately 22,000 persons are being trained every year.”

4.5 On being asked about the steps taken to improve this situation, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence further stated as follows: -

“Since the requirement of rehabilitation professionals and personnel is very large, the RCI is constantly looking for ways of widening the bridge. In regular courses recognized by the RCI, 7600 students are getting trained. Further, distance education training is being imparted through nine open universities under which 7000 professionals are getting trained every year. RCI is also offering short term courses for general school teachers through foundation courses. Right now this has been started in Bhoj University in Madhya Pradesh and nearly 260 centres are operational. Every year about 8000 teachers are being trained under this programme. This is also constantly being increased. Thus, about 22,000 rehabilitation professionals and personnel are being added to the central rehabilitation register every year.”

4.6 The Committee enquired about the aim, objectives and features of Distance Education Training, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Rehabilitation Council of India visualizing the benefits of distance education in the area of disability, in order to meet the huge need of trained Resource Teachers/manpower, has launched a series of training programmes through Distance Education. The objectives of Distance Education are: -

- To develop a broad perspective of the role of specially trained professionals as an agent of change in the prevailing and emerging Indian society in the ensuing Age of IT Revolution and globalisation.
- To democratize higher education by providing access to large segments of the population, in particular the disadvantaged groups such as those living in remote and rural areas, including working people, women and other adults who wish to acquire and upgrade their knowledge and or/skills.
- To develop professional competencies to educate the group of learners comprising children with disabilities.
- To know and understand various methods and approaches of organizing learning experiences of learners with disabilities for inclusive/integrated/special education set up.
- To develop competencies for selection and organization of learning experiences.

- To understand the nature and needs of children with disabilities and their learning process.
- To develop competencies to deal with the academic and personal problems of the students with disabilities.
- To know and understand the various methods and techniques of evaluation and their applications.
- To develop competencies in selection and development and use of evaluation tools.
- To develop competencies in organizing various co-curricular and extra curricular activities.
- To know, understand and develop the ability to manage a special school.
- To develop competencies for organizing various instructional and student support activities.

RCI has started the following courses under its Distance Education Programme:-

- (i) B.Ed. (Special Education) to meet the need of trained Special Educators.
- (ii) Foundation Course on Education of Children with Disabilities to develop basic competencies in the teacher working in general school system in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme.
- (iii) Diploma and PG Diploma Course in Community Based rehabilitation (DCBR & PGDCBR).
- (iv) Awareness-cum-Training Package for parents of persons with disabilities keeping in view their vital role.

- (v) Post Graduate Professional Diploma (PGPD), which enables teachers having B.Ed. qualification, with specializations in the education (special) needs of children with Mental Retardation, Visual Impairment and Hearing Impairment to become equivalent to a special educator.

4.7 On being asked about specialized teachers, the representatives of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as under:-

“About the teachers, as a part of the overall SSA strategy, we have district training schools. One strategy is that all the teachers are to be provided training in their district schools which are known as DIETS. There is a one-week programme to familiarize and understand as to what are the requirements of the persons with disabilities and how they should be taught.

Secondly, for the hearing-impaired children, there are two strategies which the Ministry of HRD is following. One is that there is requirement of special teachers. The policy is that normally one special teacher should be available in the school. These special teachers have a qualification which is called B.Ed. Special Education where they are exposed to all kinds of disabilities, how the children are to be taught, etc. Therefore, even if one school is having a special teacher, he can work as a resource person for all the schools in the neighborhood. So, that is one strategy. Special teachers are less available. The Rehabilitation Council of India is taking all steps to train more and more teachers with this kind of a special education.”

4.8 The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence further stated as follows :-

“RCI is also launching accredits accumulation system from next year through which more people will be encouraged to come to this sector and earn diplomas at their own pace and need. This will help to improve the situation. RCI has recently launched EDUSAT

tele-conferencing facility with the help of ISRO and has embarked upon a dedicated channel for the disability sector. This was inaugurated on the 5th of October by the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. This provides a live tele-conferencing facility on 24 hours basis with a two way audio and one way video channel. Through this tele-conferencing facility the RCI proposes to reach the un-reached and improves the position regarding availability of rehabilitation professionals.”

Monitoring

4.9 The Committee asked about the monitoring mechanism of RCI, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that RCI monitors the performance of recognized institutions and takes the following steps to monitor quality of training :-

- (a) Surprise visits and inspections
- (b) Planned visits and inspections
- (c) Direct interactions with Course Coordinators
- (d) Direct interactions with students/trainees
- (e) Explanations are demanded in case of a large number of failures in both theory and practical examinations.
- (f) Explanations are demanded and action taken (example withdrawal of recognition) in case of non-compliance.
- (g) Semester pattern of examinations has been introduced which ensures examinations are held every 6 months, which in turn means that syllabus has to be completed in time.

4.10 To a question, about effective monitoring mechanism, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows:-

“As far as monitoring is concerned This includes inspections, surprise visits by experts, monitoring by the zonal coordination committees, involvement of the concerned universities, involvement of the concerned State Governments, feedback from the students and the teachers and the action on the complaints of irregularities received in coordination with the Chief Commissioner of Disabilities.

Having submitted that, we are quite aware that this is field where there is no scope for complacency and there is need for constant vigilance for keeping the organization not becoming opaque so that we can reach the excellence we are striving for.”

Full-time Chairman

4.11 The Committee asked about the reasons for not having a full time Chairman in RCI, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated during oral evidence as follows :-

“.... I would like to take this esteemed Committee into confidence and state that we, in the Ministry, are seized with the problem. This is a highly evolving field, and disability itself is a highly evolving field both nationally as well as internationally. Whatever is happening is only in the last two or three decades. So, when this Act was formulated in 1992, this was even before the mother Act, that is, the Persons with Disabilities Rights Opportunities Act 1995 was formulated, but the RCI Act was formulated in 1992. As per the perception at that time, it was thought that perhaps a part-time Chairman would serve the purpose. In fact, the Act itself does not anywhere make a specific mention on that account. It only mentions that there has to be a Chairperson under Section 3 sub-section 3. It also mentions under Section 8 sub-section 2 that the Council may determine the appropriate allowances for the

Chairperson. Now, when at that time, in 1992, this problem was thought of, the Department of Personnel was duly consulted and a view was taken that a part-time Chairperson will be enough. Accordingly, in these 14-15 years, we have had part-time Chairpersons. But we are seized with the problem that the need is increasing and considering the magnitude of the problem there is justification for having a full-time Chairperson. In fact, we are going to the Cabinet to take a final decision on that account. The Ministry is all in favour of it. So, we are taking whatever steps are required in that direction. I would like to assure the Committee on that account.”

4.12 The Committee asked about the Ministry’s suggestion to bring changes in its present organisational set-up so as to make its functions more effective, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply submitted to the Committee stated that by deploying contractual staff or by engaging experts in each field of rehabilitation, the Council manages its responsibilities. Keeping in view the increasing level of activities of the Council in regulating and promoting manpower development, the Council needs to have a full time Chairperson to guide its activities and to maintain close liaison with the Ministries, for interacting with State Governments & Vice-Chancellors of the Universities and with rehabilitation professionals inside and outside the country.

4.13 On being asked about the steps taken to appoint a full time Chairperson for RCI, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the matter is under active consideration of the Government and is being put up to the cabinet shortly.

Zonal Coordination Committees

4.14 The Committee desired to know, whether RCI has any regional level functioning, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply stated that the Council has established seven Zonal Co-ordination Committees (ZCC) in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations i.e. Central Zone at Bhopal, Eastern Zone at Kolkata, North-Eastern Zone at Shillong, Northern Zone at Ludhiana, Southern Zone at Secunderabad, Southern II Zone at Coimbatore and Western Zone at Ahmedabad. These Committees function in advisory capacity and act as Regional Chapters. The Council has been utilizing their services for effective monitoring of training institutes. These Committees strengthen the training programmes under their Zones by inviting professionals/personnel and NGOs in their workshops/seminars/sensitization programmes etc.

4.15 About insufficient number of Zonal Coordination Committees, the Chairman, RCI during oral evidence admitted as follows :-

“We have seven regional coordination committees looking after all the States of the country. Each regional coordination committee, therefore, looks after about 5-6 States. We feel that this is very difficult. This is done basically through NGOs. Therefore, it is an informal arrangement and we find that there is need to go down to the States first and then to the districts. We have submitted this to the 11th Five Year Plan and hopefully, we will get a solution.”

4.16 About the working of Zonal Coordination Committees, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that these Committees maintain vigil on the functioning of training institutes to the extent possible in their

respective zones, inspite of various limitations. It will however be ideal if State Level Committees are established across the country, particularly where there is greater density of training institutions.

Chapter V

Miscellaneous

Women with Disabilities

5.1 According to census 2001, there are 93.01 lakh women with disabilities, who constitute 42.46% of total disabled population. Women with disabilities require protection against exploitation and abuse.

5.2 The Committee further asked about steps being/have been taken by the Ministry/NGO to encourage girls with disabilities to become self-dependent, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that under all schemes of the Ministry/NGOs preference is given to girls/women. Further enquiring about, whether any reservation is fixed for them in jobs, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated that no separate reservation is fixed for them in jobs.

5.3 To a question, whether the Government is providing any social security scheme to the disabled girls/women the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that no, Government is not providing any social security scheme to the disabled girls/women.

5.4 About the social security scheme for disabled girls/women, an NGO in its memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that experience hitherto gathered prove that in many cases specially disabled girls/women fall in utter helplessness in their later part of life

or when they go out of any institution. This is very tragic and unfortunate. It will be highly appreciated if the Government and Non-Government organizations could jointly provide any Social Security Scheme which will help them with monthly financial assistance at the time of their adversity.

Vocational Training

5.5 Under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 there is provision for providing vocational training to persons with disabilities. In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“The vocational rehabilitation centres are run in two ways-they are run by the Labour and Employment Ministry and a large number of them are run by various NGOs and they are supported by this Ministry with grants-in-aid schemes. Their basic purpose is to give some vocational skills so that they can earn some livelihood to the disabled persons, mostly the people who are mentally retarded and all those people. They are not sort of formalized to that level.”

5.6 In this connection when the Committee asked about the mechanism evolved for providing vocational training to the persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that vocational training to persons with disabilities is being provided through 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) established by the Ministry of Labour and 144 Vocational Training Centres (VRCs) run by the NGOs and supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition, Ministry of Labour has also been

providing non-formal job oriented skill training through 7 Skill-Training Workshops (STWs) and rehabilitation services in rural areas through 11 Rural Rehabilitation Extension Services (RRECs).

5.7 The Vocational training Centres supported by the Ministry provide to disabled beneficiaries in Automobile/Electrical and Electronics/Mechanical/Printing/Textile industry related and other services related trades etc. These lead to development of skills for future employment or self-employment. These Centres also run residential courses. Grant in aid to the NGOs running these courses is provided to meet 90% of the eligible cost including payment of honorarium to the instructors, stipend to the trainees, hostel maintenance, transport, building rent, trade specific equipment, raw material, computers, furniture, books, etc.

5.8 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee further stated that under the programme of the Ministry of Labour during 2006, 10,986 persons with disabilities were rehabilitated by training and assistance in placement for wage and self-employment. VTCs under the Ministry have been providing training to 15000 persons with disabilities every year.

Unemployment allowance

5.9 When asked about the rate of unemployment allowances, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the unemployment allowance is provided to the persons with disabilities by the State

Governments/UT Administrations depending on their financial capacity. This varies from Rs.75/- P.M. to Rs.500/- P.M.

5.10 The Committee asked the reason for having a meager amount of just Rs.75/- p.m. as unemployment allowance in several States, the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“...unemployment allowance to the disabled is provided only by the State Governments. The Government of India does not have any share in it.”

Disability Pension

5.11 On being asked, whether the disability pension is being provided to disabled persons, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities lays down that the State Governments and UT Administrations will be encouraged to rationalize the amount of pension and unemployment allowance for persons with disabilities. A State/UT wise list is at **Annexure V**.

Disabilities Certificates

5.12 On being asked about the procedure being adopted to issue a 'Disability Certificate' to disabled persons, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that as per the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Rules, 1996, a Disability Certificate is to be issued by a Medical Board duly constituted by the Central and the State Government. The Medical

Board consists of at least three members out of which at least one member is to be a specialist in the particular field for assessing locomotor/Visual including low vision/hearing and speech disability, mental retardation and leprosy cured, as the case may be. The Medical Board after due examination is to indicate the period of validity in the certificate, in cases where there is any chance of variation in the degree of disability and is to give a permanent Disability Certificate in cases of such permanent disabilities where there are no chances of variation in the degree of disability.

5.13 Issue of disability certificate is a technical matter. A three-member board where concerned expert doctor is a member issues the certificate, which is countersigned by Chief Medical Officer/Medical Superintendent/Head of the Hospital.

5.14 About the issuance of Disability Certificate, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated as follows :-

“At the moment, the issue of Disability Certificate depends on the persons meeting the criterion of 40 per cent disability as defined in the law/rules and instructions there-under. The Central and State Governments have constituted Medical Boards at the District-level and in Central Government hospitals to issue these certificates. But as of now, Disability Certificates have been issued to approximately 22 per cent of the targeted population. A Committee was appointed to suggest some simplification in the procedure. The Committee has submitted its recommendations, and these are under consideration. We hope to bring in amendments to the rules under the PWD Act to give effect to these recommendations.”

5.15 The Committee further asked about the recommendations of the Committee set up to simplify the procedure, the Secretary during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“Basically, without going into great details, I would say that the Committee has recommended decentralization and where a disability is obvious and beyond doubt, the Committee has said that the power to certify disability should be delegated or brought down from the district level to the CHC or PHC level. We are processing recommendations. Fortunately, these do not require amendments to the Act. They can be implemented with an amendment to the rules prepared notified under the PWD Act and we are in the process of preparing those rules. We hope to implement them soon.”

5.16 To a question, if a person is refused to get disability certificate by Medical Board, to which authority he can approach for redressal of grievance, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their written reply furnished to the Committee stated that the Medical Board is not to refuse Disability Certificate to any person unless an opportunity is given of being heard. On representation by the applicant, the Medical Board is required to review its decision having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the case and pass such order in the matter as it thinks fit.

5.17 The certificate issued by the Medical Board makes a person eligible to apply for facilities, concessions and benefits admissible under schemes of the Governments or Non-Governmental Organisation, subject to such conditions as the Central or the State Government may impose.

5.18 In this regard, an NGO in its memorandum submitted to the Committee stated that still today differently abled children/persons are being harassed by various Government and non-Government institution due to not obtaining Disability Certificate from Competent Authority and it is a shame on us all. Most of their parents are uneducated/half-educated and they do not know where to go, how to apply etc. Even institutions like us do not get proper response from the Competent Authorities in this regard. Hence to avoid this harassment and long process, it could be better if the institutions running special Schools are empowered to issue Disability Certificate to the children who come to them for admission fulfilling stipulated conditions framed by the Government in this regard on the basis of Doctors/Expert's observation.

Issuance of National Identity Card

5.19 As various concessions are given to the persons with disabilities in traveling by Central Government and State Governments, the Committee asked about these concessions, in this regard, a representative from an NGO during oral evidence stated as follows :-

“... there are various concessions given to the persons with disabilities basically in travel. While railway journey, we have 75 per cent concession. Many States give us free transportation facility. Some States give us 50 per cent transportation by bus free, 50 per cent concession. But for every concession, we need to have a separate pass. There should be a National Identity Card issued and that should be valid for all the travel concessions whether it be under the Central Government or in any State Government.”

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities. The Committee selected the subject 'Programmes and schemes for the welfare of persons with disabilities' for examination and had detailed interactions with the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Rehabilitation Council of India and NGOs.

According to the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in India. Now-a-days there have been vast and positive changes in the perception of the society towards these people. It has been realized that a majority of these persons can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures. The Government of India has enacted three legislations for persons with disabilities viz. (i) Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; (ii) National Trust for welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999; and (iii) Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. National Policy for persons with disabilities has also been announced in

February, 2006. After going into the functioning of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Rehabilitation Council of India, the Committee feel that the Act and convention lay many obligations upon the Government and society. The subject of Disability still falls under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and keeping in view the increased obligations in terms of convention as well as Act and the changing scenario both economic as well as social and political, there is a need for consideration of a separate department dealing with persons with disabilities. The Committee also feel that though the policy has been rightly pronounced and legislations have also been enacted but the benefits that are intended have not reached the disabled beneficiaries. There is ample scope for improvement in several spheres of working of the Ministry and RCI. These aspects have been dealt with in greater detail by the Committee in the succeeding paragraphs.

2. The National Policy recognizes that persons with disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protect their rights and encourages their full participation in society. The focus of

the policy is primarily on prevention of disabilities, early detection and appropriate intervention, physical and economic rehabilitation measures, inclusive education, employment in the public as well as the private sector and self-employment, creation of a barrier free environment and development of rehabilitation professionals. The Committee note that India has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). By doing this, India has reaffirmed its commitment towards the International Policy Framework in respect of persons with disabilities. **The Committee, therefore, are of the view that now it has become obligatory to incorporate the essence of the UN convention in our planning, implementation, monitoring and review processes pertaining to the welfare of disabled persons.**

The Committee also note that there is a wide gap between the policy and grassroot reality. There is lack of awareness about disabilities. The Ministry have not taken sincere measures to create awareness. Although the policy has been formulated, proper implementation is lacking. Even the local MPs/MLAs are not apprised about the various welfare schemes. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should devise a mechanism to effectively**

associate Panchayati Raj institutions, local bodies and involve MPs/MLAs of the country in the process of implementation of National Policy for disabled persons, 2006. They also recommend that the Ministry should assign the work relating to evaluation of implementation of National Policy for persons with disabilities to an autonomous body having expertise in the field.

3. The Persons with Disabilities (opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995 (PWD Act) enacted to give effect to the Proclamation on the full participation and equality of the people with disabilities in the Asia and Pacific region is applicable only to seven disabilities viz. blindness, low vision, leprosy-cured, hearing impairment, loco-moto disability, mental retardation and mental illness. This Act also provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment, vocational training, job reservations, research and manpower, creation of barrier free environment, rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, unemployment allowance, establishment of home for persons with disabilities, etc. The Committee note that no sincere effort has been made to effectively implement the PWD Act, 1995. The commitment

made in the Tenth Five Year Plan of reaching the un-reached disabled persons remained unfulfilled. The Committee were informed that steps had been initiated for amendment to the Persons with Disabilities (opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995. Consultation with stakeholders at national level was undertaken. The suggestions received from the stakeholders are examined for amending the Act. **The Committee are of the firm view that though Act is in place, proper implementation of it is lacking and they, therefore, recommend that Ministry should examine the suggestions received from stakeholders in the country expeditiously and accordingly bring amendments in the PWD Act in consonance with the UNCRPD within a timeframe after presentation of the Report to the House.**

The Committee are also of the view that there are certain other disabilities like thalassaemia, flurosis, cochlear implant, etc, that have not been recognized in the PWD Act, 1995 so far. They recommend that Ministry should examine all such disabilities and explore possibility to give recognition to these major disabilities in the PWD Act .

4. National Trust Act covers autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation or a combination of any two or more of such conditions and includes a person suffering from severe multiple disability. The main objectives of this trust are to enable and empower persons with disabilities to live as independently and as fully as possible, to extend support to registered organizations for providing need based services and to evolve procedure for appointment of legal guardians for persons with disabilities requiring such protection. The Committee note that the trust has generated income of Rs.551.98 lakh, Rs.1289.83 lakh, Rs.1032.11 lakh, Rs.887.94 lakh, Rs.895.17 lakh and Rs.991.24 lakh during the year 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively and the utilization is Rs.396.31 lakh, Rs.505.69 lakh, Rs.607.31 lakh, Rs.620.39 lakh, Rs.375.86 lakh, Rs.442.22 lakh for the same period. The Committee are distressed to note that National Trust could not fully utilize the funds from 2001-02 to 2006-07. They are astonished to note the reasons given by the Ministry for lower utilization of funds in comparison to the income generated through corpus of National Trust, that 286 districts are having no NGOs working in this area. **The Committee view this lackadaisal attitude of the Ministry**

seriously and recommend that every sincere effort should be made to encourage NGOs to serve in the unserved districts for ensuring optimum utilization of the funds and also to ensure that the disabled beneficiaries in those districts are not deprived of their right to live a dignified life. They also recommend that mentally ill persons should also be included under the National Trust Act.

5. Under the Scheme 'Supported Guardianship' Rs.500/-p.m per beneficiary is provided to 10 beneficiaries per district in 36 districts for encouraging relatives, friends and institutions to accept legal guardianship of destitutes and abandoned disabled persons. The Committee were informed that keeping in view the limited availability of funds at present only upto 10 beneficiaries per district are being covered under the scheme. According to an evaluation study, the Guardianship Scheme can have significant impact over a large area in the country if the present coverage of the scheme is enlarged. The Committee are not convinced with the reason put forth by the Ministry that due to limited availability of funds the scheme is confined to only 10 beneficiaries per district. **The Committee recommend that the**

Ministry should take steps to implement this scheme in other districts of the country at the earliest and the amount of assistance should be suitably increased from Rs.500, which is a meager amount to take proper care of disabled persons.

6. National Trust is implementing a scheme called SAMARTH to provide residential facility - both short term and long term. The Committee note that this scheme provides residential facility to 35 children, out of which only nine seats are for the BPL beneficiaries and rest are all paid seats. The scheme deprives poor disabled persons. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that seats for BPL beneficiaries should be increased. The Committee also note that the scheme is based on tapering of grants. At the Ninth year, the grants will be stopped. The Committee are of the view that this scheme should not be based on 100% tapering of grants. It will discourage NGOs to come forward to take up projects under this scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should review this scheme and instead of 100% tapering of the grants, it should be tapered off to certain lower extent.**

7. The annual budget allocation for the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs.229.50 crore, Rs.219.50 crore, Rs.250.60 crore, Rs.250.60 crore, Rs.243.00 crore, Rs.221.00 crore and expenditure for the same period is Rs.193.27 crore, Rs.168.87 crore, Rs.177.15 crore, Rs.195.72 crore, Rs.183.06 crore and Rs.191 crore respectively. The Committee are surprised to see the wide variation in budget allocation and actual expenditure by the Ministry. The allocated funds have not been fully utilised. The situation, to say the least is very alarming. The reasons advanced by the Ministry are - the late receipt of recommendations from State Governments and delay in receipt of grants-in-aid proposals from the NGOs. **The Committee while expressing their deep concern on the under utilization of funds recommend that as project proposals and projections for budget are drawn up well in advance, effective planning, implementation and monitoring should be ensured to make optimum use of allocation received annually.**

Regarding pendency of utilization certificate, the Ministry informed that the grant-in-aid for a financial year is being released only after receipt of the utilization certificate for the previous year.

However, a representative of the Ministry agreed during the evidence that getting the utilization certificate in time is creating problem. **The Committee view this attitude of the Ministry in giving varying information about the actual situation very seriously and desire that while furnishing the information to a parliamentary Committee, the Ministry should be extra vigilant.**

The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should make all efforts to recover the grant-in-aid from those NGOs who have either misused the grants or have not furnished utilization certificate for the grant-in-aid received by them. They also recommend that appropriate penal action should be taken against those NGOs who have misused the grants.

The Committee further note that multi-disciplinary grants in Committees for supporting voluntary organisations does not have any representation of disabled persons or their Associations. **They recommend that the Ministry, as was agreed during the evidence, should invariably make efforts to ensure the representation of disabled persons in the multi-disciplinary grant in Committee.**

The Committee were also informed that the persons engaged in the work of inspection/monitoring are not specialized in the field and the inspection reports are prepared by the inspecting team in a standardized and comprehensive format prescribed by the Ministry. **Not convinced with the reply of the Ministry, the Committee recommend that monitoring/inspection of the projects, including review of past performance, staff, data regarding beneficiaries, maintenance of records should be done by persons specialized in the field.**

8. The Committee have been informed that proposals for grant-in-aid under Deendayal Rehabilitation Scheme are required to be sent by NGOs to the concerned State Government/UT Administration in the prescribed applications form along with project detail, annual report and other documents such as audited accounts, utilization certificates for the previous year, etc. Proposals from various NGOs are examined by a multi-disciplinary grant-in-aid Committee of the State Government/UT Administration, alongwith inspection reports of the State Governments. The recommendations are then sent by the State Governments/UT Administration to the Ministry. Inspection can

be carried out by any agency other than the State Government/UT Administration that may be designated by the Ministry. Recommended proposals are considered by the Ministry on the basis of the model projects and detailed norms laid down in the scheme and past performance of the organisation. Grant-in-aid can be provided to a maximum of 90% of the admissible grant while 10% is to be borne by the NGO. **The Committee are constrained to note that the Ministry do not even possess the data regarding number of proposals of NGOs received during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07. They therefore, recommend that Ministry should evolve a mechanism to maintain data regarding number of proposals received and grant sanctioned to maintain the transparency.**

The Committee are distressed to find that the processing of application for a grant-in-aid has a lengthy procedure. The inspection takes place after a long gap of submission of application resulting disbursement of first instalment of grant to the NGOs at the end of the financial year and the second instalment in the next financial year. They also note that the procedure to sanction the grants is complicated with several channels within channel and it leads to

delay. No time frame has been fixed for the disposal of applications at various stages and release of grant. The Committee are not convinced with the reasons put forth by the Ministry that (i) delay by State Governments, (ii) delay in completion of procedural formalities and (iii) non-availability of matching staff in the Ministry causes delay in sanctioning and releasing the grants. **They recommend that provisions about the time frame at every stage of disposal of the application should be made in the Act itself. The status of the application should be placed at the internet for the information of the NGOs/individuals as is done in the case of issuance of passport. They also recommend that the Ministry should allow those NGOs who have proven record in the field to apply direct to the Ministry to save the procedural delay.**

9. The Committee notice that from the year 2007-08, the Ministry have started tapering off grant in projects already funded for seven years in urban areas to encourage gradual self-reliance of NGOs. Tapering off is done by 5 per cent in every alternate year so as to reduce the level of funding to 75 per cent level. The Committee are of the view that in the present era of commercialization, there are very

few corporats who donate for social cause. Everyone wants something in return. NGOs being Charitable organisations, cannot venture in to commercial field. In these circumstances, tapering off the grants will create a big problem for NGOs to perform their activities. This decision will result into phasing out of some programmes of the NGOs and negate the legislative mandate of equality and full participation for the disabled. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should devise such mechanism through which NGOs can become self-reliant to meet their expenses and tapering off the grants should be reduced from 75% to a lower level.**

10. The Committee were informed that seven National Institutes at New Delhi, Dehradun, Kolkata, Secundrabad, Mumbai, Cuttack and Chennai have been set up in the country which are specialized in various disabilities and are working for the development of rehabilitation manpower providing specialized services to persons with disabilities; and research and development of models for delivery of services. Four other National Institutes at Bangalore, Mumbai, Mysore and Ranchi under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

are also working in the field of medical treatment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The Committee in this regard are of the view that only these handful National Institutes are not sufficient to cater the needs of persons with disabilities. These National Institutes will not be able to cover all parts of the country. **They therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make efforts to set up more such institutes all over the country, region-wise and preference should be given to those regions where such Institutes have not so far been set up. They also recommend that the existing National Institutes should also be upgraded as per international standards and strengthened and together with the local non-governmental organisations should reach the blocks and villages where their services are required the most.**

11. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have set-up five Composite Regional Centres for persons with disabilities at Srinagar, Sundernagar (Himachal Pradesh), Lucknow, Bhopal and Guwahati to provide for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, health, employment and vocational training, research and manpower development, rehabilitation for

persons with disabilities, etc. These centres have been working as extended arms of National Institutes in each of the disabilities and providing services to persons with all type of disabilities at one place. The Committee feel that more such Composite Regional Centres should be set up in every State in the country. The Ministry also in their written reply furnished to the Committee have underlined the need to establish one Composite Regional Centre in each State. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take expeditious steps to establish more Composite Regional Centres in the country. They would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard.**

12. District Disability Rehabilitation Centre scheme (DDRC) basically seeks to provide comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities at the grass root level through creation of infrastructure and capacity building at district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation, training/guiding of grass root level functionaries. Under this scheme, rehabilitation support is provided to the persons with disabilities. The Committee are distressed to note that there are only 199 DDRCs and only 128 are operational. They

are of the view that every district of the country should have one DDRC. The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment while deposing before the Committee stated that in an ideal scenario, there should be a district disability rehabilitation centre at least one in each district. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should make expeditious efforts to operationalise the remaining sanctioned DDRCs. After that, the Ministry should take concrete steps to set up more DDRCs in unserved districts of the country. Special care is required to cover those districts which are truly backward and where the prevalence of disability is higher and services as well as facilities for the disabled persons are meager. The Committee reiterate that the people's representatives and local bodies henceforth be kept informed about DDRC schemes.**

13. The Committee have been informed that National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) was established in 1997 with an objective to provide loans at concessional rates to persons with disabilities for setting up an enterprise, or for the purpose of education, etc. Loan applications have to be submitted in

the prescribed format through the State Channelising Agency and branches of Punjab & Sind Bank or Oriental Bank of Commerce. Projects upto Rs.1.50 lakh are sanctioned by State Channelising Agency/Bank and loan applications seeking more than Rs.1.50 lakh are sanctioned by NHFDC. The Committee note that the limits to provide loans at subsidized rates for the working people were decided more then a decade ago. **They, therefore, recommend that these limits should be revised in view of growing inflation.** The Committee also note that there are 44 State Channelising Agencies. **They recommend that all Nationalised banks should be given instructions to accept loan applications of disabled persons and more State Channelising Agenies should be opened to facilitate the beneficiaries.**

The Committee also feel that persons with disability find it very difficult to commute by public transport. They have to depend on vehicles specifically meant for them, driven by them or driven for them. Procuring such vehicles is difficult. **They, therefore, recommend that NHFDC should provide conveyance loan without interest to disabled persons.**

14. The Committee note that under Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Scheme modern assistive devices are provided to needy person with disabilities through NGOs/NIs/ALIMCO/ DDRCs. The main objective of the scheme is to assist the needy physically handicapped persons with durable, modern and standard aids and appliances which can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. They further note that for expanding its coverage, the Ministry has revised the scheme w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and under the revised scheme, motorized tricycle for persons with locomotor disabilities, software for persons with visual disabilities using computer etc. are provided. The assistive devices costing up to Rs. 6,000/- are given to the disabled persons free of cost whose monthly income is upto Rs. 6,500/- and 50% of the cost to those having an income between Rs. 6,501/- and Rs. 10,000/- per month. **The Committee are of the view that the income limit for supply of the assistive devices to the needy persons with disabilities should be revised as these limits were decided long back.**

The Committee further note that the assistive devices provided under ADIP scheme are of sub standard quality. The Ministry in their reply have also agreed that there have been oral complaints during

meeting with implementing agencies of schemes of Assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) scheme. The Committee are also constrained to note that the Ministry do not have any agency which monitors the quality of these devices. Even crutches supplied to the beneficiaries are of sub-standard and have caused accidents. They also disagree with the view of the Ministry that their scheme is a special intervention basically keeping in view the needs of the poor disabled persons and they include those equipments and appliances which are within their financial limits. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should not compromise with the quality of equipments for disabled persons which can prove hazardous. They strongly recommend that for maintaining the standard of assistive devices some agency should be appointed which may be authorized to give them certification, like the BIS, to market these products for the safe use of the beneficiaries.**

15. The Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) provides support to Non-Government Organisations in delivering various rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. This

scheme was started with the objective of ensuring effective implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Act, 1995 by creating an enabling environment and encouraging non-governmental organisations through financial assistance for undertaking projects for the welfare of the disabled in different disciplines including the areas of education, training and rehabilitation services. Under this scheme activities like special schools for children with orthopaedic, speech, hearing, visual and mental disabilities, vocational training centres, pre-school and early intervention programme, half way homes, etc. are taken up. The Committee note that eleven half way homes set up by NGOs provide vocational training, counseling to persons with disabilities and their families to facilitate reintegration with the family/society and medical advice/treatment for taking care of occasional psychiatric problems. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should encourage NGOs to set up more halfway homes under this scheme.**

16. The Committee find that the criteria of releasing grant-in-aid are based on the number of beneficiaries found present on the day of inspection, the number of beneficiaries covered in the grant for the

previous financial year and the prescribed ceiling of 15 per cent increase in number of beneficiaries over the previous year. They feel that the criteria evolved is totally illogical. The inspection generally takes place in winter season or rainy season and the disabled students remain absent from the school for many days during these seasons. The absenteeism of children with the disabilities is high due to the associated medical complication. Therefore, in their view it is unjustified that just on the basis of one day's attendance, grant-in-aid is decided. NGOs have to bear expenses according to the prescribed teacher-student ratio. Even if the students remain absent, NGOs have to pay teachers' salaries, perks, etc. and bear all the expenses. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that grants should be sanctioned on the basis of children enrolled. However, Government should make note of the attendance of disabled children over a period of time. The Ministry should explore the possibility to constitute a regulatory body to conduct regular inspection in schools.**

17. The Committee note that the Ministry are not following a proper procedure to inform the NGOs about the status of their proposals.

Many a time they are kept in the dark about the status especially the amount of grant that will be sanctioned, etc. They have to come personally to Delhi from far flung areas to know the status of their proposals. The Committee also note that in case of new proposals for grant-in-aid, the minutes of screening Committee are made available on the Ministry's website so that the organisations know whether their proposal is recommended. If the proposal is not recommended, the reasons for not recommending the proposal can also be seen on the website. **The Committee desire that the same procedure should be followed for all the proposals for grant-in-aid. Status of all proposals of all the NGOs should be displayed on the website of Ministry so that every NGO can easily find out the status of their proposal and chalk out their plans accordingly.**

18. The Committee are constrained to note that the pay scales of teachers/professionals of special schools are not at par with general school teachers. The pay scales of teachers are so low that no staff is willing to teach or work. The teachers/professionals leave special schools and join other schools offering higher remuneration. As such, there is great dearth of good teachers in special schools for children

with special needs. The present level of honorarium for special educators varies from Rs.2800/- to Rs.6000/- p.m., depending upon the qualification and experience of the educator. They also note that there is great disparity in the rate of honorarium for teachers of special school and those who are working in Government/Government sponsored schools while both are giving the same services. The Committee have been informed that Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is advocating same terms and conditions of services for teachers qualified with diploma/degree in general education and diploma/degree in special education. One of the recommendations of the evaluation study conducted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai is that in order to retain and attract well qualified staff, it is necessary to reconsider the honorarium currently offered. The proposal to revise the cost norms of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, including honoraria has been considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 12.5.2008 and will now be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. **The Committee are of the view that disparity in salary structure of staff working in NGOs and in other fields is the root cause for staff leaving at regular intervals**

for higher remuneration and they, therefore, strongly recommend that the teachers of special schools should be paid good salary so that they do not leave the schools for want of good salary and children with special needs are not deprived of good teachers.

The Committee also recommend that the proposal to revise the cost norms of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme including honoraria as considered by Expenditure Finance Committee should be placed before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs immediately and action thereon should also be taken expeditiously.

19. The scholarship to persons with disabilities is provided from the interest earned from investment made under the National Disability Fund available in various public sector banks. Students with 40% or more disability whose monthly family income does not exceed Rs.15,000/- are eligible for scholarship. A scholarship of Rs.700/- p.m. to day scholars and Rs.1,000/- p.m. to hostellers is provided to those students who are pursuing graduate and post graduate level technical or professional courses. Rs.400/- p.m. to day scholars and

Rs.700/- p.m. to hostellers is provided for pursuing diploma and certificate level professional courses. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry have awarded 1443 scholarships and 447 scholarships have been continued. The Committee are constrained to note that in comparison to large number of disabled persons in our country, only 1443 scholarships are provided, which are quite meager. The Secretary, Ministry of social Justice and Empowerment during the interaction with the Committee have accepted that “about the scholarships we have really not been able to do much about it. But then we have a small scheme under which some scholarships are given to the disabled students to pursue their higher professional courses”. The Committee are also of the view that the amount provided under this scheme is too meager to bear educational expenses. **They therefore, recommend that the Ministry should review this scheme in the present scenario and accordingly increase the amount provided under this scheme and also make earnest efforts to provide more scholarships to more students with disabilities.**

The Committee desire that to encourage the persons with disabilities, nationalized banks may be asked to extend

education loans to disabled persons to pursue higher studies on lesser simple rate of interest. This way the banks will also be fulfilling their social obligations towards society and will help in bringing the disabled persons to the main stream. They recommend that this matter may be pursued with the Ministry of Finance and nationalized banks for implementation.

20. The Committee note that Chief Commissioner/State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are mandated to take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities of the persons with disabilities. They have certain powers of a Civil Court under Section 63 of the PWD Act. These are similar to the powers vested in the National Commissions for SC, ST, Minorities, Women, etc. The Committee are perturbed to note that many States do not appoint separate State Commissioners and the Secretary of the concerned department is entrusted with the additional job of Commissioner for persons with disabilities. This is a clear violation of the accepted legal principle that implementors cannot judge the enforcement part also. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should look into this matter and make a stringent rule in this regard so that every**

State should invariably appoint a separate Commissioner for persons with disabilities. The Committee also note that Chief Commissioner/State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is a Quasi Judicial Authority and has power of civil court and they therefore, recommend that the enforcement powers should also be vested to enable the CCD to discharge his duty effectively and if need be, suitable amendment should be made in the existing Act.

21. The persons with disabilities who are gainfully employed are provided insurance coverage under the normal insurance schemes of LIC (with certain restriction and extra premium) and the persons with disabilities who are not employed/not employable are covered under Jeevan Adhar and Jeevan Vishwas Schemes. National Trust has also formulated a Health Insurance Scheme 'Niramaya' for the persons with four types of disabilities, viz. Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities covered under the trust. The scheme is to be launched in the 10 selected districts of the country in the first phase to provide affordable health insurance to persons with aforementioned disabilities to encourage health services

seeking behaviour among persons with disability and to improve the general health condition and quality of life of persons with disability.

The Committee recommend that the Ministry should formulate such other health policies like Niramaya covering the persons with other disabilities also. They also desire that the Ministry should take expeditious steps to launch Niramaya in every district of the country. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry should encourage other insurance companies to formulate cashless health insurance policies for persons with disabilities as the Government hospitals are not able to cope up with the increasing pressure.

22. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme viz. 'Incentive to Employees in the Private Sector' w.e.f. 01.04.2008 which is applicable to the persons with disabilities whose monthly income is up to Rs.25,000/- p.m. and working in the private sector, who are also covered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple

Disabilities Act, 1999. The Government has encouraged private sector to employ persons with disabilities - atleast 5% of their work force should consist of them. Under this scheme, employer's share of contributions for EPF and ESI for the first three years will be made by the Government. In fact, the Ministry of Labour and Employment is in the process of finalizing the changes in EPF and ESI Rules.

The Committee recommend that Ministry of Labour and Employment should finalize the changes in EPF and ESI Scheme/Rules immediately and apprise them about the changes made within 6 months of presentation of the Report.

The Committee are of the view that since several irregularities in employee contribution towards ESI, EPF, etc. have been noticed, the Ministry should be extra vigilant in implementing this scheme. **They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should devise an effective mechanism to monitor the implementation of the scheme. The Committee also desire that the Government should explore the possibility of giving more incentives like tax exemptions/ relaxation to private sector employers in order to encourage them to employ more persons with disabilities.**

23. Under Section 32 of PWD Act 1995, there is a provision that Government should identify the posts where reservations for persons with disabilities are to be made. In Section 33 of PWD Act, it is mentioned that there would be reservations in employment of 3% vacancies in identified posts. The status of reservation in various Ministries/Dept. against identified posts in Grade A,B,C &D is 3.07%, 4.41%, 3.76% and 3.18% respectively. For PSUs the reservation status in Grade A,B,C and D is 2.78%, 8.54%, 5.04% and 6.75% respectively. The nodal Department in respect of these reservations is the Department of Personnel & Training. The Committee are astonished to note that the nodal department i.e. Department of Personnel and Training have data/ information only upto the year 2004 and according to the available data, out of total 1352 posts reserved for person with disabilities only 563 have been filled up. The Committee also note with dissatisfaction that there are so many Ministries/Departments where not even a single post is reserved for persons with disabilities. One of the reasons put forth for not filling up the posts by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is that UPSC have not identified higher posts in the Govt. for the persons

with disabilities. In the absence of identification, naturally these posts have not been filled up. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take expeditious steps to fill up all vacant posts for persons with disabilities and should also take up the matter of identifying the higher posts with UPSC as early as possible.**

Under PWD Act, there is a provision that these posts should be periodically identified and revised in various categories of service in the PSUs at the interval of three years. The Committee are constrained to note that the last such revision was done by the Ministry in 2001. The Committee view very seriously the lackadaisical attitude of the Ministry towards persons with disabilities. For years together no efforts have been made to identify and revise the posts in various categories of services in the PSUs. **They, therefore, recommend that the exercise to identify and revise the posts in PSUs according to PWD Act, 1995 should be undertaken without any further delay and the Committee be apprised of the action taken in this regard. The Committee also recommend that a separate panel should be set up for promotion of disabled persons and PWD Act should be amended accordingly.**

24. The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. Many legislations have been enacted for the welfare of the disabled persons. The Committee note that although the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken various steps to create general awareness about programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities such as information available with DDRCs is disseminated through camps organized by DDRCs, NGOs, NIs and ALIMCO for the distribution of aids and appliances to the disabled, but there is a wide gap between the grassroot reality and the policy. Its proper implementation is lacking. Even the local corporators, MLAs, MPs are not kept informed about the various welfare schemes. The Committee are of the view that more attention is needed in this regard. This is very sensitive area, where training should be given to people working in the field. The life of disabled persons is challenging. They are subjected to lot of humiliation. So, the Ministry have to become extra cautious about providing amenities to them. The Ministry should take more stringent steps to create awareness about early detection, intervention, treatment of disabilities among general public. **They therefore,**

recommend that the Ministry should take advantage of electronic media, small tele-films, ads on disabilities for creating awareness about detection and treatment of the disabled through television, as this is very popular source of creating awareness about disabilities. The Ministry should also address this issue through Press. Programmes and schemes regarding camps, etc. should be advertised in National level newspapers. Steps should be initiated to stage nukad-natak (street shows), etc. relating to persons with disabilities in small villages, towns, etc.

The Committee have also been informed that for creating awareness in rural areas, Anganwadi workers are provided assistance to disseminate information to pregnant women regarding prevention and early detection of disabilities. These programmes have been taken up in 30 districts of UP, Bihar and 13 districts of Assam. **The Committee recommend that this programme should be implemented in every district of all the States in the country.**

The Committee note that a disability helpline has been set-up in Delhi and Mumbai which provides complete information about the disability, the benefits available and the procedure for obtaining the

benefits by persons with disabilities. **They recommend that disability helpline should be established in every State so that none of the disabled persons is deprived of the benefits of the schemes.**

They also recommend that new medium of communication needs to be explored to create awareness about the achievements. While designing the website, it should be made user friendly and more interesting by including few case studies and statistics.

The Committee further recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the coordination of other Ministries should take up National Level Programme to eradicate deadly diseases like flurosis, leprosy, etc.

25. The Committee note that in 1986 when RCI was set-up there were only 24 institutions, which were imparting training to personnel and professionals in the field of rehabilitation and special education. Now RCI has 288 institutions. It is appreciable but still this number is insufficient to cater to the need of trained personnel in a vast country like India which has nearly 2.19 crore disabled persons. **They**

therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take steps to set up more training institutions in the country specially in far flung areas and in those areas where there is no institution.

The Committee have been informed that distance education training is being imparted through 9 open universities under which 7000 professionals are trained every year. The Committee are of the view that distance education training should be imparted through more universities so that more professionals can be trained because we need about 8 lakh special educators and professionals. **They recommend that the Ministry should take expeditious steps to provide distance education training through more universities.**

The Rehabilitation Council of India(RCI) is offering short term courses for general school teachers through foundation courses organized by Bhoj University in MP and nearly 260 centres are operational. After getting basic education in special schools, students are brought to the main school, so that they do not find it difficult to integrate in the society later on. So, it becomes imperative that general school teachers should also be trained to educate these children. Otherwise their purpose of getting education in general schools will be defeated. The Committee are of the view that a large

number of general school teachers need to be trained. **They recommend that RCI should offer short term courses for general school teachers through foundation courses/seminars in more universities, so that large number of general school teachers are trained to help the disabled students.**

26. The RCI monitors the performance of recognized institutions through inspections, surprise visits by experts, monitoring of the Zonal Coordination Committee, involvement of the concerned universities and State Governments, by way of feed back from the students and teachers and action on the complaints of irregularities in coordination with the Chief Commissioner of Disabilities. The Committee are of the view that measures taken by RCI are not adequate to keep a vigil on the performance of recognized institutions. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during oral evidence had expressed the opinion that there is need for constant vigilance regarding functioning of these organisations. Even a bit of carelessness on the part of RCI will adversely affect the performance of these institutions. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should look into this matter with great seriousness**

and devise a mechanism to keep a strict vigil on the working and performance of the recognized institutions.

27. The Committee are astonished to note that RCI, is having a part-time Chairman since its inception. Though the Act does not make a specific mention anywhere, it only mentions that there has to be a Chairperson under Section 3 Sub-Section 3. It also mentions under Section 8 Sub-Section 2 that the Council may determine the appropriate allowances for the Chairperson. In the present scenario, RCI's activities have increased on a large scale in regulating and promoting manpower development. So, there is a great need to have a full time Chairperson to guide its activities and maintain close liaison with the Ministries and for interacting with State Governments, Vice Chancellors of the Universities and rehabilitation professionals inside and outside the country. It is an established fact that success of an organization to a large extent depends upon the proficiency and interest shown by the Head, who is at the helm of affairs. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should take concerted steps to appoint a full-time Chairperson in RCI and place the matter before the Cabinet urgently.**

28. The Committee further note that RCI has established Zonal Coordination Committees in collaboration with Non Governmental Organisations in 7 States i.e. Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. These Co-ordination Committees maintain vigil on the functioning of training institutes in their respective zones. These Committees strengthen the training programmes under their zone by inviting professionals/personnel and NGOs in their workshops/seminars/sensitization programme, etc. These seven Committees are looking after all the States of the country. Thus each Committee has to look after atleast 5-6 States, which is a very difficult task. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take expeditious steps to set-up more Zonal Coordination Committees especially in those regions where a large number of training institutes are located to maintain vigil on the functioning of these training institutes.**

29. According to census 2001, there are 93.01 lakh women with disabilities, i.e. 42.46% of the total disabled population. The

Committee have been informed that though preference is given to girls/women in all schemes of the Ministry/NGOs but no social security scheme has been planned for the disabled girls/women. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should formulate a social security scheme for disabled girls/women so that their future can be secured to some extent. If these girls become independent, some boys might come forward to marry them.**

The Committee are dismayed to note that there is no provision for stringent punishment for those persons who commit atrocities such as sexual assault against disabled girls. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs and if need be, necessary amendments be made in the IPC and Cr. P.C.

30. Under Persons with Disabilities Act, there is a provision for providing training to persons with disabilities and vocational training is provided to persons with disabilities through vocational rehabilitation centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and by various NGOs supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with grants-in-aid scheme. The Ministry of Labour and Employment is

running 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and 144 Vocational Training Centres are run by NGOs and supported by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition to this, Ministry of Labour and Employment has been providing non-formal job oriented skill training through 7 Skill Training Workshops (STWs) and rehabilitation services in rural areas through 11 Rural Rehabilitation Extension Services. The Committee are of the view that Vocational Rehabilitation Centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and NGOs are very less in comparison to the population of disabled persons. **They recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should encourage NGOs to set up more Vocational Rehabilitation Centres in different parts of the country especially in those areas where there is no such Vocational Rehabilitation Centres. They also recommend that the Ministry of Labour and Employment should also set up more Vocational Rehabilitation Centres. The Committee also stress that courses provided by these institutions should cater to present day needs.**

31. The unemployment allowance as well as disability pension is provided to the persons with disabilities by State Governments/UT Administrations according to their financial capacity. Unemployment allowance varies from Rs.75/- to Rs.500/- p.m. and disability pension varies from Rs.60/- p.m. to Rs.1000/- p.m. The Committee are unhappy to note that only just Rs.75/- p.m. is given as unemployment allowance and Rs.60/- p.m. is given as disability pension in several States. It seems to be mockery of disabled persons. They are of the view that this meager amount of unemployment allowance/disability pension is degrading and insulting for disabled persons as it would create inferiority complex among them. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should take up the matter with State Governments and encourage them to raise the amount of unemployment allowance/disability pension, keeping in mind the present inflation. The Ministry should also fix certain amount as minimum unemployment allowance/disability pension being provided to disabled persons by State Governments/UTs.**

32. Disability Certificates are issued by the Medical Board duly constituted by the Central and State Governments. The Medical

Board consists of three members out of which at least one member has to be specialist in the particular field for assessing locomotor/visual disability including low vision/hearing and speech disability, mental retardation and leprosy cured, as the case may be.

The Committee find that due to complicated procedure getting a disability certificate is very difficult for persons with disabilities. The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has deposed before the Committee that only 22 percent of the targeted population has been issued Disability Certificate. The Committee have been informed that the Committee set up to simplify the procedure of issuing 'Disability Certificate' has recommended that the power to certify disability should be brought down from the district level to the CHC or the PHC level. These recommendations can be implemented by an amendment in the rules notified under the PWD Act and the Ministry are in the process of preparing those rules. **The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take expeditious steps to amend the relevant rules notified under the PWD Act.**

The Committee find that if a person is refused Disability Certificate, he/she has to again give a representation to the Medical Board, which would then review the decision having regard to all the

facts and circumstance of the case and pass such order in the matter as it thinks fit. The Committee find it ironical. A person who has been refused to get Disability Certificate by Medical Board again has to give representation to Medical Board. The Committee are of the view that if once Medical Board has refused, it will hesitate to issue the disability certificate. So, in such cases the competent authority to reconsider the issuance of Disability Certificate should be other than the Medical Board. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that this procedure should also be reviewed thoroughly and amended accordingly.**

33. Various travel concessions are provided to persons with disabilities. They are given 75% concession in railway journey. Some States give them free transportation by bus and some States give 50% concession. For availing these concessions different passes are issued to persons with disabilities. So the person with disability has to obtain several passes, which creates problem for them. It is a fact that for a person who is suffering from disabilities, keeping various passes during travel is very difficult. **The Committee recommend that to overcome the problem of keeping up various passes, the**

Ministry should issue National Identity Card containing all the particulars of individuals to persons with disabilities, which should be valid for availing all travel concessions.

NEW DELHI;
October 15 , 2008
Asvina 23, 1930(S)

(C. KUPPUSAMI)
Chairman
Committee on Estimates.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Palsy, Autism and Multiple Disabilities | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. | Employment of the Handicapped | 0.00 | 1.44 | 2.00 | 0.25 | 2.00 | 1.54 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | External Aided Project (EAP) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21. | UNDP funded-Support to children with disability | 2.37 | 2.01 | 1.00 | 0.36 | 0.30 | 0.29 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | New Scheme | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22. | Centre for Visually hearing and Orthopaedically Disabled Persons in Collaboration with the Govt. of Japan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| | | 229.50 | 193.27 | 219.50 | 168.87 | 250.60 | 177.15 | 250.60 | 195.72 | 243.00 | 183.06 |
| Central Sector Scheme (CS): Those schemes which are implemented by the Ministry or its agencies | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS): Those schemes which are implemented through State Govt./UT Administration | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Annexure II | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Statement indicating Budget Estimates and Expenditure under Non-Plan for the last five years | | | | | | | | | | Rs. in Crore |
| | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
| | BE | Exp | BE | Exp | BE | Exp | BE | Exp | BE | Exp |
| National Institute for the Visually Handicapped | 3.99 | 3.99 | 3.99 | 3.99 | 4.40 | 4.40 | 4.57 | 4.86 | 4.77 | 4.71 |
| National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped | 2.66 | 2.66 | 2.66 | 2.66 | 2.92 | 2.80 | 2.99 | 3.28 | 3.14 | 3.14 |
| National Institute for Hearing Handicapped | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.67 | 4.42 | 4.85 | 5.16 | 5.06 | 5.06 |
| National Institute for Rehabilitation, Trg. & Research | 3.72 | 2.26 | 3.57 | 3.57 | 3.92 | 3.92 | 4.05 | 4.05 | 4.24 | 4.09 |
| Institute for Physically | 3.72 | 3.72 | 3.72 | 3.72 | 4.10 | 4.10 | 4.20 | 3.09 | 4.38 | 4.30 |
| National Institute for Mentally Handicapped | 2.39 | 2.39 | 2.39 | 2.39 | 2.63 | 2.63 | 2.70 | 2.70 | 2.82 | 2.77 |
| Estt. of Rehabilitation Centres | 4.00 | 4.20 | 4.20 | 4.62 | 4.60 | 4.85 | 4.85 | 3.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Rehabilitation Council of India | 0.88 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.90 | 0.85 | 0.90 | 0.80 | 0.93 | 0.90 |
| Handling Clearance of Duty Free Consignments | 3.00 | 7.00 | 3.82 | 5.06 | 4.00 | 4.99 | 4.00 | 3.60 | 4.05 | 4.05 |
| Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities | Under Plan | | 0.90 | 0.88 | 0.40 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 0.93 | 1.26 | 1.05 |
| National Commission for Persons with Disability | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 1.44 | 0.81 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | 28.61 | 31.32 | 30.35 | 32.02 | 33.98 | 34.82 | 34.11 | 31.47 | 30.66 | 30.07 |

Annexure III
List of the Sanctioned DDRCs

| S.No | Name of the State/UT | Name of the DDRc |
|------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar | DDRc Port Blair |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | DDRc Anantpur |
| 3. | Andhra Pradesh | DDRc Karimnagar |
| 4. | Andhra Pradesh | DDRc Vishakapatnam |
| 5. | Arunachal Pradesh | DDRc Itanagar |
| 6. | Assam | DDRc Dibrugarh |
| 7. | Assam | DDRc Silchar |
| 8. | Assam | DDRc Tezpur |
| 9. | Bihar | DDRc Banka |
| 10. | Bihar | DDRc Chapra |
| 11. | Bihar | DDRc Darbhanga |
| 12. | Bihar | DDRc Gaya |
| 13. | Bihar | DDRc Jehanabad |
| 14. | Bihar | DDRc Kishanganj |
| 15. | Bihar | DDRc Muzaffarpur |
| 16. | Bihar | DDRc Nawada |
| 17. | Bihar | DDRc Samastipur |
| 18. | Chattisgarh | DDRc Bastar |
| 19. | Chattisgarh | DDRc Durg |
| 20. | Chattisgarh | DDRc Jashpur |
| 21. | Chattisgarh | DDRc Raigarh |
| 22. | Chattisgarh | DDRc Raipur |
| 23. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | DDRc Silvassa |
| 24. | Daman & Diu | DDRc Diu |
| 25. | Goa | DDRc Panaji |
| 26. | Gujarat | DDRc Ahmedabad |
| 27. | Gujarat | DDRc Bhavnagar |
| 28. | Gujarat | DDRc Jamnagar |
| 29. | Gujarat | DDRc Junagarh |
| 30. | Gujarat | DDRc Nadiad |
| 31. | Gujarat | DDRc Rajkot |
| 31. | Gujarat | DDRc Surat |
| 33. | Gujarat | DDRc Vadodara |
| 34. | Haryana | DDRc Hissar |
| 35. | Haryana | DDRc Kurukshetra |
| 36. | Haryana | DDRc Rohtak |
| 37. | Haryana | DDRc Sonapat |
| 38. | Himachal Pradesh | DDRc Dharamsala |
| 39. | Himachal Pradesh | DDRc Shimla |
| 40. | Jammu & Kashmir | DDRc Anantnag |
| 41. | Jammu & Kashmir | DDRc Leh |
| 42. | Jammu & Kashmir | DDRc Udhampur |
| 43. | Jharkhand | DDRc Dumka |
| 44. | Jharkhand | DDRc Hazaribag |
| 45. | Jharkhand | DDRc Jamshedpur |
| 46. | Jharkhand | DDRc Ranchi |
| 47. | Karnataka | DDRc Belgaum |
| 48. | Karnataka | DDRc Bellary |

| | | |
|------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 49. | Karnataka | DDRC Gulbarga |
| 50. | Karnataka | DDRC Mandya |
| 51. | Karnataka | DDRC Mangalore |
| 52. | Karnataka | DDRC Tumkur |
| 53. | Kerela | DDRC Kozhikode |
| 54. | Kerela | DDRC Thiruvananthapuram |
| 55. | Kerela | DDRC Thrissur |
| 56. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Agar |
| 57. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Alote |
| 58. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Balaghat |
| 59. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Damoh |
| 60. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Dewas |
| 61. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Gwalior |
| 62. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Indore |
| 63. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Jawad |
| 64. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Jhabua |
| 65. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Khargaon |
| 66. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Mandsaur |
| 67. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Rajgarh |
| 68. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Rewa |
| 69. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Sagar |
| 70. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Satna |
| 71. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Ujjain |
| 72. | Maharashtra | DDRC Aurangabad |
| 73. | Maharashtra | DDRC Buldana |
| 74. | Maharashtra | DDRC Dadar/Mahim |
| 75. | Maharashtra | DDRC Kolhapur |
| 76. | Maharashtra | DDRC Latur |
| 77. | Maharashtra | DDRC Sindhudurg |
| 78. | Maharashtra | DDRC Wardha |
| 79. | Manipur | DDRC Imphal |
| 80. | Meghalaya | DDRC Shillong |
| 81. | Mizoram | DDRC Aizwal |
| 82. | Mizoram | DDRC Kolasib+Mamit |
| 83. | Mizoram | DDRC Lunglei+Lunglit |
| 84. | Nagaland | DDRC Dimapur |
| 85. | Orissa | DDRC Ganjam |
| 86. | Orissa | DDRC Kalahandi |
| 87. | Orissa | DDRC Koraput |
| 88. | Orissa | DDRC Mayurbhanj |
| 89. | Orissa | DDRC Phulbani |
| 90. | Orissa | DDRC Sambalpur |
| 91. | Pondicherry | DDRC Pondichery |
| 92. | Punjab | DDRC Bhatinda |
| 93. | Punjab | DDRC Ferozepur |
| 94. | Punjab | DDRC Hoshiarpur |
| 95. | Punjab | DDRC Patiala |
| 96. | Punjab | DDRC Sangrur |
| 97. | Rajasthan | DDRC Bikaner |
| 98. | Rajasthan | DDRC Jhunjhnu |
| 99. | Rajasthan | DDRC Jodhpur |
| 100. | Rajasthan | DDRC Tonk |
| 101. | Rajasthan | DDRC Udaipur |

| | | |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 102. | Sikkim | DDRC Gangtok |
| 103. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Kanyakumari |
| 104. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Madurai |
| 105. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Salem |
| 106. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Thoothukudi |
| 107. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Vellore |
| 108. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Virudhunagar |
| 109. | Tripura | DDRC Agartala |
| 110. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Agra |
| 111. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Allahabad |
| 112. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Ambedkar Nagar |
| 113. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Balia |
| 114. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Farrukhabad |
| 115. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Gonda |
| 116. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Gorakpur |
| 117. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Jhansi |
| 118. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Mau |
| 119. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Meerut |
| 120. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Pilibhit |
| 121. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Raibarielly |
| 122. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Varanasi |
| 123. | Uttaranchal | DDRC Almorah |
| 124. | Uttaranchal | DDRC Haridwar |
| 125. | Uttaranchal | DDRC Tehri Garwal |
| 126. | West Bengal | DDRC 24 Parganas North |
| 127. | West Bengal | DDRC Dakshin Dinajpur |
| 128. | West Bengal | DDRC Jalpaigudi |
| 129. | West Bengal | DDRC Murshidabad |
| 130. | Andaman & Nicobar | DDRC Nicobar |
| 131. | Andhra Pradesh | DDRC Srikakkulum |
| 132. | Arunachal Pradesh | DDRC East Kamang |
| 133. | Arunachal Pradesh | DDRC Tawang |
| 134. | Assam | DDRC Barpeta |
| 135. | Assam | DDRC Dhemji+Lakhimpur |
| 136. | Assam | DDRC Dhubri |
| 137. | Assam | DDRC Jorhat |
| 138. | Assam | DDRC Karimganj |
| 139. | Assam | DDRC Nagaoan+Marigaon |
| 140. | Bihar | DDRC Araria |
| 141. | Bihar | DDRC Aurangabad(Bihar) |
| 142. | Bihar | DDRC Begusarai |
| 143. | Bihar | DDRC Bhojpur |
| 144. | Bihar | DDRC East Champaran |
| 145. | Bihar | DDRC Kaimur |
| 146. | Bihar | DDRC Katihar |
| 147. | Bihar | DDRC Madhubani |
| 148. | Bihar | DDRC Nalanda |
| 149. | Bihar | DDRC Vaishali (Hajipur) |
| 150. | Chattisgarh | DDRC Dhamtari |
| 151. | Chattisgarh | DDRC Rajnandgaon |
| 152. | Gujarat | DDRC Dahod |
| 153. | Gujarat | DDRC Surendranagar |
| 154. | Haryana | DDRC Fatehbad |

| | | |
|------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 155. | Himachal Pradesh | DDRC Chamba |
| 156. | Himachal Pradesh | DDRC Kinnaur |
| 157. | Jammu & Kashmir | DDRC Baramulla |
| 158. | Jammu & Kashmir | DDRC Doda |
| 159. | Jammu & Kashmir | DDRC Poonch |
| 160. | Jharkhand | DDRC Dhanbad |
| 161. | Karnataka | DDRC Bidar |
| 162. | Kerela | DDRC Pathanamthitta |
| 163. | Lakshwadeep | DDRC Lakshwadeep |
| 164. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Chindwara |
| 165. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Guna |
| 166. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Khandwa |
| 167. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Sehore |
| 168. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Shivpuri |
| 169. | Madhya Pradesh | DDRC Vidisha |
| 170. | Maharastra | DDRC Gondia |
| 171. | Maharastra | DDRC Hingoli |
| 172. | Maharastra | DDRC Nanded |
| 173. | Manipur | DDRC Churanchandrapur |
| 174. | Manipur | DDRC Thoubal |
| 175. | Megahalaya | DDRC East Garo Hills |
| 176. | Megahalaya | DDRC Janitia Hills |
| 177. | Nagaland | DDRC Mon |
| 178. | Nagaland | DDRC Tuensang |
| 179. | Orissa | DDRC Jajapur |
| 180. | Orissa | DDRC Keonjhar |
| 181. | Orissa | DDRC Nabrangpur |
| 182. | Pondicherry | DDRC Karaikal |
| 183. | Punjab | DDRC Amritsar |
| 184. | Punjab | DDRC Moga |
| 185. | Punjab | DDRC Nawanshahr |
| 186. | Rajasthan | DDRC Ajmer |
| 187. | Rajasthan | DDRC Jalore |
| 188. | Rajasthan | DDRC Jaselmer |
| 189. | Rajasthan | DDRC Pali |
| 190. | Tamil Nadu | DDRC Perambalur |
| 191. | Tripura | DDRC Dhalai |
| 192. | Tripura | DDRC North Tripura |
| 193. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Maharajganj |
| 194. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Mathura |
| 195. | Uttar Pradesh | DDRC Muzzafarnagar |
| 196. | Uttaranchal | DDRC Bageshwar |
| 197. | Uttaranchal | DDRC Nanital |
| 198. | West Bengal | DDRC Birbhum (at Bolpur) |
| 199. | West Bengal | DDRC Cooch Behar |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 34. | D/o IP & P | 34 | 3 | 5 | 26 | 34 | - | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 35. | D/o Consumer Affairs | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| 36. | Legislative Deptt. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 37. | D/o Shipping | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| 38. | M/o Water Resources | 44 | 14 | 16 | 24 | 54 | - | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| 39. | M/o SSI & Agro Rural Industries | | | | | | | | | |
| 40. | M/o Culture | 3 | | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 41. | D/o Women & Child Development | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 42. | M/o Steel | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | 6,358 | 267 | 309 | 776 | 1352 | 140 | 94 | 329 | 563 |

VH – Visually Handicapped
 HH – Hearing Handicapped
 OH – Orthopaedically Handicapped

ANNEXURE-V

State/UT-Wise details of Disability Pension being granted to persons with disabilities

| Sl.No. | States | Disability Pension |
|--------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 200 P.M. w.e.f. 1.4.2006 |
| 2. | Bihar | Stipend of Rs.100/- P.M. to PwDs below poverty line |
| 3. | Chandigarh | Rs.200/- P.M. |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | Rs.150/- P.M. |
| 5. | Daman & Diu | Rs.60 |
| 6. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | Rs.60/- P.M. |
| 7. | Delhi | Rs.60/- |
| 8. | Goa | Rs.1000/- P.M. |
| 9. | Gujarat | Rs.200/- to PWDs with more than 75% disability under SANT SURDAS SCHEME |
| 10. | Haryana | Rs.300 to 600 P.M. |
| 11. | H.P. | Rs.200/- under the Scheme 'Distress Relief Allowance' |
| 12. | J & K | Rs.300 through money order |
| 13. | Jharkhand | Prothsahan Bhatta of Rs.200 P.M. under Swami Vivekanand Nihshakta Swavalamban Prothsahan Yojna |
| 14. | Karnataka | Maintenance Allowance of Rs.400/- P.M. to economically backward PwD from April, 2007 |
| 15. | Kerala | Rs.150/- P.M. w.e.f. August, 2005 |
| 16. | Lakshadweep | Rs.300/- P.M. w.e.f. 1.4.2006 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | Pension of Rs.250/- given under Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna through banks. (In case of more than one PH in one family, pension is provided to the family @Rs.500/- for two and Rs.625 for more than two. |
| 18. | Manipur | Financial Assistance of Rs.1000/- per head |
| 19. | M.P. | Social Security Pension of Rs.150/- P.M. |
| 20. | Nagaland | Rs.100/- |
| 21. | Orissa | Pension/Subsistence Allowance of Rs.200/- P.M. |
| 22. | Pondicherry | |
| 23. | Punjab | Rs.200/-P.M. |
| 24. | Rajasthan | Rs.200/-P.M. |
| 25. | Sikkim | Rs.500/-P.M. |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | Maintenance Allowance per beneficiary to severely disabled including mentally retarded |
| 27. | Tripura | Rs.125/- P.M. |
| 28. | U.P. | Rs.125/- P.M. |
| 29. | Uttarakhand | Rs.400/- P.M. |
| 30. | W.B. | Rs.400/- P.M. |

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF SITTING OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(2007-08)

FOURTH SITTING

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 3rd July, 2007 from 1500 hours to 1630 hours.

Present

Shri C. Kuppusami - Chairman

Members

2. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
3. Shri Anwar Hussain
4. Shri P. Karunakaran
5. Shri B. Vinod Kumar
6. Shri Samik Lahiri
7. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
8. Shri D. Narbula
9. Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad
10. Shri Prabodh Panda
11. Shri Sukdeo Paswan
12. Shri Sachin Pilot
13. Shri Tufani Saroj
14. Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh
15. Shri Arjuncharan Sethi
16. Shri Lakshman Singh
17. Dr. Ramlakhan Singh
18. Shri Rewati Raman Singh

Secretariat

1. Shri A. Mukhopadhyay - Joint Secretary
2. Shri C.V. Gadgil - Director

Witnesses

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. Dr. Sundeep Khanna - Additional Secy. (SJ&E)
2. Shri Ashish Kumar - Deputy Director
3. Ms. Purnima Singh - Joint Secretary

4. Shri Vinod Aggarwal - Joint Secretary
 5. Dr. Manoj Kumar - Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
2. The Committee was briefed by the representatives of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject - 'Programmes and Schemes for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities.'. The briefing was concluded.
3. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

MINUTES OF SITTING OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(2007-08)

FIFTH SITTING

The Committee sat on Monday, the 23rd July, 2007 from 1100 hours to 1310 hours.

Present

Shri C. Kuppusami - Chairman

Members

2. Shri Lal Muni Choubey
3. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
4. Shri Anant Gudhe
5. Shri P. Karunakaran
6. Shri B. Vinod Kumar
7. Shri Samik Lahiri
8. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
9. Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad
10. Shri Sukdeo Paswan
11. Shri Sachin Pilot
12. Shri Tufani Saroj
13. Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh
14. Shri Arjuncharan Sethi
15. Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
16. Shri Lakshman Singh
17. Kunwar Manvendra Singh
18. Dr. Ramlakhan Singh
19. Shri Rewati Raman Singh
20. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi

Secretariat

1. Shri A. Mukhopadhyay - Joint Secretary
2. Shri C.V. Gadgil - Director (I)
3. Smt. Manju Choudhary - Deputy Secretary II

Witnesses

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

- (i) Dr. (Smt.) Veena Chhotray - Secretary
- (ii) Sh. Ashish Kumar - Deputy Director General
- (iii) Ms. Purnima Singh - Joint Secretary

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- (i) Dr. Manoj Kumar

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, MENTAL RETARDATION AND MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

- (i) Ms. Poonam Natrajan - Chairman

NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- (i) Sh. M. Ravi Kanth - Chairman & Managing Director

REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

- (i) Dr. J.P. Singh - Member Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject 'Programmes and Schemes for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities'.

4. Hon'ble Chairman and Members of the Committee raised several points, such as employment for the disabled, unemployment allowance, rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities and availability of certain aids to them, penal provisions for deterrence of physical abuse of disabled persons, role and powers of Chief Commissioner of Disabilities, higher education to such persons, providing training to the teachers and the right kind of teaching learning material, programme for eradication of fluorosis and role of Rehabilitation Council of India etc.

5. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairman, Estimates Committee asked the representatives to furnish detailed notes on some of points to which full information was not readily available with the representatives.

6. The Committee also decided to take oral evidence of Rehabilitation Council of India in due course.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX III

MINUTES OF SITTING OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(2007-08)

SEVENTH SITTING

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 9th October, 2007 from 1100 hours to 1255 hours.

PRESENT

1. Shri C. Kuppusami, MP - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri Lal Muni Choubey
3. Shri Anant Gudhe
4. Shri Anwar Hussain
5. Shri P. Karunakaran
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna
7. Shri B. Vinod Kumar
8. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
9. Shri Prabodh Panda
10. Shri Sukdeo Paswan
11. Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
12. Shri Lakshman Singh
13. Kunwar Manvendra Singh
14. Dr. Ramlakhan Singh
15. Shri Rewati Raman Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A. Mukhopadhyay - Joint Secretary
2. Shri C.V. Gadgil - Director
3. Smt. Manju Chaudhary - Deputy Secretary II

WITNESSES

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Dr. (Smt.) Veena Chhotray, Secretary
2. Sh. Ashish Kumar, Deputy Director General
3. Ms. Purnima Singh, Joint Secretary

REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

1. Major General (Retd.) Ian Cardozo, Chairman
2. Dr. J.P. Singh, Member Secretary

2. At the outset Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Rehabilitation Council of India. The representatives briefed the Committee on the subject "Programmes and Schemes for Welfare of Persons with disabilities". Then they replied to the queries raised by the Members of the Committee on the subject. Committee Members were particularly interested to know whether the RCI Act, legislated in 1992, required immediate amendments in order to bring it in conformity with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments of 1992-93. They pointed out that implementation of provisions of RCI Act, 1992 needed to be done through involvement of panchayats and not only NGOs.

3. The Committee decided to undertake a study tour to Kolkata, Port Blair and Chennai from 30th October to 3rd November, 2007.

4. The Committee also decided to hold their next sitting on 23rd October, 2007 to take the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Human Resources Development and University Grants Commission on the subject "University Grants Commission"

5. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX IV

MINUTES OF THIRD SITTING OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (2008-2009)

The Committee sat on Friday, the 20th June, 2008 from 1130 to 1300 hours.

PRESENT

Shri C. Kuppusami - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi
3. Shri Lal Muni Choubey
4. Shri Anant Gudhe
5. Shri P. Karunakaran
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna
7. Shri Samik Lahiri
8. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
9. Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad
10. Shri G. Nizamuddin
11. Shri Prabodh Panda
12. Shri D. Vittal Rao
13. Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya
14. Shri Madan Lal Sharma
15. Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
16. Shri Lakshman Singh
17. Dr. Ramlakhan Singh
18. Shri Jagdish Tytler
19. Shri K. Virupakshappa
20. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.S. Saxena - Joint Secretary
2. Shri C.V. Gadgil - Director
3. Smt. Manju Chaudhary - Deputy Secretary – II

Witnesses

Handicapped Welfare Federation

Shri Satish Malik - General Secretary

National Federation of the Blinds

Shri S. K. Rungta - General Secretary

All India Federation of the Deaf

1. Km. Surrendar Saini - President
2. Shri D.P. Sahay - General Secretary
3. Shri Suraj Prakash - Treasurer

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of NGOs viz. Handicapped Welfare Federation, National Federation of the Blinds and All India Federation of the Deaf.

3. The representatives of NGOs apprised the members about the problems being faced by them while implementing programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities such as insufficient funds, delayed grants, tapering off grants, low quality devices provided under ADIP scheme, etc. The representatives also gave their suggestions in this regard. They suggested that a separate department should be constituted to deal efficiently with the problems faced by the persons with disabilities, an agency should be appointed to check the quality of devices provided under ADIP scheme, persons suffering from thalasimia should also be considered as disabled persons, single national identity card should be issued to every disabled person to avail the facilities, and to simplify the procedure for issuance of disability certificates, etc.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX V

MINUTES OF FOURTH SITTING OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (2008-2009)

The Committee sat on Friday, the 20th June, 2008 from 1440 to 1540 hours.

PRESENT

Shri C. Kuppusami - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi
3. Shri Lal Muni Choubey
4. Shri Adhir Chowdhury
5. Shri Anant Gudhe
6. Shri P. Karunakaran
7. Shri Vijoy Krishna
8. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
9. Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad
10. Shri G. Nizamuddin
11. Shri Prabodh Panda
12. Shri D. Vittal Rao
13. Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya
14. Shri Madan Lal Sharma
15. Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
16. Shri Lakshman Singh
17. Dr. Ramlakhan Singh
18. Shri Jagdish Tytler
19. Shri K. Virupakshappa
20. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.S. Saxena - Joint Secretary
2. Shri C.V. Gadgil - Director
3. Smt. Manju Chaudhary - Deputy Secretary – II

Witnesses

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. Shir K.M. Acharya - Secretary
2. Ms. Sangita Gairola - Additional Secretary
3. Shri Ashish Kumar - Deputy Director
General
4. Ms. Purnima Singh - Joint Secretary
5. Shri Vinod Aggarwal - Joint Secretary

**Chief Commissioner for Persons with
Disabilities, New Delhi**

Shri. T.D. Dhariyal - Deputy CCD

Rehabilitation Council of India

Major General (Retd.) Ian Cardozo - Chairman

**National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy,
Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi**

Ms. Poonam Natrajan - Chairperson

**National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad,
Haryana**

Shri M. Ravi Kanth - Chairman & Managing
Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to the sitting of the Committee.

3. As directed by Hon'ble Chairman, Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment initially briefed the Committee on the subject, 'Programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities'. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry replied to the queries made by the Members of the Committee.

The discussion centred around the issues pertaining to difficulties faced by NGOs while implementing the programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities such as simplifying the procedure of releasing grants to the NGOs, issue of disability certificate to disabled persons, tapering off grants, etc.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX VI

MINUTES OF SIXTH SITTING OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (2008-2009)

The Committee sat on Monday, the 8th September, 2008 from 1100 to 1240 hours.

PRESENT

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Shri C. Kuppusami | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale | |
| 3. | Shri Lal Muni Choubey | |
| 4. | Shri Bikram Keshari Deo | |
| 5. | Shri Anant Gudhe | |
| 6. | Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain | |
| 7. | Shri P. Karunakaran | |
| 8. | Shri Vijoy Krishna | |
| 9. | Shri Samik Lahiri | |
| 10. | Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal | |
| 11. | Shri Prabodh Panda | |
| 12. | Shri Arjuncharan Sethi | |
| 13. | Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya | |
| 14. | Shri Madan Lal Sharma | |
| 15. | Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh | |
| 16. | Shri Lakshman Singh | |
| 17. | Dr. Ramlakhan Singh | |
| 18. | Shri Ravi Prakash Verma | |
| 19. | Shri K. Virupakshappa | |

SECRETARIAT

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Shri U.S Saxena | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri V.S Negi | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Manju Chaudhary | - | Deputy Secretary – II |

2. The Committee considered the draft Report on Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject, 'Programmes and schemes for welfare of

persons with disabilities' and adopted the same with some modifications/additions as given in the Annexure.

3. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalise the Report in the light of modifications/additions and other consequential changes, if any, arising out of factual verification by the concerned Ministry and present the same to the House.

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure

Modifications/additions made by the Estimates Committee in the Draft Report on Ministry Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject, 'Programmes and schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities'.

| <u>Page No.</u> | <u>Para No.</u> | <u>Line</u> | <u>Modifications/Additions</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 84 | 2 | 7 (from top) | <u>For</u> : outside agency <u>Substitute</u> : autonomous body |
| 90 | 7 | 10 (from top) | <u>After</u> : by them. <u>Add</u> : They also recommend that appropriate penal action should be taken against those NGOs who have misused the grants. |
| 98 | 13 | 11 (from top) | <u>After</u> : Committee recommend that <u>Add</u> : all Nationalised banks should be given instructions to accept loan applications of disabled persons and |
| 112-113 | 23 | Last line | <u>After</u> : regard. <u>Add</u> : The Committee also recommend that a separate panel should be set-up for promotion of disabled persons and PWD Act should be amended accordingly |
| 125 | 33 | 4 | <u>After</u> : Identity Card <u>Add</u> : containing all the particulars of individuals |