

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(2013 - 2014)**

**(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS)**

**Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Disability Affairs)**

**FORTIETH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**February, 2014/Magha, 1935 (Saka)**

**FORTIETH REPORT**

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EMPOWERMENT**  
**(2013-2014)**

**(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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**(DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS)**

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**Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.02.2014**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2014**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

**February, 2014/Magha, 1935 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2013-2014)**

**SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
6. Smt. Rama Devi
7. Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal
8. Shri Mohan Jena
9. Shri Dinesh Kashyap
- \*10. Shri Madhu Kora
11. Shri Kirodi Lal Meena
12. Kumari Meenakshi Natarajan
13. Smt. Mausam Noor
14. Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab R.
15. Smt. Sushila Saroj
16. Shri N. Dharam Singh
17. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
18. Dr. Naramalli Sivaprasad
19. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
20. Shri Kabir Suman
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS  
RAJYA SABHA**

- \*\*22. Shri K.R. Arjunan
23. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
24. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
25. Shri Mangala Kisan
- #26. Dr. V. Maitreyan
27. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
28. Prof. Mrinal Miri
29. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
30. Shri Mohammad Shafi
31. Shri Shivpratap Singh
32. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

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\* Shri Madhu Kora nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 18.9.2013.

\*\* Shri K.R. Arjunan nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 7.9.2013.

# Dr. V. Maitreyan ceased to be a Member of Committee w.e.f. 7.9.2013.

## **LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                     |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Smt. Anita Jain     | - | Director            |
| 3. | Shri Kushal Sarkar  | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Smt. Neena Juneja   | - | Under Secretary     |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Fortieth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Disability Affairs).

2. The Thirty-Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013. The Department of Disability Affairs furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 16.08.2013. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17.12.2013.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

4. For facility of reference observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

**NEW DELHI**  
**17 December, 2013**  
**26 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)**

**HEMANAND BISWAL**  
**Chairman**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Social Justice and**  
**Empowerment.**

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 relating to the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

1.2 The Thirty-Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013. It contained 17 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 2.33, 2.34, 2.42, 2.48, 2.49, 2.55, 2.60, and 2.61.

(Total 12 - Chapter II)

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

-Nil-  
(Chapter III)

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.27, 2.56 and 2.65.

(Total 3 - Chapter IV)

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.28 and 2.41.

(Total 2 - Chapter V)

**1.3 The Committee desire that action taken replies on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken replies in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter -V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of the Report.**

1.4 The Committee will now deal with some of the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

**A. Perspective Plans for utilization of amount allocated in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.20)**

1.5 The Committee urged the Department to resolve various other issues with the State Government and implementing agencies so that proposals are received well in time for according sanction and also take effective steps to ensure that there are no pending utilization certificates. The Committee were apprised that a working group has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary DDA for simplification of procedures for release of grant under various schemes of Department. The Committee felt this is an innovative endeavor and would help accelerate the responsibilities of the Department. The Committee also desired that the Department work on strategy and make perspective plans to utilize the entire amount allocated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan which is Rs. 3284 core and apprise the Committee within three months for further review.



1.6 The Ministry stated in their Action Taken Reply :-

“The Department held regional meetings of State Secretaries of Welfare /Social Justice Department On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. A meeting of the State Secretaries of all the States was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 to address state specific issues. The State were requested to send the proposals in a time bound manner. Further, the Ministry has issued new guidelines for the States simplifying the procedure for recommendation of proposals. A second round of meetings has now been proposed to review the proposals of the State scheme-wise”.

**1.7 The Committee take note of the steps taken by Department of Disability Affairs for timely receipt of proposals from States viz. holding of frequent regional meetings of State Secretaries of Welfare/Social Justice Department on State specific issues and issuance of new guidelines for the States for simplification of procedures for release of grant under various schemes. Hopefully, these measures will make a marked improvement in the utilization of funds. However, the Committee's recommendation on preparation of a perspective plan to fully utilize the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan allocation of Rs. 3284 cr. has not been replied by the Department. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Ministry should work on such a perspective plan so that no amount remains unspent during the plan period.**

**B. Non-utilization of funds under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.27)**

1.8 The Committee noted that under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme, NGOs are given assistance for providing a wide range of services to persons with disability. The Committee were distressed to note the repeated underutilization of Budgetary allocations under the scheme. For the year 2010-11 & 2011-12 against BE of Rs. 120.00 crore for each year actual expenditure has been only Rs.82.27 & Rs.86.16 crore respectively. The position further deteriorated during 2012-13, as the expenditure declined to Rs.46.59 crore i.e. only 35% of the allocation were spent. The Committee were unhappy to note the explanation of the Department that the proposals are generally received for release of grant-in-aid from State Governments in the third quarter of the financial year leading to consequent reduction of the budget at RE Stage. Taking note of the constant recurrence, the Committee deplore that no concrete action has been taken to address the problem. While expressing their unhappiness at the sorry state of affairs, the Committee desired that the Department impress upon the State Government to send the proposals well in time in the first quarter. The Committee would also like the Department to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance to relax the expenditure norms in such cases so that crucial funds for welfare of persons with different abilities do not lapse

1.9 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“The notional allocation under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme has been conveyed to the state Govt. on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 requesting them to send the proposals of the NGOs latest by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013.

The Department Organized regional conferences of state Secretaries of Welfare /Social Justice Department On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. A meeting of the State Secretaries of all the States was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 to address state specific issues. The State was request to send the proposals expeditiously. Besides regional workshops are also being held to impress upon the States to send the proposals expeditiously”.

**1.10 The Committee had expressed their dissatisfaction at the repeated gross under-utilization of funds under Deendyal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme due to late receipt of proposals from the State Governments. The Committee had urged the Department to impress upon the State Governments to send the proposals well in time in the first quarter of the financial year. The Committee had also desired that the Department take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance to relax the expenditure norms in such delayed cases so that crucial funds for welfare of persons with different abilities do not lapse. The Ministry have not responded to this. Therefore, the Committee reiterate that the issue may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance and the Committee be apprised of the outcome thereof at the earliest.**

## **C. Launching of Educational Schemes for persons with different abilities**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 2.48)**

1.11 The Committee were happy to note that the department of Disability Affairs is contemplating the launch of new schemes for educational empowerment of the PwDs on the lines of existing schemes for SCs/STs. The Post-Matric scholarship scheme is under consideration of the Planning Commission and a budget of Rs.33 crores has been kept for 2013-14. The Committee hoped that the scheme will be implemented during the current year. The schemes such as the National Overseas scheme and Top Class Education Schemes, for which only a token amount of Rs.1 crore has been kept, were still at approval stage. As implementation of the education schemes would greatly help in empowering the persons with different abilities, the Committee recommended that the Department convey their anxiety and concern to the Planning Commission and pursue with them for early finalization of these schemes so that the schemes could be implemented at the earliest.

1.12 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“The concept note for the post-matric scholarship scheme has been submitted to the Planning Commission for in-principle approval. The EFC note under the Top Class Education Scheme is being finalized. On the basis of consultations with the Planning Commission the National Overseas Scheme is now being proposed as a Central Sector Scheme. The concept note is under finalization”.

**1.13 The Committee had stressed that implementation of educational schemes for the people with different abilities would greatly help in empowering the persons with different abilities. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the Department convey their anxiety and concern to the Planning Commission for early finalization and launching of these schemes. The Ministry have informed that the concept note for the Post-matric scholarship scheme has been submitted to the Planning Commission for in-principle approval. The EFC note under Top Class Education Scheme is being finalized and the National Overseas scheme is being proposed as a Central scheme. The Committee reiterate that the approval of educational schemes should be pursued on priority basis so that they can be launched in the next financial year so that the people with different abilities get access to higher education.**

## **D. Modernization of National Institutes**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 2.56)**

1.14 The Committee were apprised that in order to modernize the National Institutes, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.S. Baswan. The report of the Committee is under examination in the Department. The Committee desires that the Department should give top priority to modernize the National Institutes in this 12<sup>th</sup> plan period itself. Efforts should be made to convert them into model institutes in the South East Asia region. The Committee would also like to know the detail of the work done by similar institutes the world over in the disability sector. The Committee also desired that an institute be set up for the PwDs whereby a complete research/academic set up can be established to study various worldwide developments, undertake comparative analysis of the measures being taken by various countries in the field of disability management and suggest innovative solutions considering the socio-economic milieu of the country.

1.15 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :-

“Department is making all out efforts to make the National Institutes as Centres of Excellence. NIs have been asked to constitute advisory council to guide and advice them on various activities to identify and focus on the area of their core competence like corrective surgery for NIRTAR, Cuttack, rehabilitation of spinal injuries for NIOH, Kolkata, hearing handicapped for NIHH, Mumbai and Multiple Disabilities for NIEPMD, Chennai”.



**1.16 The Committee were informed that the report of the Committee set up to look into the modernization of the National Institutes under Shri B.S. Baswan is under consideration of Government. The Committee would like to be informed of the status of implementation of the aforesaid Report. The Committee had also desired that an institute be set up for the persons with different abilities whereby a complete research/academic set up can be established to study various world-wide developments in the field of disability and suggest innovative solutions. The Ministry have not responded to this recommendation. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the same and desire that the Ministry to set up such a centre to keep abreast with the latest developments in the field of disability worldwide and the same can be adapted to suit the Indian conditions.**

## **E. Monitoring of the schemes of the Department of Disability Affairs**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 2.65)**

1.17 The Committee noted that many steps have been taken by the Department of Disability Affairs to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their programmes and schemes and in this connection a Monitoring Committee already exists. Also officers of the Department have been appointed as nodal officer for States/UTs to undertake field visits for on the spot study of implementation of schemes by implementing agencies including NGOs. However, the Committee expressed their displeasure at the low expenditure under all the schemes of the Department as also the implementation aspect of their performance. The Committee felt that there is a need to set up State and district level Monitoring Committee on the lines of the Committees set up by the Ministry of Rural Development with representation of MPs, local MLAs as also Members of Panchayats for successful implementation of the various schemes of the Department of Disability Affairs.

1.18 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :

“The Department has nominated officers of the Department and its National Institutes as nodal officers for carrying out inspection and monitoring the implementation of the schemes. Besides, regular State-wise meetings with the officers of the State Governments and the representatives of the NGOs are being organized to settle the pending issues and to expedite the process of receipt of proposals from the States and requisite documents from the NGOs”.

**1.19 The Committee although have been informed that the Department has nominated officers of the Department and its National Institutes as nodal officers for carrying out inspection and monitoring the implementation of the schemes, the Ministry is silent on the constitution of State and District level Monitoring Committees on the lines of those set up by the Ministry of Rural Development with representation of MPs, MLAs as also Members of Panchayats for successful implementation of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that for monitoring of the schemes for the differently abled persons special monitoring mechanism needs to be put in place similar to the existing one for the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development.**

## **CHAPTER II**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 2.18)**

The Committee are dismayed to note the gross underutilization of funds in the disability Scheme in the year 2012-13. The Department was given a mere budgetary allocation of Rs.548 crore (both plan and non-plan) which was, lamentably, reduced at Re stage to Rs.308 crore and worse, the expenditure was only Rs.267.50 crore which is less than 50% of the allocated amount. A budgetary allocation of Rs.611 crore has been kept as BE for 2013-14. The Department has given a number of reasons for underutilization which mainly include frequent changes in posting of Financial Adviser, change in procedure for requirement of documents, late receipt of proposals from the State Governments, incomplete proposals due to pending UCs, etc. The Committee however find these reasons unacceptable and are deeply anguished that the budgeted funds for the people with different abilities which were due to them as their rightful share, have been allowed to lapse. The Committee are also unhappy at the non-posting of regular Financial Adviser in the Department for most part of the year resulting in the non-sanction of the proposals of State Governments. The Committee therefore while recommending the Department to make all out efforts for full utilization of budgetary allocation of Rs.611 crore in 2013-14 would also like the other Minister/Department to be sensitive enough to the need of PwDs and support the Department of Disability Affairs in their endeavour to achieve its laudable goals. The Department also needs to be fully strengthened in terms of adequate human resource and the Committee be apprised.. The Committee also recommend that the Department should be rechristened as the Department for the Differently abled and full and sustained publicity be given to the programmes and schemes of the Department so that the target groups avail the benefits thereof.

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

2.2 Keeping in view the observation of Hon'ble Committee, the Department has taken the following initiatives:-

1. Matter regarding sanction of additional staff had been taken up with PMO and subsequently with Committee of Secretaries (COS) on directions of PMO. The matter was also discussed in Ministry of Finance and 69 posts have been sanctioned for the Department, in May, 2013.
2. In order to sensitize the IFD/Finance, observation of the Hon'ble Committee is mentioned in every case relating to the release of grant-in-aid under DDRS.

3. The process of renaming the Department is going on in consultation with the States Govt. /Department of Legislative Affairs.
4. During the current year 2013-14, the Department held five zonal review meetings at Delhi and also an exclusive meeting with State Secretaries of the Disability Sector. The Chief Secretaries of all States have also been requested to issue strict directions for submission of proposals timely. The Department is also organizing workshops in all the five zones (Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Central) through the National Institutes to give wide publicity to the schemes and policies of the Department. Three workshops in Southern, Eastern and Western Zones have already been held. Publicity is also being given through Radio Programme 'Sanwanti Jayen Jeewan Ki Rahein'.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.19)**

2.3 The Committee note that the Department's functioning has been constrained due to severe shortage of sanctioned staff at all levels. A proposal for creation of 4 Bureaus for Policy and Coordination; Administration; Central Programmes and Coordination's and Finance Wing in Phase-I is reportedly, under consideration of Ministry of Finance which will increase the staff strength to 154 from the present 48 posts. Further a proposal for, new office accommodation is also pending with Ministry of Urban Development. While appreciating the problem and constraints of the newly created Department to vigorously pursue with concerned Ministries for sanctions of posts and office accommodation. The Committee would also urge upon these Ministries to urgently address the issues of the newly created Department so that it is enabled to function effectively and efficiently for the welfare and development of the target groups.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 Matter regarding sanction of additional staff had been taken up with PMO and subsequently with Committee of Secretaries (COS) on directions of PMO. The matter was also discussed in Ministry of Finance and 69 posts have been sanctioned for the Department in May, 2013.

The matter regarding space for the Department has been continuously taken up with the Ministry of Urban Development who in the month of May, 2013 intimated that they would not be in a position to provide suitable accommodation and

conveyed “no objection” to this Department to acquire accommodation on rent basis. Accordingly, Department is identifying suitable accommodation as per rules.

[Department of Disability Affairs’ OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 2.20)**

2.5 The Committee urge the Department to resolve various other issues with the State Government and implementing agencies so that proposals are received well in time for according sanction and also take effective steps to ensure that there are no pending utilization certificates. The Committee were apprised that a working group has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary DDA for simplification of procedures for release of grant under various schemes of Department. The Committee feel this is an innovative endeavour and will help accelerate the responsibilities of the Department. The Committee also desire that the Department work on strategy and make perspective plans to utilize the entire amount allocated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan which is Rs. 3284 core and apprise the Committee within three months for further review.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 The Department held regional meetings of State Secretaries of Welfare /Social Justice Department On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. A meeting of the State Secretaries of all the States was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 to address state specific issues. The States were requested to send the proposals in a time bound manner. Further, the Ministry has issued new guidelines for the States simplifying the procedure for recommendation of proposals. A second round of meetings has now been proposed to review the proposals of the State scheme-wise.

[Department of Disability Affairs’ OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.7 of Chapter I of the Report.)

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 2.21)**

2.7 The Committee are deeply concerned at the poor implementation of the schemes of the Department in the North East Region of the country where the expenditure has been less than 50% in DDRS, ADIP and SIPDA Schemes. The Committee desire that the Department exhort the NGOs and implementing agencies

working in the disability sector as also help them to send viable proposals to take benefit of the scheme run by the Department of Disability Affairs. The Committee recommend that wide Publicity in Print and electronic media should be given to the various schemes so that the target groups get the schematic benefits.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 A regional meeting of the States Secretaries of Welfare/Social Justice of the States of the North Eastern region was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 where the state Governments were requested to send proposal under all the schemes to the Department urgently. States were also requested to submit pending U.C.s in respect of past releases under the schemes so that funds could be released in the current year. A regional workshop on rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities was also organized in Guwahati on 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. Officers of the State Governments and representatives of NGOs participated in the workshop.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 2.33)**

2.9 The Committee note that the objective of the ADIP scheme is to provide durable, scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances to persons with disabilities. Surprisingly, as against the budgetary allocation of Rs.100 crore during 2012-13, The Department could spend only Rs.70.60 crore. The Committee are not enthused with the explanation of the Department that RE was reduced as expenditure in two quarters 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of financial year could not be made as very few proposals of implementing agencies were received and that most of the proposals were incomplete and required correspondence with State Governments. The Committee are saddened to note that such delays have become the recurrent theme and refrain of the Department and apparently no tangible corrective measure have been taken to resolve the problem. The Committee desire that the Department work out a strategy with the implementing agencies, so that all proposals are received in the first quarter of the year itself and the funds allocated are utilized as intended.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.10 The Procedure for the year 2013-14 has been circulated to all the States/UTs on 09.05.2013 for recommending proposals for release of funds latest by 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. As mentioned in reply to para 2.27 of the observations of Hon'ble Committee,

regional conferences of State Secretaries of Welfare/Social Justice Department were held in May/June, 2013. Regional Workshops are also being held to impress upon the States to send the proposals expeditiously.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 2.34)**

2.11 The Committee were apprised that the ADIP scheme is under revision, in regard to cost of the assistive device, income ceiling of the beneficiaries and streamlining the provision in the scheme. The Committee however feel that the income ceiling parameter which is proposed to be raised to Rs.15000/- per month is still not adequate and needs to be further enhanced so that more people can avail the benefit of the scheme. The Committee further desire that a monitoring mechanism needs to be developed to ensure that only genuine beneficiaries receive the aids and appliances, which may include issue of individual cards to the beneficiaries with their names, addresses and the type of device issued to them along with the date. The Committee therefore, recommend that, beside maintaining the computerized List of beneficiaries with necessary details, Identity card(Aadhaar based) be issued to the recipients of the aids with corresponding details matching the Government data and the Committee apprised.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 It is proposed to enhance the income ceiling for 100% concession from the existing Rs.6,500/- to Rs.15,000/- per month and for 50% concession from Rs.6501/ to Rs.10,000/- per month to Rs. 15,000/- -Rs.20,000/- per month. Ministry has noted the observations of the Committee and the same will be implemented as soon as necessary infrastructure is ready in this regard.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para No. 2.42)**

2.13 The Committee desire that the Department should issue advisory notices to all State Governments to provide barrier free environment for movement in all



Government buildings, State Universities Hospital, etc. so as to provide ramps, rails lifts, adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users, Braille signages and auditory signals etc. for disabled persons as per the International norms. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in the behalf in due course.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.14 Under SIPDA, the Department Has been providing assistance for creation of barrier- free environment in Govt. buildings to States/UTs. The States/UT were inform of the positions while inviting proposal under SIPDA.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 2.48)**

2.15 The Committee are happy to note that the department of Disability Affairs is contemplating the launch of new schemes for educational empowerment of the PwDs on the lines of existing schemes for SCs/STs. The Post-Matric scholarship shceme is under consideration of the Planning Commission and a budget of Rs.33 crores has been kept for 2013-14. The Committee hope that the scheme will be implemented during the current year. The schemes such as the National Overseas scheme and Top Class Education Schemes, for which only a token amount of Rs.1 crore has been kept, are still at approval stage. As implementation of the education schemes would greatly help in empowering the persons with different abilities, the Committee recommend that the Department convey their anxiety and concern to the Planning Commission and pursue with them for early finalization of these schemes so that the schemes could be implemented at the earliest.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.16 The concept note for the post-matric scholarship scheme has been submitted to the Planning Commission for in-principle approval.

The EFC note under the Top Class Education Scheme is being finalized.

On the basis of consultations with the Planning Commission the National Overseas Scheme is now being proposed as a Central Sector Scheme. The concept note under finalizations.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.13 of Chapter I of the Report.)

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 2.49)**

2.17 This Committee are unhappy with the fact the despite the Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship Scheme for PwDs, launched in 2012-13 and a budget of Rs.12 crore kept in 2012-13, the scheme could not be implemented as it is dependent upon the preparedness of the UGC, which is the implementing agency. The Committee urge the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Human Resources Development and UGC so as to ensure that the Scheme is implemented at the earliest in letter and spirit. They may also give wide publicity to the scheme to ensure that target groups become aware of the scheme and the Committee apprised.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.18 The advertisement inviting applications for award of Scholarship under RGNF has been issued by UGC on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, UGC has also been requested to give vide publicity to the Scheme.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No. 2.55)**

2.19 The Committee note that the seven National Institutes under the Department of Disability Affairs are engaged in Human Resource Development in the field of Disability providing rehabilitation services as well as making efforts in Research and Development. Against an allocation of Rs. 70 core under plan head, the utilization of funds in 2012-13 has been around Rs. 53.17 crore. The Committee are however concerned to note that the beneficiaries have come down from 726668 in the year 2011-12 to 527868 in the year 2012-13. The Committee desire that the National Institutes should strive to utilize all resources available in empowering the target groups as also make sustained efforts in the field of R&D. The Committee would like to know the reasons for fall in the number of beneficiaries and the corrective measures being taking in this direction.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.20 Against and allocation of Rs.70 crore under Plan Head for seven National Institutes (NIs) funds of Rs.55.88 crore were released in 2012-13. Department is seized of the issue and is regularly holding monthly review meetings with National Institutes to increase plan activities and utilize allotted funds. Some key posts in various National Institutes were lying vacant which led to the fall in the number of beneficiaries. Posts have since been filled up to. NIs have been asked to increase their R&D activities and to earmark at least 5% of the Plan funds for R&D activities.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 2.60)**

2.21 The Committee are distressed to note that the scheme of giving incentives to employers in the Private Sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities launched in d2008 has hardly taken off as a meager sum of Rs.1 crore in 2009-10, nil in 2010-11 and Rs.0.50 crore was released in 2011-12. Since it is an important scheme for encouraging the Private Companies to give employment to disabled persons, the Committee recommend that the Department should make vigorous efforts by organizing meeting and symposiums with the Private Sector Companies so that they can avail the financial benefits under the scheme and help provide employment to the persons with disabilities .The Committee hope that the Department will be able to appropriate Rs.5.00 crore which has been earmarked under the scheme for 2013-14.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.22 A meeting with the NGOs as well as representatives of NASSCOM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, to ascertain the views of the state folders. Suggestions to make the scheme result oriented.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 16, Para No. 2.61)**

2.23 The Committee note that during the last three years as against reservation of three percent in Central Government jobs for the disabled persons, the reserved posts filled were 10,399 as on 1.12.2010, 15,670 as on 1.1.2011 and 12,610 as on 1.1.2012. The Committee would like to know the precise number of vacancies and the posts reserved for the people with disabilities and the percentage it constitutes to the total vacancies in the Central Governments/State Government and UTs. The Committee have been informed that various orders/instruction on appointment of PwDs are issued to all Central Ministries/State Government by the Department of Personnel and Training from time to time to persuade them to fill up the 3% of vacancies by PwDs. The Committee feel that this is not enough and the Department being a nodal Department to oversee the welfare of PwDs need to strictly keep a strict watch on filling up the quota for PwDs. The Committee hope the Department of Disability Affairs will also pursue with the various Ministries and States Government for implementation of the reservation policy so as to fill up all existing vacancies for disabled person and keep the Committee apprised.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.24 DOPT is the nodal Ministry for filling up of reserve vacancy in Govt. DOPT has already requested all Ministries/ Departments to conduct special drive for filling of vacancies under OH category.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **CHAPTER III**

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT  
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

- NIL -

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHAPTER-I**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 2.27)**

The Committee note that under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme, NGOs are given assistance for providing a wide range of services to persons with disability. The Committee are distressed to note the repeated underutilization of Budgetary allocations under the scheme. For the year 2010-11 & 2011-12 against BE of Rs. 120.00 crore for each year actual expenditure has been only Rs.82.27 & Rs.86.16 crore respectively. The position further deteriorated during 2012-13, as the expenditure declined to Rs.46.59 crore i.e. only 35% of the allocation were spent. The Committee are unhappy to note the explanation of the Department that the proposals are generally received for release of grant-in-aid from State Governments in the third quarter of the financial year leading to consequent reduction of the budget at RE Stage. Taking note of the constant recurrence, the Committee deplore that no concrete action has been taken to address the problem. While expressing their unhappiness at the sorry state of affairs, the Committee desire that the Department impress upon the State Government to send the proposals well in time in the first quarter-wise. The Committee would also like the Department to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance to relax the expenditure norms in such cases so that crucial funds for welfare of persons with different abilities do not lapse

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

4.2 The notional allocation under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme has been conveyed to the state Govt. on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 requesting them to send the proposals of the NGOs latest by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013.

The Department Organized regional conferences of state Secretaries of Welfare /Social Justice Department On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. A meeting of the State Secretaries of all the States was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 to address state specific issues. The State was request to send the proposals expeditiously. Besides regional workshops are also being held to impress upon the States to send the proposals expeditiously.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.10 of Chapter I of the Report.)

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 2.56)**

4.3 The Committee were apprised that in order to modernize the National Institutes, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.S. Baswan. The report of the Committee is under examination in the Department. The Committee desire that the Department should give top priority to modernize the National Institutes in this 12<sup>th</sup> plan period itself. Efforts should be made to convert them into model institutes in the South East Asia region. The Committee would also like to know the detail of the work done by similar institutes the world over in the disability sector. The Committee also desire that an institute be set up for the PwDs whereby a complete research/academic set up can be established to study various worldwide developments, undertake comparative analysis of the measures being taken by various countries in the field of disability management and suggest innovative solutions considering the socio-economic milieu of the country.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.4 Department is making all out efforts to make the National Institutes as Centres of Excellence. NIs have been asked to constitute advisory council to guide and advice them on various activities to identify and focus on the area of their core competence like corrective surgery for NIRTAR, Cuttack, rehabilitation of spinal injuries for NIOH, Kolkata, hearing handicapped for NIHH, Mumbai and Multiple Disabilities for NIEPMD, Chennai.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.16 of Chapter I of the Report.)

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 2.65)**

4.5 The Committee note that many steps have been taken by the Department of Disability Affairs to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their programmes and schemes and in this connection a Monitoring Committee already exists. Also officers of the Department have been appointed as nodal officer for States/UTs to

undertake field visits for on the spot study of implementation of schemes by implementing agencies including NGOs. However, the Committee express their displeasure at the low expenditure under all the schemes of the Department as also the implementation aspect of their performance. The Committee feel that there is a need to set up State and district level Monitoring Committee on the lines of the Committees set up by the Ministry of Rural Development with representation of MPs, local MLAs as also Members of Panchayats for successful implementation of the various schemes of the Department of Disability Affairs.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.6 The Department has nominated officers of the Department and its National Institutes as nodal officers for carrying out inspection and monitoring the implementation of the schemes. Besides, regular State-wise meetings with the officers of the State Governments and the representatives of the NGOs are being organized to settle the pending issues and to expedite the process of receipt of proposals from the States and requisite documents from the NGOs.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

### **Comments of the Committee**

(Please see para 1.19 of Chapter I of the Report.)



## **CHAPTER V**

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

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 2.28)**

The Department has informed that for the revision of cost norms under DDRS a Committee was set up under Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with representatives of related Ministries and NGOs and the report of the same has been submitted. The Committee desire that expenditure action should be taken on the report and cost norms be reviewed taking into account the raising cost due to inflation and they be apprised.

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

5.2 The report of the Committee set up to suggest revision in the cost norms under DDRS Scheme has been received and the same is being examined.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 2.41)**

5.3 The Committee note that under the scheme financial assistance is provided for implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 (SIPDA) for providing barrier free environment in universities, Public Buildings, State Government Secretariats, Office of the State as also assistance for setting up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and the Committee composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs). The Committee are constrained to note the declining trend of expenditure under the head having bottoming to one fifth of the amount allocated i.e. only Rs.20.00 crore against an allocation of Rs.105 crore in 2012-13. The Committee outright reject the explanation of the Department that the funds could not be released under the scheme as concrete proposals could not be received from the State Government well in time and those received were not complete in all respects. The Committee recommend that the officials of the Department should play a proactive role in helping the State Governments send complete and viable proposals so that the allocated funds are well utilized. The Committee desire that the Department evolve a suitable mechanism as part of e-governance drive so as to ensure that all schemes become accessible to PwDs at State and district levels. Since the Persons with Disability Act is to give effect to the proclamation signed by India on the full participation and equality of the people with Disability in the Asia and Pacific Region,

the Committee recommended the Government to strictly monitor implementation of the Scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 The recommendation of the Committee was duly considered. Accordingly, the Department has been conducting special meeting with the Secretaries of the concerned Department At National level and also at Regional level. Moreover specific state-wise meetings have been held to impress upon the States to submit proposals under SIPDA and provide requisite documents and utilization certificate for past releases urgently. IN order to ensure full utilization of funds, two more components are being added to the SIPDA Scheme namely (a) one time grant towards infrastructure developments of the offices of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and (b) grant for encouraging skill development programme for PwDs.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV  
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2013]

**NEW DELHI**  
**17 December, 2013**  
**26 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)**

**HEMANAND BISWAL**  
**Chairman**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Social Justice and**  
**Empowerment.**

## **Annexure-I**

### **MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2013**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1515 hrs. in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

#### **PRESENT**

**SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN**

#### **MEMBERS LOK SABHA**

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
4. Smt. Rama Devi
5. Shri Mohan Jena
6. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

#### **MEMBERS RAJYA SABHA**

7. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
8. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
9. Prof. Mrinal Miri
10. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
11. Shri Mohammad Shafi
12. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

#### **LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                     |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Smt. Anita Jain     | - | Director            |
| 3. | Shri Kushal Sarkar  | - | Additional Director |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened for consideration and adoption of the draft Thirty-ninth Report on the subject "Implementation of schemes for welfare of Senior Citizens", Fortieth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment), Forty-first Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) and Forty-second Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants, 2013-14 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, Forty-first and Forty-second Report of the Committee without any amendment.

4. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalize the draft Reports and present the same to Parliament.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

## APPENDIX

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total Percentage	
I.	Total number of Recommendations	17	
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 2.33, 2.34, 2.42, 2.48, 2.49, 2.55, 2.60, and 2.61.	12	70.59
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies - Nil	0	0
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted (Paragraph Nos. 2.27, 2.56 and 2.65).	3	17.65
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos. 2.28 and 2.41).	2	11.76