

2

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2014-2015)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

(DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS)

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2014-2015)**

SECOND REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2014/Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

2

SECOND REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2014-2015)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(2014-2015)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.12.2014

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2014



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2014/Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

CONTENTS

	PAGE(s)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iv)
INTRODUCTION	(vi)
INTRODUCTORY	1
REPORT	5
A. GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY	
B. NATIONAL INSTITUTES	16
C. SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES (ADIP)	20
D. DEENDAYAL DISABLED REHABILITATION SCHEME	25
E. SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 1995 (SIPDA)	28
F. ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA (ALIMCO)	33
G. SCHEMES FOR GIVING INCENTIVES TO EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	36
H. RESERVATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	38
I. PENSION SCHEME FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	41
J. DISABILITY CERTIFICATE	43
ANNEXURES	
I. MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 09.10.2014.	45
II. MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 17.12.2014.	48

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2014-2015)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
- *3. Chh. Udayan Raje Bhonsle
4. Kunwar Bharatendra
5. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
6. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
7. Shri Jhina Hikaka
8. Shri Prakash Babanna Hukkeri
- **9. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti
10. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
11. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
12. Smt. Maragatham K.
13. Shri Kariya Munda
14. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
15. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
16. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
17. Dr. Udit Raj
18. Smt. Satabdi Roy
19. Prof. Sadhu Singh
20. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Ahamed Hassan
24. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
25. Shri Prabhat Jha
- #26. Shri. Avtar Singh Karimpuri
27. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
28. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
29. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
30. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
31. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

* Chh. Udayan Raje Bhonsle ceased to be a Member of the Committee w.e.f. 7.10.2014.

** Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti ceased to be a Member of the Committee w.e.f. 9.11.2014 consequent upon her appointment as Minister.

Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent upon his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 25.11.2014.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Neena Juneja - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2014-15) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Second Report on Demands for Grants for the year 2014-15 of the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the current year i.e. 2014-15 which was laid on the Table of the House on *i.e.*, 22.07.2014 in Lok Sabha and 24.07.2014 in Rajya Sabha. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) on 09.10.2014. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 17.12.2014.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Department of Disability Affairs for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired and tendering evidence before the Committee in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants.

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

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 2014
26 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Department of Disability Affairs was created on 12th May, 2012 under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for greater focus on policy, programmes and implementation of schemes for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD). Section 2(t) of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, (also referred to as PwD Act, 1995) defines “Person with Disability” as a person suffering from not less than 40% of any disability as certified by a medical authority. The disability being (a) blindness (b) low vision (c) leprosy cured (d) hearing impairment (e) loco-motor disability (f) mental illness (g) mental retardation (h) autism (i) cerebral palsy or (j) a combination of any two or more of g), h) and i) (Section 2(i) of the PwD Act, 1995 read alongwith Section 2(j) of The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999).

1.2 As per the census 2011, there are 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities in India – about 1.18 crore are female and about 1.5 crore are male. Rehabilitation of PwD being largely a State subject, the following constitutional provisions apply to all persons including persons with disability:-

- (1) The Constitution of India guarantees equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all citizens, including PwDs.
- (2) Article 41: states that the State shall make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of

unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.

- (3) "Relief of the disabled and unemployable" also figures in 7th Schedule ("State List"), 11th Schedule (Panchyats), 12th Schedule (Municipalities)

The following Acts govern various aspects of disabilities:

- (4) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act, 1992.
- (5) Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PWD) Act, 1995.
- (6) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (NT) Act, 1999.
- (7) Mental Health Act, 1987.

1.3 As per the Allocation of Business Rules 1961 the subjects allocated to the Department are as follows:-

- I The following subject which fall within List I – Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution:

Indo-US, Indo-UK, Indo-German, Indo-Swiss and Indo-Swedish Agreements for duty-free import of donated relief goods/supplies and matters connected with the distribution of such supplies.

- 2 Social Security and Social Insurance, save to the extent allotted to any other Department.
3. For the Union Territories, till the following subjects which fall in List II – State List or List III - Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, in so far as they exist in regard to such territories:

4. To act as the nodal Department for matters pertaining to Disability and Persons with Disabilities.
5. Special schemes aimed at rehabilitation and social, educational and economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, e.g. supply of aids and appliances, scholarships, residential schools, skill training, concessional loans and subsidy for self-employment, etc.
6. Education and Training of Rehabilitation Professionals.
7. International Conventions and Agreements on matters dealt with in the Department. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
8. Awareness generation, research, evaluation and training in regard to subjects allocated to the Department.
9. Charitable and Religious Endowments, and promotion and development of Voluntary Effort pertaining to subjects allocated to the Department.
10. The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 (34 of 1992).
11. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996).
12. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (44 of 1999).
13. The Rehabilitation Council of India.
14. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.
15. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
16. The National Handicapped and Finance and Development Corporation.
17. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation, Kanpur.

18. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
19. National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata.
20. National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
21. National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.
22. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.
23. National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack.
24. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai.

The allocation of Business Rules also provide that the Department of Disability Affairs shall be the nodal Department for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for Persons with Disabilities. However, overall management and monitoring etc. of the sectoral programmes in respect of this group shall be the responsibility of the concerned Central Ministries, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Each Central Ministry of Department shall discharge nodal responsibility concerning its sector.

REPORT

A. GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

2.1 The Budget Estimates for the Department of Disability Affairs for 2013-14 were about Rs. 560 crore (Plan) whereas RE was around Rs. 460 crore (Plan) and expenditure was Rs. 341.49 crore. An allocation of Rs. 565 crore (Plan) has been made for the Department for the year 2014-15. The following statement gives Plan allocation and expenditure for the Department of Disability Affairs during 2013-14 and BE 2014-15.

	Programme/Schemes	Plan	-	-	Rs. In crores
		BE 2013-14	RE 2013-14	Exp. 2013-14	BE 2014-15
1	National Institute for Disabled Persons	75.00	98.70	87.92	105.00
2	Aids & Appliances for Handicapped	110.00	110.00	95.36	110.00
3	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation	38.00	38.00	0.00	20.00
4	Rehabilitation Council of India	3.00	3.00	2.12	5.00
5	Spinal Injury Centre	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
6	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation	35.00	35.00	32.55	37.00
7	Scheme for Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995	105.00	65.00	47.71	80.00
8	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Schemes	124.85	90.00	63.64	90.00
9	Establishment of ISLRTC	10.00	1.00	0.00	4.00
10	Employment of Physically Challenged	5.00	1.00	0.53	2.00
11	Establishment of National Institute/Centre of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment	5.00	1.00	0.00	4.00
12	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PWD	12.00	15.00	9.66	17.00
13	Post Matric Scholarship to Student with Disabilities	33.00	0.05	0.00	12.00
14	Top Class Education for PwDs	1.00	0.05	0.00	3.00

15	National Overseas Scholarship for PwDs	1.00	0.05	0.00	3.00
16	Support for Establishment/ Modernization of Braille Presses	0.01	0.01	0.00	13.00
17	Establishment of College of Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.50
18	Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
19	Augment of Corpus Fund of National Trust	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
20	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.50
21	Establishment of National Mission, State Missions and District Coordinators	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
22	Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
23	Establishment of Micor-enterprise Incubation Centres for Persons with Disabilities	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
24	Awareness Generation and Publicity	0.01	0.01	0.00	3.00
25	In-service Training and Sensitization of State Governments, Local Bodies and other Service Providers	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
26	Grants to Association for Rehabilitation under National Trust	0.01	0.01	0.00	2.00
27	Research on Disability related Technology	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.00
28	Pre-matric Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities	0.01	0.01	0.00	12.00
29	Free Coaching for Persons with Disabilities	0.01	0.01	0.00	3.00
30	National Programme for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
31	Information and Mass Education Cell	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
32	Secretariat	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
	Total Disability Division	559.99	459.99	341.49	565.00

2.2 Under the Non-Plan head, the following table shows the expenditure under the head for 2013-14 and BE 2014-15:

(Non Plan – Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.		BE 2013-14	RE 2013-14	Exp. 2013-14	BE 2014-15
	Disability Affairs				
1	Secretariat	0.00	0.00	0.00	1289.00
2	National Institutes for Disabled Persons	4650.00	4650.00	4650.00	5016.00
3	Rehabilitation Council of India	160.00	145.00	145.00	175.00
4	Handling Clearance of Duty Free Consignments under Bilateral Agreements	95.00	0.00	0.00	69.50
5	Chief Commissioner for Physically Disabled	215.00	200.00	194.64	239.50
	Total	5120.00	4995.00	4989.64	5500.00

2.3 The Department have furnished the following details on the schemes which were curtailed as per the Revised Estimates 2013-14:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	BE 2013-14	RE 2013-14
1.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	124.85	90.00
2.	Scheme arising out of the Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA)	105.00	65.00
3.	Establishment of Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)	10.00	1.00
4.	Establishment of National Centre of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment	5.00	1.00
5.	Employment for Physically Challenged	5.00	1.00
6.	Post-Matric Scholarship for students with disabilities	33.00	0.05
7.	Top Class Education for PwDs	1.00	0.05
8.	National Overseas Scholarship for PwDs	1.00	0.05

2.4 When the Committee enquired about the trend of under-utilization which continued year after year, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

“Department has not been able to overcome a trend of under utilization of funds as most of the proposals of the ongoing Schemes are received from States/UTs and the Schemes are mostly demand driven. This implies that actual release of funds can be effected only after receipt of concrete/complete proposals from the eligible agencies/Organizations/State Government often, the proposals received from their Organizations are not complete which results in delay in releasing funds. Some of the State Governments are also not well equipped at the district level to look into the requirement of various Schemes/programmes which could enable them to process the proposals timely. Though Department has been taking pro-active steps to sensitive States in this regard however flow of proposals has not been commensurate. Still, as compared to previous year, the pace of utilization of funds has picked up and this trend of underutilization of funds is expected to be reversed soon.”

2.5 The Department has given the following table on the expenditure of the 12th Plan allocation so far against an allocation of Rs. 3284 crore for the entire 12th Plan:

				(Rs in crores)
	Programme/Schemes	Exp. 2012-13	Exp. 2013-14	BE 2014-15
1	National Institute for Disabled Persons	55.89	87.92	105.00
2	Aids & Appliances for Handicapped	70.60	95.36	110.00
3	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation	0.00	0.00	20.00
4	Rehabilitation Council of India	2.69	2.12	5.00
5	Spinal Injury Centre	2.00	2.00	2.00
6	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation	20.00	32.55	37.00
7	Scheme for Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995	20.03	47.71	80.00
8	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Schemes	46.99	63.64	90.00
9	Est of ISLRTC	5.20	0.00	4.00
10	Employment of Physically Challenged	0.50	0.53	2.00
11	Estt of National Institute/Centre of Universal Design and Barrie Free Environment	0.00	0.00	4.00
12	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for PWD	0.00	9.66	17.00
13	Post Matric Scholarship to Student with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	12.00
14	Top Class Education for PwDs	0.00	0.00	3.00
15	National Overseas Scholarship for PwDs	0.00	0.00	3.00
16	Support for Establishment/ Modernization of Braille Presses	0.00	0.00	13.00
17	Establishment of College of Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	0.00	0.00	0.50
18	Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports	0.00	0.00	1.00

19	Augment of Corpus Fund of National Trust	0.00	0.00	1.00
20	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	0.00	0.00	0.50
21	Est of National Mission, State Missions and District Coordinators	0.00	0.00	1.00
22	Est of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	0.00	0.00	1.00
23	Est of Micor-enterprise Incubation Centres for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	1.00
24	Awareness Generation and Publicity	0.00	0.00	3.00
25	In-service Training and Sensitization of State Governments, Local Bodies and other Service Providers	0.00	0.00	1.00
26	Grants to Association for Rehabilitation under National Trust	0.00	0.00	2.00
27	Research on Disability related Technology	0.00	0.00	1.00
28	Pre-matric Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	12.00
29	Free Coaching for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	3.00
30	National Programme for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	5.00
31	Information and Mass Education Cell	0.00	0.00	20.00
32	Secretariat	0.00	0.00	5.00
	Total Disability Division	223.90	341.49	565.00

From the above table, it is noticed that in the first two years of the Plan period, only 565.61 crore about 18% only could be utilized and a large percentage of funds remained unutilized for the 12th Plan.

2.6 When asked to explain the steps proposed to increase the utilization of funds, the Department stated that:

“To ensure that funds are fully utilized under Schemes/Programmes of the Department, initiatives have been taken to ensure that complete and timely proposals are received from NGOs/State Govts, it has been decided that from the current financial year all applications by NGOs and VOs seeking Grants-in-Aids under DDRS and ADIP Schemes of the Department shall be accepted on-line. Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and Officers/staff dealing with disability at Directorate and district level in States and UT Administrations have also been requested to register online also.

Monitoring Mechanism has been put in place for monitoring implementation of the Schemes. A Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of the JS of the Department for monitoring implementation of disability related schemes of the Department has been constituted.

Implementation/launching of New Schemes of the Department has been put on fast track. EFC/SFC approval will be given in a time bound manner. It is envisaged that from the next financial year, most of the Schemes approved under the XIIth Five Year Plan of the Department, will be launched.”

2.7 When enquired about the status of some new schemes proposed in the budget, the Department furnished the following information:

Details of the progress of work on the new schemes for which allocation has been made in the year 2013-14:

S. No.	Scheme	Progress of Work on new Schemes
1	National Overseas Scholarship for PWDs	Scheme has been approved. Advertisement to call for applications will be issued shortly.
2	Awareness generation and publicity	Scheme has been approved and has been launched in Sept, 2014.
3	Establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training (ISLRTC)	EFC meeting was held on 18.7.2014 under the chairmanship of Secy(Expdt). Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is under process. Draft CCEA Note has been sent to D/o Expdt for seeking approval of Finance Minister.
4	Establishment of a National Centre of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment	EFC meeting was held on 18.7.2014 under the chairmanship of Secy(Expdt). Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is under process. Draft CCEA Note has been sent to D/o Expdt for seeking approval of Finance Minister.
5	Post Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	EFC Note has been approved. The scheme has been sent for approval of Ministry of Finance with the approval of HMSJ&E.
6	Modernization of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)	DPR for modernization proposal is under finalization.
7	Scholarships for Top Class Education for SWDs studying in premier higher educational institutions	The draft scheme approved by the IFD has been sent to the Planning Commission and other Ministries/Departments for comments which are awaited.
8	Free Coaching for SwDs	The scheme was sent to Planning Commission, who have desired modifications in the scheme, which will be taken up soon.
9	Support for establishment/modernization/capacity augmentation of Braille Presses	EFC meeting was held. However, in view of the FMs budget speech, the scheme has been revised. Revised scheme has been circulated for comments of Ministries/Departments. The same is still awaited.
10	Establishment of a college for deaf in each of the five regions of the country	SFC Note has been sent to Ministries/Departments for comments which are awaited from some Ministries.
11	Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports	Consultant being engaged for preparation of DPR of the Centre
12	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	SFC Note was circulated on 28.7.2014. Comments of Planning Commission from M/o Health and Family Affairs are awaited.
13	Establishment of National Mission, State Missions and District Coordinators	Scheme being formulated.

14	Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	Land acquired at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. HSCC has submitted preliminary report. HSCC to prepare DPR and also to implement the project of construction
15	Establishment of Micro Enterprise incubation Centres for Persons with Disabilities	As ARUNIM has not been created with the approval of Cabinet it is not entitled for grants-in-aid directly. Therefore, the Scheme may be dropped.
16	In-service training and sensitization of State Governments, local bodies and other service providers	Training Institutes of Central/State Governments are being identified. Institutes interested in conducting the training programmes are being asked to send their willingness.
17	Grant to Association for Rehabilitation Under National Trust Initiative of Marketing (ARUNIM) for supporting its marketing activities	As ARUNIM has not been created with the approval of Cabinet it is not entitled for grants-in-aid, so the Scheme may be dropped.
18	Research on disability related technology, products and issues	Comments on SFC received and examined. A letter has been sent to D/o Science and Technology for taking up the issue of development of devices with financial assistance from the Department. Their response is awaited.
19	Pre-Matric Scholarships for SWDs	EFC Note has been approved. The scheme has been sent for approval of Ministry of Finance with the approval of HMSJ&E.
20	Augment Corpus Fund of National Trust	National Trust has been requested to submit revised proposal seeking financial assistance in r/o their scheme will full justification as Ministry of Finance was not in favour of augmenting the Corpus Fund.
21	National Programme for Persons with Disabilities) – A Centrally Sponsored Scheme	National Trust has been asked to conduct an impact assessment of its schemes, based on which replies to queries of IFD/Planning Commission will be formulated.

Non-utilization of funds for new schemes:

2.8 On being asked why two important schemes namely, Top Class Education and National Overseas Scholarships for the PWDs could not take off and money could not be utilized in the year 2013-14, the Department stated that:

“The Schemes of Top Class Education for PwDs and National Overseas Scholarships for PwDs are two new Schemes proposed to be introduced in the financial year 2013-14. The proposals were formulated and processed for approval. However, the process for obtaining approval of the competent authority could not be completed during the financial year. Hence, no money could be spent in the year 2013-14.”

2.9 The Committee desired to know why no money could be spent on the Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme in the year 2013-14. The Department in a written reply stated as under:

“The objective of the Scheme for Awareness Generation and Publicity is to give wide publicity, including event based publicity etc. through electronic, print, film media, multimedia, to the schemes, programmes being run by the Department of Disability Affairs and other Central Ministries, State Governments etc. for the welfare of PwDs including their social, economic and educational empowerment. The Scheme has been approved and launched in financial year 2014-15.”

DISABILITY SCHEMES IN THE NORTH EAST REGION

2.10 The North Eastern Region (NER) comprises eight States namely, Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim. In terms of the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, all Central Ministries/Departments are required to earmark at least 10% of their budgetary allocation for programme for the development of the North East Region and Sikkim. Under the schemes of the Department, 10% allocation is made for the States of the North Eastern Region.

2.11 When the Committee sought details of expenditure on Assistant to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) and Scheme for

Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA) during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 in North Eastern Region, the Department gave the following details:

ADIP Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Details of State-wise of funds allocated and released during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (upto 31.10.2014) under ADIP Scheme to Northern Eastern Region										
Sl. No.	Name of State	2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		
		Notional Allocation	Fund Released (Rs. In Lakh)	Beneficiaries	Notional Allocation	Fund Released (Rs. In Lakh)	Beneficiaries	Notional Allocation	Fund Released upto 31.10.2014 (Rs. In Lakh)	Beneficiaries
1	Arunachal Pradesh	53		1254	53	-	381	35	-	
2	Assam	651	223.75	10142	651	313.95	9626	620	-	
3	Manipur	42		1611	42		1049	70	-	
4	Meghalaya	40	21.57	1406	40		527	57	-	
5	Mizoram	34		760	34	4.50	209	24	-	
6	Nagaland	37	18.50	849	37	-	-	40	6.60	
7	Tripura	71	11.25	665	71	36.57	-	83	-	
8	Sikkim	22	7.25	480	22	-	-	21	14.66	
			150.00*			112.50*	11792	-	200.00*	
Total		950	432.32	17167**	950	467.52	11792**	950	221.26	***

* Funds released to ALIMCO to cover the entire North Eastern States.

**Including beneficiaries assisted by ALIMCO through camp/Headquarter/ADIP-SSA activities. Beneficiaries from some of the Implementing Agencies for 2012-13 is yet to be received.

*** No. of Beneficiaries yet to be received

SIPDA Scheme

Details of State-wise of funds allocated and released during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (as on 31.10.2014) under SIPDA Scheme in North-Estate Region

S. No.	State	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Notional Allocation (Rs. in lakh)	Funds Released (Rs. in lakh)	Notional Allocation (Rs. in lakh)	Funds Released (Rs. in lakh) (Upto 31st October, 2014)	Notional Allocation (Rs. in lakh)	Funds Released (Rs. in lakh) (Upto 31st October, 2014)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	40.00	-	40.00	13.89	40.00	
2	Assam	700.00	389.22	700.00	347.79	650.00	
3	Meghalaya	40.00	30.00	40.00	68.74	60.00	
4	Mizoram	30.00	30.00	30.00	86.37	20.00	
5	Manipur	40.00	-	40.00	153.48	70.00	15.00
6	Nagaland	40.00	39.26	40.00	91.5	40.00	
7	Sikkim	30.00	-	30.00	142.44	30.00	11.45
8	Tripura	80.00	-	80.00	8.05	90.00	
Total		1000.00	488.48	1000.00	912.26	1000.00	26.45

2.12 The Committee note that actual expenditure during 2013-14 of the Department was only 61% of the Budget Estimates. The reasons attributed for under utilization of funds were incomplete proposals of the ongoing schemes from the State/UTs and lack of concrete proposals from agencies/organizations/State Governments. The Department is reportedly taking corrective steps to sensitize the State Governments in this regard. Concerned to note that under utilization of funds year after year for the various schemes for the differently-abled persons, the Committee recommend that the Department should introduce online submission and processing of the proposals for all schemes apart from monitoring the schemes at State level through video conferencing with the NGOs and implementing agencies. The Committee also desire the Ministry to make full use of technical innovations to arrest the trend of under utilization of funds.

2.13 The Committee find that against an allocation of Rs. 3284 crore for the 12th Plan for the Department, the utilization of funds in the first two years was only Rs. 223.90 crore and 341.71 crore i.e., only 18% of the total allocation of the Plan Period. The Committee note that about 21 new schemes of the Department are still pending at various stages. The Committee impress upon the Department to pursue vigorously with all concerned agencies as also with Ministry of Finance for early clearance of the schemes such as, Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Scheme, National Overseas Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities, Top Class Scholarship Scheme and Scheme of Awareness

Generation and Publicity so that funds kept during current financial year could be spent to empower a sizeable population of the persons with different abilities.

2.14 The Committee while taking note of the fact that all Central Ministries/Departments are required to give thrust for implementation of programmes in the North East region and Sikkim and release funds for the same, find that the utilization of funds for scheme, viz. Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP) was very grim in 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Committee desire the Department to organize more camps for distribution of aids and appliances to the needy persons with different abilities in the North East region of the country in coordination with the implementing agencies and State Governments.

B. National Institutes:

2.15 There are seven Institutes under this Department working in the field of disability. These Institutes are autonomous bodies set up under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, established for different types of disabilities. These Institutes are engaged in Human Resources Development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and Research and Development efforts.

2.16 The details of funds released to National Institutes and the funds utilized by them during the last three years under Plan and non Plan heads and the details of number of beneficiaries during the last three years are as under:

Plan Head (Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Institute	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
	Grant released	Grant utilized (including previous years unspent balance)	Grant released	Grant utilized (including previous years unspent balance)	Grant released	Grant utilized (including previous years unspent balance)
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	816.00	950.52	1500.00	1370.24	1980.00	1973.15
National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad	753.80	1005.76	391.00	763.67	1260.00	967.86
National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	795.00	1012.86	1130.00	917.86	1330.00	1287.04
National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata	773.00	644.85	408.00	578.84	1020.00	828.32
Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack	843.97	965.68	1260.00	1283.95	1648.00	1663.73
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, New Delhi	626.00	301.14	230.00	446.41	628.00	729.91
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai	854.00	1186.64	769.00	749.00	926.00	834.61

Non Plan Head

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Institute	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
	Grant released	Grant utilized (including Internal Receipt/Accrual)	Grant released	Grant utilized (including Internal Receipt/Accrual)	Grant released	Grant utilized (including Internal Receipt/Accrual)
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	894.98	1127.90	950.00	1289.00	1013.00	1148.75
National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad	431.00	501.09	452.00	587.49	482.00	638.62
National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	722.00	1056.87	766.00	1158.10	817.00	1313.36
National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata	632.00	675.81	662.00	881.94	706.00	815.49
Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack	548.00	548.00	574.00	574.00	612.00	612.00
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, New Delhi	913.93	993.00	957.00	1175.91	1020.00	1210.30
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

From the above table, it can be seen that Non-plan expenditure is on the higher side in the case of six of the National Institutes.

Number of beneficiaries during last three years

Name of the Institute	Number of beneficiaries		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	208842	212412	216375
National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad	165213	162066	163272
National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	88673	96102	96980
National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata	43868	45988	48425
Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack	174307	190035	220939
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, New Delhi	11399	9667	6272
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai	39117	65065	79241

2.17 The Department further stated that the budget estimate for the National Institutes in the year 2013-14 was Rs. 75.00 crore, which was subsequently enhanced to Rs. 96.70 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure against RE was Rs. 87.92 crore.

The allocation at RE stage was enhanced considering the enhanced activities and the plan of action of the National Institutes during 2013-14.

2.18 The Committee desired to know the present status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Baswan Committee set up to look into the working of National Institutes. In response, the Department informed as under:

“The recommendations of the Baswan Committee is to make the existing seven National Institutes for the Persons with Disabilities as Institutions of National Importance. As these recommendations have far reaching implications requiring sufficient absorption capacity of the Institute, it has been felt necessary to first assess whether the existing infrastructure facilities of these Institutes are sufficient for their upgradation and how much additional manpower, etc. is required for making them into Institutes of National importance. The Ministry decided to get the work study of the National Institute done by the Study Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has been requested to carry out studies of all National Institutes except Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Institute for Physically Handicapped (PDUIPH), Delhi and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai. (The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU), Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has already completed work study of PDUIPH, New Delhi. The work study of the NIEPMD is not required since the Institute was established only in 2005.) The details in the prescribed proforma received from NIVH, NIHH, NIRTAR and NIMH have already been sent to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure to complete the work study early. The report from NIOH is still awaited and will be sent on its receipt.”

2.19 The Committee note that the National Institutes are providing services to a large number of differently-abled persons besides catering to their needs through training and research in various fields to develop new techniques, aids and appliances etc. Although most of the National Institutes are able to spend a large amount of funds, in Plan head. In the Non-Plan head, expenditure is on the higher side for six out of seven of these Institutes. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to analyse the reasons for increase in Non-Plan expenditure of the National Institutes and approach the Ministry of Finance for enhanced release of funds to these Institutes under non-Plan head for their efficient functioning.

2.20 The Committee also note that the Baswan Committee was set up to look into the working of National Institutes to make them as Institutes of National importance. Work study of the National Institutes is being done by Study Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance. The Committee have been informed that the details of work study for four Institutes National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (NIHH), National Institute for the Rehabilitation, Training and Research (NIRTAR) and National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) have already been sent to Ministry of Finance and the report of National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped (NIOH) is awaited. The Committee desire that the work study should be done in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be informed about the details of the work study of National Institutes done by Study Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance, along with parameters and benchmarks required for declaring them as Institutes of National importance.

C. Schemes of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP)

2.21 The objective of the Scheme is to provide durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances to persons with disabilities to promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disability, and to enhance their economic potential. Under the Scheme, grant-in-aid is released through the implementing agencies such as societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, Registered Charitable Trusts, District Rural Development Agencies, Indian Red Cross Societies and other Autonomous Bodies headed by District Collector/ Chief Executive Officer, District Development Officer of the Zila Parishad; National/ Apex Institutes functioning under administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment/ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), State Handicap Development Corporations; Local Bodies-Zila Parishads, Municipalities, District Autonomous Development Councils and Panchayats and Nehru Yuvak Kendras.

2.22 The Department furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for the previous years along with the Budget Estimate for the current year showing separately under ADIP:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2010-11	100.00	90.00	69.68
2011-12	100.00	80.00	75.99
2012-13	100.00	75.00	70.60
2013-14	110.00	110.00	95.36
2014-15	110.00		

2.23 Asked as to why less expenditure was incurred under the scheme, the Department informed that it was due to non-receipt of complete proposals from the State Govts./UTs. The status of funds released to States/UTs during 2012-13 and 2013-14 is tabulated below :

State wise Notional allocation and Release of funds for camp activity to implementing agencies for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 under ADIP Scheme					
(Rs. In Lakhs)					
S.No.	Name of the State / UT	2012-13		2013-14	
		Notional Allocation	Release of funds	Notional Allocation	Release of funds
1	Andhra Pradesh	331.00	68.50	331.00	125.00
2	Bihar	450.00	68.00	450.00	293.99
3	Chhattisgarh	104.00	18.00	104.00	12.00
4	Goa	6.00	6.00	6.00	
5	Gujarat	254.00	79.80	254.00	122.15
6	Haryana	105.00	24.65	109.00	51.40
7	Himachal Pradesh	43.00	-	43.00	-
8	Jammu and Kashmir	76.00	3.60	76.00	37.15
9	Jharkhand	111.00	9.00	111.00	18.86
10	Karnataka	225.00	19.50	225.00	79.00
11	Kerala	204.00	42.10	204.00	
12	Madhya Pradesh	330.00	90.90	330.00	237.18
13	Maharashtra	373.00	185.40	383.00	182.73
14	Orissa	241.00	110.50	241.00	148.75
15	Punjab	96.00	9.12	96.00	6.00
16	Rajasthan	334.00	208.50	334.00	151.33
17	Tamil nadu	391.00	10.05	391.00	9.60
18	Uttar Pradesh	818.00	110.30	828.00	326.59
19	Uttrakhand	53.00	8.00	53.00	3.00
20	West Bengal	389.00	45.05	389.00	23.25
21	Andaman & Nicobar	6.00	-	6.00	-
22	Chandigarh	4.00	-	4.00	-
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.00	-	3.00	2.25
24	Daman & diu	6.00	-	6.00	6.00
25	Delhi	57.00	49.50	57.00	37.88
26	Lakshadweep	3.00	-	3.00	-
27	Puducherry	13.00	-	13.00	-
28	Arunachal Pradesh	53.00	-	53.00	-
29	Assam	651.00	223.75	651.00	313.95
30	Manipur	42.00	-	42.00	-
31	Meghalaya	40.00	21.57	40.00	-

32	Mizoram	34.00	-	34.00	4.50
33	Nagaland	37.00	18.50	37.00	-
34	Sikkim	22.00	7.25	22.00	-
35	Tripura	71.00	11.25	71.00	26.69
TOTAL		6000.00	1481.21	6000.00	2219.25

From the above table, it can be seen that the States could not utilize the funds for camp activity, which was also a trend in the previous year.

2.24 In response to a query on the technological advancement on aids and appliances distributed under the scheme, the Department informed that the following new aids and appliances are being given to the various categories of the disabled:

1. Locomotor Disabled:-

Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs for severely disabled and for Quadriplegic (SCI), Muscular Dystrophy, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Hemiplegia and any other person with similar conditions, where either three/four limbs or one half of the body are severely impaired. Extent of subsidy would be Rs.25,000/-. This will be provided to the persons of age of 18 years and above, once in ten years.

2. Visually Impaired:-

1. Accessible Mobile Phone
2. Laptop
3. Braille Note Taker

3. Hearing Impaired:-

- (i) Cochlear Implant: It is a device which provides life long relief to hearing impaired children. There is a provision in the revised ADIP Scheme to provide cochlear implant to 500 children per year with a ceiling of Rs.6.00 lakh per unit.
- (ii) BTE Hearing aid

Further, as provided in the Scheme, the Department constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairpersonship of Secretary(DA) with experts from various field recommend Modern Assistive Devices for various categories of PwDs. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, Department has notified:-

4. For Visually Impaired:-

- (i) List of 51 high-end assistive devices showing indicative price, specifications and source of procurement.
- (ii) Six types of Kits for school children, college students and ADL for adults.
- (iii) A number of devices costing above Rs.12,000/- like, Refreshable Braille Display, Braille, Laptop with Screen reading software, Daisy Player Advance Model, Screen Reading Software(Blind), Screen Magnification Software(Low Vision), Tablet of individual devices.

5. Kit for Leprosy Affected : It includes 12 devices costing about Rs.5,000/- including a mobile phone upto Rs.2,000/-

6. Kit for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities : It includes four types of Kits for special school students and three TLM Kits for multiple disabilities for various age groups in the range of Rs.8,000/- to RS.10,000/-.

7. For Hearing Impaired:

- (i) Department has notified Hearing Aids/Assistive listening devices costing up to Rs.20,000/- for students with disabilities beyond IX standard.
- (ii) Devices costing above Rs.20,000/- for students with disabilities like, Digital/Programmable Behind the Ear(BTE), In the Ear (ITE), In the Canal(ITC), Completely in the Canal(CIC)
- (iii) Other Assistive Listening Devices costing above Rs.20,000/- like Personal FM Hearing Aids.

2.25 As regards the problems faced in regard to revision of the scheme, the Department in a written reply informed as under:

“Regarding the problems faced in revising the scheme, the income ceiling for eligibility and ceiling of the cost of assistive devices has been revised and implemented w.e.f. 01.4.2014. Subsequently, Ministry received representations from some Implementing Agencies on the issues regarding requirement of disability certificate, linkage with Aadhar No., Income Certificate and Test Check Report. Ministry considered the matter in detail and also keeping in view the directions from PMO to simplify procedure and support voluntary sector, Ministry has issued guidelines on 15.10.2014 regarding ID Proof of beneficiary, Income Certificate, Test Check Report etc.”

2.26 The Committee find that in the Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances Scheme (ADIP), there has been a consistent under utilization of funds for the last four years. The Committee find that State Governments have utilized only Rs. 1481.21 lakh as against an allocation of Rs. 6000 lakhs in 2012-13, Rs. 2219.25 lakh only against an allocation of Rs. 6000 lakhs in 2013-14 for camp activity. Although the Ministry have revised the Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2014, the Committee are still apprehensive regarding utilization of funds under the Scheme by States. The Committee desire that the procedure for distribution of aids and appliances to the needy people should be further simplified so that more and more people from the target group can avail the benefits.

2.27 The Committee are happy to learn that the Department is working on developing kits and appliances for the differently-abled persons which include mobile phone, laptop and Braille Note Taker for the blind, cochlear implant for hearing impaired children, kits for the leprosy affected, kits for persons with intellectual and development disabilities etc. However, the response of State Governments in distribution of aids and appliances to these persons is far from satisfactory. The Committee desire the Department to motivate as well as impress upon all the States/UTs to ensure that the new and innovative devices are invariably distributed to the needy people.

D. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

2.28 The Scheme is being implemented with the objective of ensuring effective implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Scheme aims to create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities, by encouraging voluntary action. NGOs are given assistance under the Scheme for providing a wide range of services to persons with disabilities, such as:

- (i) Programme for pre-school and early intervention
- (ii) Special education
- (iii) Vocational training and placement
- (iv) Community based rehabilitation
- (v) Manpower development
- (vi) Psycho-social rehabilitation of persons with mental illness
- (vii) Rehabilitation of leprosy-cured persons, etc.

2.29 The Department furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure for the previous years along with the Budget Estimate for the current year showing separately under the above mentioned scheme :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2011-12	120.00	90.00	86.16
2012-13	120.00	75.00	46.99
2013-14	124.85	90.00	63.64
2014-15	90.00		

2.30 The Department monitors the performance of NGOs working for its target groups, to whom grant in aid is provided under various schemes, mainly through:-

(i) Inspection by officers of the concerned State Governments;

(ii) National Institutes of the Ministry; and

(iii) Officers of the Ministry as and when they undertake tours.

2.31 The Revision of the Scheme is under consideration/Examination for simplification of procedures. Regarding the expenditure of DDR Scheme, the representative of the Department informed as under:

“Sir, due to this reason, for first time, we have given it online. Prior to this, they had to send documents to the District. After that document was sent to the State and then it was sent to this Department which took almost eight months. If there is any error or shortcomings in documents, then the beneficiary gets left out for one whole year. Due to such problems, people were not getting funds for two or three years. Complaints have made regarding this. This Department has now made process online. As on date, the Department has received more than 850 proposals. However, the recommendations of the State Governments are coming gradually.

Sir, we will try to utilize the complete budgetary provisions. There is another one point in this Deendayal Rehabilitation Scheme that has been raised by many Hon’ble Members of Parliament. Points regarding other areas also have been received that the honorarium given for teachers till date was very meager. There is a proposal to increase this amount. If Department of Finance permits, the Department will try to increase level of help during this financial year.”

2.32 The Committee are unhappy at the trend of utilization of funds under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme during the last four years. Despite an allocation of Rs. 124.85 crore in the year 2013-14 in the scheme, expenditure has been about 50% only. The Department has reportedly stated that they have started an online system of receiving applications under the Scheme. The Committee feel that strict monitoring of the Scheme is required so that only deserving NGOs get grants under the Scheme. The Committee have been informed that the Department is reviewing the Scheme as also the honorarium of the teachers working under the Scheme. The Committee hope that the Department will pursue with the Ministry of Finance to expeditiously revise the Scheme and also revise the honorarium of teachers working in the various programmes under the Scheme.

E. Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)

2.33 The implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 is being undertaken with a multi-sectoral collaborative approach and with related Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, the State Government and other appropriate authorities to take steps towards effective implementation of various provisions of the Act.

2.34 The Department furnished the following statement showing the BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the previous years along with the Budget Estimates for the current financial year:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2010-11	100.00	75.00	50.41
2011-12	100.00	60.00	34.91
2012-13	100.00	20.00	20.3
2013-14	105.00	65.00	47.94
2014-15	80.00		

2.35 When the Committee enquired why there were gaps in the implementation of the scheme at State level, the Department replied that Department asked all the States/UTs to send proposals on the SIPDA Scheme for different activities vide letter dated 19.06.2014. Similarly, Ministry of HRD (Department of Higher Education) were also requested to advise UGC, Central Universities and other autonomous bodies and Institutions for sending proposals for making buildings barrier free for PwDs and for making accessible websites for PwDs vide letter dated 23.06.2014. Department of

Sports was also requested to issue suitable instructions to the concerned authorities for making the sports stadiums disabled friendly and for sending requisite proposals to this Department vide letter dated 23.06.2014.

2.36 When the Committee desired to know why the expenditure position was so grim in the scheme, the Department replied as follows:

“The proposals received from a number of States could not be considered for want of Utilization Certificates in respect of previous grant-in-aid released to them till the years 2012-13. All the concerned States/ UTs have been requested/reminded for sending the Utilization Certificate/progress reports in respect of the grants received by them. Hon’ble Minister (SJ&E) also advised all the Chief Ministers of States to send proposals under the SIPDA Scheme while apprising them about the pending Utilization Certificates in respect of earlier grants, vide letter dated 06.08.2014.”

2.37 The scope of SIPDA Scheme was expanded after 2011-12 and the following activities are now being covered:-

- i) To provide barrier free environment in important government buildings (State Secretariat, other important State level offices, Collectorates, State University Buildings/ Campuses, Medical Colleges and Main Hospitals at Divisional Headquarters, other important Government buildings), for PwDs as per Section 46 of the PwD Act. This would include provision for ramps, rails, lifts, adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, brail signage and auditory signals, tactile flooring, etc.
- i) To make Government websites at the State and District levels accessible to PwDs, as per guidelines for Indian Government Websites issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (D/o AR&PG),

Government of India, which are available on their website "<http://darpn.nic.in>".

- ii) To set up early diagnostic and intervention centres in the district headquarters
- iii) Skill Development programmes for Persons with Disabilities.
- iv) One time grant to State Governments for providing infrastructure facilities to Offices of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.
- v) Following activities figuring in Section 45 of PwD Act:-
 - (a) causing curb cuts and slopes to be made in pavement for the easy access of wheel chair users;
 - (b) engraving on the surface of zebra crossing for the blind or for persons with low vision;
 - (c) engraving on the edges of railway platforms for the blind or for persons with low vision;
 - (d) devising appropriate symbols of disability;
- vii) construction of special recreation centres for PwDs where the appropriate Governments/local authorities have their own land. In this context, inference has been drawn from Chapter VII, Section 43 (c) of PwD Act
- viii) any other activity specified in the Act but for which financial assistance is not being provided/covered by the existing schemes of the Department of

Disability Affairs which may be considered on case to case basis with approval of the Minister (SJ&E).

2.38 However, the expenditure on the two activities viz. creation of barrier free environment and making of accessible website for PwDs during the last three years till date is given below:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
2012-13	1489.73
2013-14	3522.52
2014-15	210.52 (till 31.10.2014)

2.39 The Committee note that the Department is playing a key role in implementation of the provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. However, in spite of an allocation of Rs. 105.00 crore in 2013-14, only Rs. 47.94 crore could be spent by the Department. Although the Department had sent requests to all States/UTs, Ministries of Human Resources Development, University Grants Commission, Central Universities for sending proposals for making the buildings barrier free in the financial year 2014, funds could not be distributed to State/UTs/Departments, other agencies in the year 2013-14 due to non-receipt of utilization certificates. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department actively pursue with all Ministries/Department/Agencies at the Central level as well as State/local Authorities for making all buildings barrier-free as this is now a mandatory provision in the new legislation namely “The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014”.

F. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

2.40 The Department have furnished the following statement showing the BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the previous years along with the Budget Estimates for the current financial year:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2010-11	3.00	2.33	2.00
2011-12	3.00	0.00	0.00
2012-13	3.00	0.00	0.00
2013-14	38.00	38.00	0.00
2014-15	20.00		

2.41 When asked to specify the reasons for nil expenditure in the last three years by ALIMCO, the Department replied as under:

“ALIMCO has 35 years old manufacturing facility where machines and production systems have outlived their life and there is an urgent need to infuse further capital for sustenance and maintenance of existing product lines in order to produce modern and quality assistive devices for the benefit of the PwDs of the country. But because of pending amount of interest and penal interest, this Ministry is not able to release grants to the Corporation for modernization. On the draft Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for financial restructuring of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), after obtaining the approval of present Hon’ble Minister (SJ&E), the matter has been referred to Department of Expenditure, for their comments which are awaited.”

2.42 Regarding the modernization of ALIMCO, the Department in a written reply stated as follows:

“Most of the infrastructural resources such as Plant/Machinery, Civil Construction, Electrical Work, manufacturing technology product profile etc. of the Corporation are almost on the verge of completing their life cycle or

becoming obsolete, in addition to inadequate and inappropriate human resources. In the circumstances, up-gradation and modernization of ALIMCO has become inevitable not only for its sustainability but also to fulfill the needs of Disabled in the country aspiring to become part of the mainstream and contribute their bit towards overall growth of the nation. The intent is to expand its business through manufacturing Hi-tech value added assistive devices, by resorting to state of Art infrastructure including R&D lab adopting advanced technology, upgrading Plant / Machinery establishing Automated product lines expanding manufacturing base, establishing service centres across the country, stream lining supply chain system and improving service delivery system as also other measures with an ultimate objective of serving the cause of PwDs by providing Assistive Devices with State of Art Technology to larger population across the country.”

2.43 When asked to specify the total outlay for the 12th Plan for modernization of ALIMCO, the Department stated:

“The total cost of the project to be completed in two phases is Rs.225.00 crore. Rs.200.00 crore has to be released by the Ministry and Rs.25.00 crore to be met by ALIMCO through internal resources. Approximate time duration of the project is from 2014-15 to 2018-19.”

2.44 The Committee note that ALIMCO is a 35 year old manufacturing facility which has a production line for manufacturing aids and appliances for the persons with disabilities. Regarding the zero expenditure of the Corporation in the year 2013-14, the Department informed that due to pending amount of interest and penal interest, it was not able to release grants to the Corporation for modernization, besides the matter has also been referred to Department of Expenditure for their comments. The Committee desire that the matter regarding release of funds for modernization of ALIMCO may be taken up with Ministry of Finance expeditiously so that modernization of plant and machinery, could be taken up at the earliest.

G. Scheme of giving incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities

2.45 An amount of Rs.5.00 crore was kept as BE 2013-14 which was revised to Rs.1.00 crore and expenditure was only Rs.0.53 crore.

2.46 The Committee were concerned at the poor response of the Department to the Scheme of Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities which was launched w.e.f. 1.4.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for persons with disabilities employees employed in the private sector on or after 1.4.2008, with a monthly salary up to 25,000/-.

2.47 Asked to specify about the progress of the scheme and the number of beneficiaries, the Department stated in a written reply as under:

“Upto 30.9.2012, 645 and 1001 persons with disabilities have been covered by Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) respectively under the scheme. Considering low utilization of funds over the year revision of the existing norms of the Scheme is under consideration of the Deptt.”

2.48 The Committee note that although the Department is running an incentive scheme for private companies who employ persons with disabilities from 01.04.2008, the expenditure under the scheme is almost negligible i.e. only Rs. 0.53 crore in 2013-14. Further, upto 30.09.2012 only 645 and 1001 PwDs could be covered by Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Expressing their unhappiness at the progress of the Scheme, the Committee recommend that the scheme be revamped and revised to extend some other financial benefits in consultation with Ministry of Finance or land and resources at concessional rates to the firms/enterprises which employ PwDs, to give a boost to the Scheme.

H. Reservation for employment of Persons with Disabilities

2.49 The Department informed that as per Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, it is mandatory for the Government to reserve not less than three percent of the vacancies for persons or class of persons with disabilities of which one percent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from blindness or low vision, hearing impairment, locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

2.50 When asked to specify how the reservation in posts for PwDs was being implemented, the Department stated in a written reply:

“The Department of Personnel and Training is the nodal agency to monitor filling of the posts in the Central Government institutions as per the reservation policy including the posts reserved for PwDs. However, the Department has requested all the Central Ministries/Departments to implement the provision and take steps to conduct special recruitment drive to fill up the backlog vacancies in respect of posts meant for PwDs. They have been requested to submit half yearly report. The matter was also taken up with DOPT at the level of Hon'ble Minister of SJE.”

2.51 During evidence in response to a query on the reservation being implemented, the Secretary stated before the Committee:

“Sir, it is monitored by DoPT. It does not mean that we are running away from our responsibility. We also have started little bit of monitoring. At present, existing figures in this regard is about 1 percent. Some State Governments are performing very well but some are lagging behind. I have tried to find out the reason behind it and came to know that the system of Government employment is very rigid.”

2.52 Regarding reservation in teaching jobs, the representative informed:

“We have recently written to UGC and MHRD as you have pointed out. We ourselves make efforts. But again, we will do by giving Committee's reference. Even UPSC was facing some problem but it implements our guidelines. Slowly it is being implemented in States also. Even courts also have taken this seriously.

Letters have been sent by us. Secretary also told that Hon'ble Minister has also written letters for ensuring the 3 percent reservation.”

2.53 The Committee note that the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 makes it mandatory for the Government to reserve not less than 3% vacancies for PwDs. The Committee have been informed that as on date, only about 1% of the vacancies have been filled up by PwDs candidates and a huge backlog of vacancies exists in respect of posts meant for them. The Committee desired the Department to take up with DoPT, a nodal Ministry for implementing the reservation policy, to clear the backlog by launching special drives. The Committee further desire that the Department of Disability Affairs to take up the matter with all Central Minsitries/Departments/PSUs/State Governments and the Universities recognized by University Grants Commission to collect a data on backlog of vacancies in respect of posts reserved for PwDs. The Committee also desire that appropriate action be initiated against erring Authorities for non-implementation of provisions of the Act.

I. Pension scheme for PwDs

2.54 When asked to give the status of pension being provided to disabled persons, the Department informed in a written reply:

“As regards the pension scheme for persons with disabilities, it is stated that the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing “Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNPDS)” which is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), under which pension of Rs.500 per month is provided to persons with severe and multiple disabilities. The matter of enhancing the quantum of pension, relaxing eligibility criteria was taken up with them. They have constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force considered all the issues, demands and suggestions relating to pensions from various quarters. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Ministry inter-alia recommending enhancing the scope of coverage and increasing the quantum of assistance. The recommendations of the Task Force have been examined in detail by the Ministry of Rural Development and accepted with some modification and action has been initiated to take the approval of the Competent Authority. We have made recommendations to Ministry of Rural Development, who gives disability pension to these persons. It gives pension to those who come in the age group of 18 to 79 years. After that, they are considered in old age group. We have made recommendations to include all disabled belonging to 0-80 age group despite their income or not. We all have to understand that there are certain extra cost involved in dealing with disability. We have to spend two and half times more on a disabled child in comparison to a normal child. We have made a request to Ministry of Finance that tax incentive which you are giving of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. one lakh in 40% and 80% disability respectively may be enhanced to Rs. 1.00 lakh and 2.00 lakh respectively since expenditure is two and half times more.”

2.55 The Committee note that the Ministry of Rural Development implement the pension scheme for PwDs i.e., India Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) which is a component of National Social Assistance Programme. The Committee consider the pension of Rs. 500/- per month provided to persons with severe and multiple disabilities as too meager. The Department of Disability Affairs has taken up the matter for revision of the pension along with eligibility criteria with Ministry of Rural Development. Further, a task force constituted to review all demands and issues in the matter has since submitted its report. The Committee desire that the matter be pursued with Ministry of Rural Development for expeditious revision of the scheme so that more PwDs can avail benefits considering the cost involved for looking after PwDs.

J. Disability Certificate

2.56 The Committee expressed their concern over the problem of obtaining disability certificates by PwDs. The Department responded as under:

“The process for issuing of disability certificate was simplified under the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation (Amendment) Rules, 2009 dated 30.12.2009. However, some of the State Government are yet to implement the simplified process comprehensively. The State Governments have been urged to simplify the process and ensure issuance of certificate of disability to all deserving PwDs without any difficulty. The Central Government has initiated process for identification and issue of Universal ID to all the PwDs across the country. Accordingly, the Department of Electronics and IT is in the process of developing a web based solution programme for the purpose”.

2.57 The Committee taking a serious note of the existing position regarding issuance process for disability certificates to the PwDs in the respective State Governments and Districts desire that the process may be simplified to help the PwDs. The Committee have been informed that Central Government has initiated a process for identification and issue of universal IDs to all PwDs across the country and Department of Electronics and IT is in the process of developing a web based solution programme for the purpose. The Committee recommend that all PwDs be issued a universal ID in a time bound manner, which would be applicable in all the States/UTs uniformly for availing of benefits of the Schemes of the Central and State Governments. The Committee also hope that the parameters/provisions will be foolproof and all those applying for bogus disability certificates will be suitably penalized in the new process and procedure for granting disability certificates.

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 2014
26 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 2014

The Committee met from 1130 hrs. to 1725 hrs. in Committee Room No. 139, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
3. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti
4. Shri Kariya Munda
5. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
6. Dr. Udit Raj
7. Smt. Satabdi Roy

RAJYA SABHA

8. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
9. Shri Ahamed Hassan
10. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS)**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Ms. Stuti N. Kacker	Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs
2.	Shri Awanish K. Awasthi	Joint Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs
3.	Prof. Mrs. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay	Chairman, RCI
4.	Shri Prem Chander Dass	CMD, NHFDC

7. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Ms. Stuti N. Kacker, Secretary and other officers of the Department of Disability Affairs and invited their attention to the provisions contained in Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

8. The Chairman, thereafter, asked the Secretary to brief the Committee on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to her Department.

9. The Secretary then briefed the Committee about the performance of the Department, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Department are as follows :-

- (i) Under utilization of funds allocated in Annual Plan 2013-14.

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2014.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1610 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra
4. Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria
5. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
6. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
7. Smt. Maragatham K.
8. Prof. A.S.R. Naik

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
10. Shri Ahamed Hassan
11. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
12. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
13. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Shri Kushal Sarkar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the First, Second, Third and Fourth Reports on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment (Departments of Social Justice and Empowerment and Disability Affairs), Tribal Affairs and Minority Affairs respectively, Fifth Report on "The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014" and Sixth Report on "The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014".

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the above Reports without modifications and authorized the Chairman to finalize these draft Reports and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.