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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2015-16)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

**(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES)**

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2015/Pausha, 1937 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.12.2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.12.2015



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2015/Pausha, 1937 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2015-2016)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Bhabhor
3. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
4. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
5. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
6. Shri Jhina Hikaka
7. Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri
8. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
9. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
10. Smt. K. Maragatham
11. Shri Kariya Munda
12. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
13. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
14. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
15. Dr. Udit Raj
16. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
17. Prof. Sadhu Singh
18. Smt. Neelam Sonkar
19. Smt. Mamta Thakur
20. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
21. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

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

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director
4. Smt. Madhu Bhutani - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2015-16) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-first Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants – 2015-16 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Twelfth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2015. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 27th October, 2015. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 17th December, 2015.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

17 December, 2015
26 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twelfth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-2016) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

1.2 The Twelfth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2015. It contained 9 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been received and are categorized as under: -

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

Rec. Paragraph Nos. 2.8, 2.9, 2.14, 2.15, 2.20, 2.24 and 2.36.

(Total : 7 Chapter II)

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

Nil

(Chapter-III)

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

Rec. Paragraph Nos. 2.25 and 2.30.

(Total : 2 Chapter-IV)

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

-Nil-

(Chapter- V)

1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken in respect of the Recommendations contained in Chapter V for which an interim reply has been given by the Government may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of this Report.

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

A. Disability Schemes in the North Eastern Region

(Recommendation, Para 2.14)

1.5 The Committee noted that expenditure of funds for the Schemes in the North East region of the country had been low since 2012-13. Against an allocation of Rs. 49.00 crore, expenditure in 2012-2013 was Rs. 15.36 crore, BE in 2013-14 was Rs. 56 crore and expenditure was Rs. 28.30 crore. Similarly in 2014-15 BE was Rs. 56.50 crore and expenditure was only Rs. 23.53 crore. The Committee were unhappy with the efforts made by the Department regarding expenditure incurred on various Schemes in the NE region. The Committee were of the firm view that schemes in the NE region need to be popularized more in remote areas so that poor people could avail benefit of these schemes. The Committee were equally unhappy in finding that no money was spent on awareness generation in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 and only Rs. 0.06 crore

could be spent in the year 2014-15. The Committee had desired that a specific plan of action needs to be in place to generate awareness for these Scheme by involving the print and electronic media adequately for the purpose. The Committee also desired the Department to send a team of officials to few selected villages of the NE region States to bring awareness about the benefits of the schemes to the people of the region.

1.6 The Ministry in their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee have stated that:-

"(a) The total budget allocation for NE under ADIP Scheme is Rs.12.55 crore. Keeping in view the trend of low utilization of budgetary allocation in the North East Region under the ADIP Scheme during the previous years on account of non-receipt of complete proposals from the State Govts., funds for Rs.8.50 crore has been released during 2015-16 (as on 30.9.2015) to ALIMCO for various types of activities in the Region for distribution of aids and appliances to needy PwDs. The balance amount of Rs.4.05 crore will be fully released by 31.3.2016.

b) Letters dated 28.7.2015 have been sent to the Chief Secretaries/Secretaries of all States in the North East for sending proposals for different activities under the SIPDA Scheme. All the States in the North East have been requested constantly to furnish the UCs in respect of the grants-in-aid released earlier.

B) Disability Schemes in North East Region

“Due to non receipt of variable proposals from the National Institutes, funds allocated under E head were not fully utilized during 2014-15. However, Department has taken following initiatives for utilizing funds allocated under North East head during 2015-16:-

- Establishment of a composite Regional Centre at Manipur.
- Construction of Disability Study Centre at Aizwal (Mizoram) in partnership with Mizoram University
- Up-gradation of Composite Regional Centre, Guwahati
- Setting up Regional Centre (RC) at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- Composite Camp for distribution of aids & appliances by the National Institutes.

However, all possible efforts will be made to utilize the funds of Rs. 10.53 crore allocated under North East head during 2015-16.

- C) The Department has been organizing Composite Camps and Mega Composite Camps in various parts of the country from the year 2014-15 onwards, with the participation of all organizations under the Department wherein apart from distributing of aids/appliances under the ADIP scheme, Awareness generation in respect of all programs/schemes of the Department are undertaken. The Department organized 47 such Camps during 2014-15. The Department had organized a Social Awareness Camp in Sikkim and Manipur on 11th July, 2015 and 24th March, 2015 respectively."

1.7 The Committee had pointed out that expenditure on implementation of various schemes in North Eastern Region has been low for the past three years. The Committee were not satisfied with the efforts made by the Department in this regard and were of the firm view that there was a need to popularize schemes and generate awareness in remote areas by involving print and electronic media so that maximum people could avail the benefit of these schemes. The Ministry have now informed that all the States in the North East have been requested constantly to furnish the Utilization Certificates in respect of Grants-in-aid released earlier besides having organized various Composite Camps, Awareness programmes/camps in North East for generating awareness about the schemes of the Department. The Committee while reiterating their recommendation desire the Department to organize these Composite Camps and Social Awareness Camps in the interiors of NE region. The Committee also desire that the ALIMCO and other Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) under the administrative control of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities should also participate in these awareness programmes for successful implementation of schemes and optimal utilization of funds in NE region.

B. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for students with disabilities and Top Class Education for PwDs

(Recommendation, Para 2.25)

1.8 The Committee observed that only two applications were received and were found unsuitable under the National Overseas Scholarship Schemes for Students with Disabilities. The Committee could not fathom the reasons for receipt of only two applications under such an important scheme in a country where PwDs are in considerable number. The Department did not try to gauge the grounds for receiving only these two applications. The Committee were of the view that either students with disabilities were not at all aware of the Scheme due to insufficient publicity or an eligibility criteria for the students was complicated. The Committee felt that the Department should have reached out of the candidates, sort out the shortcomings in their applications, relax the norms to the extent possible and help them to avail the Scholarship. The Committee desired that criteria/norms of this Scheme might be revisited and simplified, to give maximum benefit to PwDs. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

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

"So far as the National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disability is concerned, the necessary advertisement has been issued in various newspapers all over the country to call for application. In addition, the following steps have been taken to create awareness of the Scheme among the targeted beneficiaries.

a) Advertisements are issued through Newspapers and website of this Ministry/Department

b) Three schemes namely Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Top Class Education are being run through the National Scholarship Portal (www.scholarships.gov.in) from 2015-16 onwards.

- c) Letters have been issued to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to popularize the Scholarship schemes among the institute under them.
- d) Ministry of External Affairs has been requested to bring wide publicity to the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship among the Indian Embassies/High Commission abroad.
- e) Request have been made to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to bring the National Overseas Scholarship to the notice of all Educational Institutes under that Ministry.
- f) The schemes have been brought to the notice of all the National Institute under this Department & Non-Governmental Organizations receiving grants under the DDRS scheme with a request to popularize the scheme among the targeted beneficiaries.
- g) So far as Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities is concerned the scheme is implemented by University Grants Commission. UGC issues Advertisement through Newspaper and website to call for application and to create awareness about the schemes to all educational institutes in the country.
- h) The National Scholarship Portal www.scholarships.gov.in has been launched as a part of Digital India campaign by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st July, 2015. Three schemes namely Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Top Class Education have been included.
- i) Four Regional Workshops were conducted at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad to sensitize the State Governments of the schemes and also to apprise them of the process involved in the grant of scholarships."

1.10 The Committee note that Department has initiated action on their recommendation regarding publicity of scholarship schemes running by them and also made efforts to create awareness among the students with disabilities with the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development, the National Institutes under the Department and the Non-Governmental Organizations so that maximum number of students can avail the benefits of these schemes. The Committee find that the Department is silent on simplification of the criteria/norms and procedure for applying these scholarship schemes. The Committee, therefore, once again recommend that sincere and concerted efforts should be made by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to relax the norms and simplify the procedure for availing the benefits of these schemes by the students with disabilities. The Committee may accordingly be apprised the progress in the matter as soon as possible.

C. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

(Recommendation, Para 2.30)

1.11 The Committee noted that the expenditure of funds in the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) had been low from the year 2012-2013 onwards, less than 50% of the B.E. The Department had reduced the BE of the scheme in the year 2015-16 to Rs. 60 crore i.e. almost 50% of the previous year allocation. The Committee had desired the Department to introspect and look into the reasons as to why the Scheme could not achieved its physical and financial targets. The Committee had been informed that the Scheme was also to be revised. The Committee would like to apprised of the revised Schemes. As the Scheme is NGO centric, the Committee had desired that specific and close monitoring be done to prevent any misuse of funds by the NGOs.

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

"The RE allocation for the year 2014-15 was Rs. 50.50 crores out of which Rs. 50.08 crores was released during the 2014-15. During the year 2014-15, 170 proposals for the year 2012-13, 429 proposals for 2013-14 and 248 for 2014-15 totaling to 847 projects proposals were sanctioned and Grant-in-aid was released for Rs.50.08 crores benefiting 1.81 lakhs beneficiaries.

2. In order to expedite proposals under DDRS the following measures were taken:-

State Level Meetings of State Social Welfare Minister-in-Charge of Disability Affairs and Secretaries held on 23.08.2014 and 2nd & 3rd July, 2015 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment. In this meeting the State Governments were impressed upon to submit proposals in time with complete details & documents as required under the scheme.

3. This Department has developed a centralized on-line portal www.ngograntsje.gov.in. All applications by NGOs seeking Grant-in-aid (GIA) under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) are invited and

tracked/monitored through on-line process in the NGO portal from the financial year 2014-15 onwards.

4. Letters have been issued on 12.06.2015 to all the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of States/Union Territories dealing with disability regarding submission of proposals/applications by NGOs and VOs seeking grant-in-aid under DDRS of the Department only on-line on the interactive website www.ngograntsje.gov.in.

5. As regards revision of DDRS Scheme, a Note for the Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC) for revision of the Scheme has been prepared after due consultation with stakeholders and steps for appraisal & revision of the Scheme is under consideration. The draft Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal has been sent to the Integrated Finance Division of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) for their comments & concurrence after which the same will be put up to EFC."

1.13 The Committee are unhappy to note that the Ministry have not completed even procedural formalities till date in respect of revision of such an important NGO centric scheme. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated that steps for appraisal and revision of the scheme is under consideration. Being the nodal agency, the process of revision of this scheme must be finalized and completed by the Department without further delay. The steps taken in this direction and the progress made be intimated to the Committee within a period of three months from the date of presentation of this Report.

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

(Recommendation, Para 2.36)

1.14 The Committee noted that the funds under the 'Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)' had been inadequately utilized during the last three years i.e., from the year 2012-13 onwards. The main reasons attributed by the Department were, non-furnishing of Utilization Certificates and Progress Reports by the States. The Committee had been further informed that the Ministry of HRD and Sports Authority of India had been asked to make all educational Institution and sports stadia barrier free and accessible to PwDs. The Committee had desired the Department scrupulously monitor the expenditure under the Scheme and also the progress on making all buildings barrier-free. The Committee further desired the Department to closely work with the Archaeology Survey of India to make all heritage sites accessible to PwDs.

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

"The observations made by the Committee have been noted for compliance.

a) All out efforts are being made by this Department to procure the Utilization Certificates in respect of the Grants released to the States/UTs, etc. to facilitate further release of funds. Regarding furnishing of Utilisation Certificates in respect of previous grants released to States/UTs, this Department has accepted the proposals of some States for adjustment of amounts of GIA released earlier with their current projects, by way of releasing lesser amount equivalent to the earlier unutilized grant-in-aid.

b) In response to Ministry's communication to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, proposal have been received Sports Authority of India for making 4 Sports Authority of India Training Centres barrier free located at Kolkata, Bengaluru, Patiala and Thiruvananthapuram, and the same are under process for release of funds. Besides, in response to Ministry's communication to Ministry

of HRD, proposals have been received from Universities/Institutions for creation of barrier free environment. Grants-in-aid in some proposals have been released and some proposals are at various stages of processing.

c) Grant-in-aid for Rs.2.50 crore during 2010-11 and Rs.2.56 crore during 2012-13 was released to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for creation of barrier free environment in the 31 centrally protected world heritage sites and other ticketed monuments. The Director General, Archaeological Survey of India has informed that the amount of Rs. 2.50 crores and 2.56 crores released to the ASI, have since been fully utilized up to 2014-15.

d) As a part of Accessible Indian Campaign and in order to make monuments, museums and other archaeological sites accessible to PwDs, the Department has taken up the matter with Ministry of Culture vide Secretary (DEPwD)'s D.O. letter dated 27.7.2015 requesting them to send proposals for access audit and accessibility conversion under the SIPDA Scheme. A meeting in this regard has also been held in the Department on 16.9.2015."

1.16 The Committee had desired that the Department should continuously monitor the expenditure under the 'Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)' and closely work with Archaeology Survey of India (ASI) to make all heritage sites accessible to PwDs. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated that various efforts are being made by the Department to procure Utilization Certificates in respect of grants released to States/UTs for further release of funds. The Committee have been informed that the proposals have been received from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for making 4 SAI Training Centres barrier free and the same are under process for release of funds. The Ministry of HRD had conveyed that Universities/Institutions have also submitted their proposals for creation of barrier free environment. The Director General, Archaeology Survey of India (ASI) too informed that amount released to them during 2010-11 and 2012-13 has been fully utilized for creation of barrier free environment in 31 world heritage sites and other monuments. The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Department. However, the Committee desire the Department to expedite the issue with Archaeology Survey of India (ASI), Sports Authority of India and Ministry of HRD on regular basis for early finalization of these proposals. The Committee also desire that the Department should make concerted efforts and chalk out an action plan for making remaining world heritage sites, monuments, Universities, National Institutes and important buildings accessible to PwDs apart from these 31 buildings as early as possible.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation, Para 2.8)

2.1 The Committee note that an allocation of Rs. 564 crore (BE) was made to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2014-2015, was revised at 375 crore and the amount actually expended was Rs. 338.68 crore, which comes to 60% of the BE. An enhanced allocation of Rs. 565.4 crore has been made for 2015-2016. The reasons attributed for under utilization of funds are launching new schemes mostly at the flag end of 2014-2015, receipt of insufficient proposals under SC/ST/NE components, incomplete and late proposals from States/UTs and non-furnishing of utilization certificates besides vacancies in the Department at the level of Section officers/PS and Assistant. The Committee find that the Department has no concrete action plans to ensure optimal utilization of allotted fund as the Secretary informed the Committee during evidence that” ... an action plan over this would be made and placed before the Committee within a period of a month”. The Committee are of the considered opinion that immediate steps should be taken to find a remedy to the aforesaid problems which are mainly perennial in nature and solely responsible for under utilization of funds by the Department. The Committee recommend that besides close and strict monitoring of the schemes, tie ups with State Channelizing Agencies for timely submission of complete proposals and furnishing of Utilization Certificates be made at frequent intervals including issuing do’s and don’ts in the matter. The Committee desire that issue of staff shortage may be expeditiously taken up with DoPT.

Reply of the Government

- 2.2 (a) In order to streamline the release of funds under various schemes of the Department, a meeting with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States dealing with Disability was held on 2nd and 3rd July, 2015 where the State Govts./UTs were requested to send proposals in time and furnish UC of previous grants-in-aid.
- (b) Under the ADIP Scheme, besides release of funds to ALIMCO, National Institutes, CRCs working under this Department, funds are released to NGOs, State Corporations, DDRCs, IRCS etc. on the recommendations of proposals by the State Govts./UTs for distribution of aids/appliances at districts level.
- (c) The Ministry is also conducting camps for distribution of aids/appliances in various districts on the demand from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other dignitaries through ALIMCO/National Institutes. Such camps are being conducted by the Ministry on priority basis based on the availability of funds under the ADIP Scheme.
- (d) The Department has received around 200 requests from Hon'ble Members of Parliament to organize camps to distribute assistive devices, in their constituencies.
- (e) Consequently, during 2015-16, against the Budget Allocation of Rs.125.50 crore, Rs. 103.70 crore has been released under the ADIP Scheme up to 30.9.2015 which is the highest ever since inception of the scheme. The Department requires Rs. 125.00 crore more to meet the pending demand.

(f) In order to supplement the budget allocation under the ADIP scheme, a request is being sent from the Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice & Empowerment to all the Hon'ble M.P.s to provide the available funds under the MPLAD scheme, for distributing assistive devices under the ADIP Scheme.

(g) As regards Monitoring of the ADIP Scheme, the Ministry has introduced the system of accepting on-line proposals of NGOs. In order to bring transparency and effective implementation of the Scheme, uploading of list of beneficiaries alongwith photo, on their website have been made mandatory for all the implementing agencies. All the relevant information/guidelines/decisions are also invariably placed on the website of the Ministry/Department for information of all concerned.

(h) So far as SIPDA Scheme is concerned, there is a provision of Rs.135.00 crore for 2015-16. An amount of Rs.24.78 crore has been incurred under this Scheme during the current financial year up to 30.9.2015. All the States/UTs have been requested vide this Department's letter dated 28.7.2015 to send proposals for various activities under the SIPDA Scheme. They have also been requested to furnish the U.Cs in respect of earlier GIAs. The guidelines for this Scheme have been issued on 11.2.2015 under which a number of activities have been added apart from the existing activities for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities. During 2015-16, grant-in-aid for Skill Development Training Programmes for PwDs, Accessible India Campaign and Universal ID are also being considered under SIPDA Scheme.

(i) Regarding furnishing of Utilization Certificates in respect of grants released to States/UTs, etc, this Department has accepted the proposals of

some States for adjustment of amounts of GIA released earlier with their current projects, by way of releasing lesser amount equivalent to the earlier unutilized grant-in-aid. The States/UTs are, however, frequently requested to furnish the UCs.

B (i) Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), the Department has developed a centralized on-line application software with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC) on the website www.ngograntsje.nic.in. All the NGOs seeking Grant-in-aid under DDRS have been advised to submit applications through on-line process on the website of the Ministry from the year 2014-15 onwards. All the State Governments(SGs)/Union Territories(UTs) are submitting proposal on-line except some SGs/UTs.

(ii) All the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Social Welfare Department of the State Govts./UTs (dealing with disabilities) were requested to submit the applications seeking grant-in-aid for the year 2015-16 through on-line up to 31.7.2015. Further, letters have been issued on 17.9.2015 to Principal Secretaries/Secretaries where the complete proposals in all respect have not been received through on-line for grant-in-aid for the year 2015-16, for extending the date upto 30.11.2015.

(iii) State Level Meeting of State Social Welfare Minister-in-Charge of Disabilities Affairs and Secretaries was held on 2nd & 3rd July, 2015 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment. In this meeting the State Governments were impressed upon to submit proposals in time with complete details & documents as required under the scheme.

(iv) The Department also issue several direction to the NGOs in the sanction letters regarding uploading beneficiaries list on NGOs website for transparency. Submitting UC's in time, etc. for necessary compliance.

(C) The issue of shortage of staff has been taken up by this Department with DOPT vide letter dated 5th May, 2015 and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment who controls the cadre for both the Departments of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. As a result, out of 19 vacant posts of Assistants (as on 01.04.2015), nine posts have been filled out of the staff by DOPT for filling up of vacant posts of Assistants in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.9)

2.3 The Committee note that many new schemes, such as, Establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), National Centre of Universal Design And Barrier Free Environment, Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports and Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres are still in infancy stage. The Committee are not aware whether any steps have been taken by the Department to make these Schemes operational. The Committee urge upon the Department that bottlenecks in clearance and launching of these schemes be identified and action initiated. The Committee recommend that the Scheme for National Action Plan for skill development of PwDs may be made operational without any delay, as this Schemes will immensely help empowering the PwDs by making them self reliant.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The status of the new schemes are as under:-

(i) Establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)

The scheme for Establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) has been approved. This Ministry has issued Order dated 28.09.2015 regarding setting up of the Centre as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, initially to be located at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. The Centre is likely to start functioning shortly and the estimated Budget of Rs.3.00 crore is likely to be released under the Scheme during 2015-16.

(ii) Establishment of a National Centre of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment:

On the draft CCEA Note sent to PMO and Cabinet Secretariat on 29.01.2015, PMO vide I.D. Note dated 05.5.2015 advised the Department to consult Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The comments received from the concerned Departments have been forwarded to PMO. In this regard, a meeting was held in the PMO on 10.10.2015 at JS level. Response from PMO is awaited. The budget allocation under the scheme during 2015-16 is Rs. 0.50 crore.

(iii) Modernisation of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

As per recommendations of Standing Finance Committee, the Ministry has approved the Scheme of Modernization of ALIMCO and Order in this regard has been issued on 12.08.2015. Total cost of the project is Rs.286.39 crore and out of this, Rs.200.00 crore would be released as grant-in-aid by the Department by the year 2017-

18 and remaining Rs.86.39 crore will be met by ALIMCO out of its internal resources. The budget allocation for modernization of ALIMCO during 2015-16 is Rs. 21.00 crore. Funds for Rs.3.58 crore has been released as 1st instalment. The balance funds under the scheme will be released during the current financial year.

(iv) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports:

For preparing a site specific Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Centre for Disability Sports at Zirakpur (Punjab), Ujjain (MP) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Expression of Interest (Eoi) were invited. All the 7 proposals received were evaluated by the Eoi Evaluation Committee on 15.4.2015 and 06.5.2015 and shortlisted 4 firms for issue of Request for Proposal (RFP) and submission of technical and financial bids. In the 12th Five Year Plan Rs. 20.00 crore has been earmarked for a Centre for Disability Sports. The proposed enlargement of the Scheme from one Centre in the 12th Plan to 3 Centres at present, and further 2 more Centres has been referred to NITI Ayog for their concurrence/in principle approval. The budget allocation under the scheme during 2015-16 is Rs. 0.50 crore.

(v) Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres:

State Spinal Injury Centres shall be mainly in the comprehensive management of spinal injuries. Under the scheme, a comprehensive rehabilitation centre attached to the district hospital of State capital/Union Territory with dedicated 12 beds shall be set up. The Scheme has been approved by the Ministry and notified on 31.03.2015. As per the scheme, two centres are to be established in each year during the remaining 12th plan period with financial provision @ Rs. 3.49 crore per centre. On inviting proposals from the State Govts./UTs, responses have been received from the State Govt. of Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir. As the proposal received from Govt. of Rajasthan is not as per

the requirement, they have been requested to furnish the proposal complete in all respects. The Budget Allocation under the Scheme during 2015-16 is Rs.0.50 crore which is insufficient to meet the requirement. Therefore, additional funds have been sought in the RE. Based on availability of funds under RE, necessary action would be initiated.

B) The draft guidelines for implementation of National Action Plan for skill Development of Persons with Disabilities has been formulated. The draft guidelines are proposed to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for its approval as a part of the proposed modification in the guidelines of the SIPDA (Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995).

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.14)

2.5 The Committee note that expenditure of funds for the Schemes in the North East region of the country has been low since 2012-13. Against an allocation of Rs. 49.00 crore, expenditure in 2012-2013 was Rs. 15.36 crore, BE in 2013-14 was Rs. 56 crore and expenditure Rs. 28.30 crore while BE in 2014-15 was Rs. 56.50 crore and expenditure only Rs. 23.53 crore. The Committee, are not happy with the efforts of the Department in expenditure on various Schemes in the NE region. The Committee are of the firm view Schemes in the NE region need to be popularized more so in remote areas so that poor people can avail benefit of these schemes. The Committee are equally unhappy in finding that no money was spent on awareness generation in 2012-

2013 and 2013-2014 and only Rs. 0.06 crore could be spent in the year 2014-15. The Committee desire that a specific plan of action needs to be in place to generate awareness for these Scheme by involving the print and electronic media adequately for the purpose. The Committee also desire the Department to send a team of officials to few selected villages of the NE region States to bring awareness about the benefits of the schemes to the people of the region.

Reply of the Government

2.6 (a) The total budget allocation for NE under ADIP Scheme is Rs.12.55 crore. Keeping in view the trend of low utilization of budgetary allocation in the North East Region under the ADIP Scheme during the previous years on account of non-receipt of complete proposals from the State Govts., funds for Rs.8.50 crore has been released during 2015-16 (as on 30.9.2015) to ALIMCO for various types of activities in the Region for distribution of aids and appliances to needy PwDs. The balance amount of Rs.4.05 crore will be fully released by 31.3.2016.

(b) Letters dated 28.7.2015 have been sent to the Chief Secretaries/Secretaries of all States in the North East for sending proposals for different activities under the SIPDA Scheme. All the States in the North East have been requested constantly to furnish the UCs in respect of the grants-in-aid released earlier.

(B) Disability Schemes in North East Region

“Due to non receipt of variable proposals from the National Institutes, funds allocated under E head were not fully utilized during 2014-15. However, Department has taken following initiatives for utilizing funds allocated under North East head during 2015-16:-

- Establishment of a composite Regional Centre at Manipur.
- Construction of Disability Study Centre at Aizwal (Mizoram) in partnership with Mizoram University
- Up-gradation of Composite Regional Centre, Guwahati
- Setting up Regional Centre (RC) at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- Composite Camp for distribution of aids & appliances by the National Institutes.

However, all possible efforts will be made to utilize the funds of Rs. 10.53 crore allocated under North East head during 2015-16.

(C) The Department has been organizing Composite Camps and Mega Composite Camps in various parts of the country from the year 2014-15 onwards, with the participation of all organizations under the Department wherein apart from distributing of aids/appliances under the ADIP scheme, Awareness generation in respect of all programs/schemes of the Department are undertaken. The Department organized 47 such Camps during 2014-15. The Department had organized a Social Awareness Camp in Sikkim and Manipur on 11th July, 2015 and 24th March, 2015 respectively.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

Comments of the Committee

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

(Recommendation, Para 2.15)

2.7 The Committee note that implementation of some of the schemes has been affected badly as the State Channelizing Agencies had submitted incomplete proposals with many deficiencies in spite of the fact that necessary advisories were issued by the Department. As these advisories are not yielding any tangible results, the Committee

recommend that the use of latest technologies like video conferencing etc. to sort out all the problems with State Channelizing Agencies and NGOs so that proposals could be processed speedily and funds released in time.

Reply of the Government

2.8 (a) Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), the Department has developed a centralized on-line application software with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC) on the website www.ngograntsje.nic.in. All the NGOs seeking Grant-in-aid under DDRS have been advised to submit applications through on-line process in the website of the Ministry from the year 2014-15 onwards. All the State Governments (SGs)/Union Territories (UTs) are submitting proposal on-line except some SGs/UTs. All the SGs/UTs have also been advised to submit the proposal on-line for the year 2015-16.

(b) A regional meeting of the State Secretaries of Welfare/Social Justice of the States of the North Eastern region was held on 7th 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 UCs in respect of past releases under the schemes so that funds could be released in the current year. 5 Regional Conferences were organized during 2013-14 at different places in the country viz., Hyderabad, Pune, Cuttack and Guwahati. Officers of the State Governments and representatives of NGOs participated in the workshop where issues relating to various programmes and schemes of the Department were discussed in detail. During 2014-15, under DDRS an amount of Rs. 10.00 crores was allocated which was reduced to Rs. 5.05 crores at R.E. stage. Out of Rs 5.05 crores (R.E.) under DDRS for NE region, an

amount of Rs. 4.50 crores was released to various organizations in North-Eastern Region and Sikkim.

(c) A Conference of State Social Welfare Secretaries/Administrators held on 2nd & 3rd July, 2015 in this Conference, the State Governments were impressed upon to submit proposals in time duly recommended by the State Governments/UTs alongwith inspection reports and other mandatory requisite documents etc. online so that the proposals could be processed speedily and funds released in time.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.20)

2.9 The Committee note that Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship schemes for empowerment of persons with disabilities could not take off in the year 2014-15 as the web portal for launch of these Schemes could not be developed. Further, the PMO desired that there should be a common web portal for all scholarship schemes i.e. National Scholarship Portal, which too could not become operational so far. As reported by the Department, a decision was, thereafter taken to implement the Schemes through the State Governments as a special dispensation for the year 2014-15. However, the States could not furnish the requisite information including Bank account details of eligible applications with the result funds could not be released. The Committee have been informed that the entire amount now would be beneficiary utilized in the next financial year as applications for the present financial year are already* pending with the State Government. The Committee desire that formation and launch of National

Scholarship Portal be expedited so that PwDs could get the benefits of these schemes in 2015-2016 besides exhorting the State Governments to furnish all the desired information of eligible candidates in time.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The National Scholarship Portal www.scholarships.gov.in has been launched as a part of Digital India campaign by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st July, 2015. The eligible students are to apply on-line through the said website. Four Regional Workshop at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Hyderabad were organized by this Department to sensitize the State Governments of the schemes and also to appraise them of the process involved in grant of scholarships. The Department is also issuing advertisements in all States/UTs, in leading English and Hindi/Regional newspapers to create wide publicity about the benefits of the scheme among students with disabilities.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.24)

2.11 The Committee note that a Scheme for Scholarship for Top Class Education for Students with Disabilities was to be launched in the year 2014-15 but the process of obtaining approval could not be completed and the portal for the same too was not available due to which it could not be launched. The Committee recommend that since Schemes for scholarship for Top Class Education for students with disabilities is an important Scheme for the empowerment of PwDs, it should be given adequate publicity by all possible and available media, so that awareness is there about the Scholarships

among the candidates which would result in receipt of maximum number of applications and benefit to maximum PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The scheme of Scholarship for Top Class Education is being implemented through the National Scholarship Portal www.scholarships.gov.in which was launched as a part of Digital India campaign by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st July, 2015. The eligible students are to apply on-line through the said website. Four Regional Workshop at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Hyderabad were organised by this Department to sensitise the State Governments of the schemes and also to appraise them of the process involved in grant of scholarships. The department is issuing advertisements regarding this Scheme in all State/UTs in leading English & Hindi/Regional newspapers for creating wide publicity about this scheme among Students with Disabilities

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

(Recommendation, Para 2.36)

2.13 The Committee note that the funds under the 'Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)' have been inadequately utilized during the last three years i.e., from the year 2012-13 onwards. The main reasons attributed by the Department are, non-furnishing of Utilization Certificates and Progress Reports by the States. The Committee have been further informed that the Ministry of HRD and Sports Authority of India have been asked to make all educational Institutional and sports stadia barrier free and accessible to PwDs. The Committee desire that the Department

scrupulously monitor the expenditure under the Scheme and also the progress on making all buildings barrier-free. The Committee further desire that the Department should also closely work with the Archaeology Survey of India of India to make all heritage sites accessible to PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The observations made by the Committee have been noted for compliance.

(a) All out efforts are being made by this Department to procure the Utilization Certificates in respect of the Grants released to the States/UTs, etc. to facilitate further release of funds. Regarding furnishing of Utilisation Certificates in respect of previous grants released to States/UTs, this Department has accepted the proposals of some States for adjustment of amounts of GIA released earlier with their current projects, by way of releasing lesser amount equivalent to the earlier unutilized grant-in-aid.

(b) In response to Ministry's communication to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, proposal have been received Sports Authority of India for making 4 Sports Authority of India Training Centres barrier free located at Kolkata, Bengaluru, Patiala and Thiruvananthapuram, and the same are under process for release of funds. Besides, in response to Ministry's communication to Ministry of HRD, proposals have been received from Universities/Institutions for creation of barrier free environment. Grants-in-aid in some proposals have been released and some proposals are at various stages of processing.

(c) Grant-in-aid for Rs.2.50 crore during 2010-11 and Rs.2.56 crore during 2012-13 was released to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for creation of barrier free environment in the 31 centrally protected world heritage sites and other ticketed

monuments. The Director General, Archaeological Survey of India has informed that the amount of Rs. 2.50 crores and 2.56 crores released to the ASI, have since been fully utilized up to 2014-15.

(d) As a part of Accessible Indian Campaign and in order to make monuments, museums and other archaeological sites accessible to PwDs, the Department has taken up the matter with Ministry of Culture vide Secretary (DEPwD)'s D.O. letter dated 27.7.2015 requesting them to send proposals for access audit and accessibility conversion under the SIPDA Scheme. A meeting in this regard has also been held in the Department on 16.9.2015.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter – I of the Report)

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, Para 2.25)

4.1 The Committee were informed that only two applications were received, that too, were found unsuitable under the National Overseas Scholarship Schemes for Students with Disabilities. The Committee could not fathom the reasons for receipt of only two applications under such an important scheme in a country where PwDs are in considerable number. The Department also did not try to gauge the grounds for receiving only these two applications. In Committee's view either the students with disabilities are not at all aware of the Scheme due to insufficient publicity or an eligibility criterion for the students is complicated. The Committee also feel that the Department should have reached out of the candidates, sort out the shortcomings in their applications, relax the norms to the extent possible and help them to avail the Scholarship. The Committee desire that criteria/norms of this Scheme may not only be revisited, if need be, simplified, keeping in view to give maximum benefit to PwDs. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

4.2 So far as the National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disability is concerned, the necessary advertisement has been issued in various newspapers all over the country to call for application. In addition, the following steps have been taken to create awareness of the Scheme among the targeted beneficiaries.

- (a) Advertisements are issued through Newspapers and website of this Ministry/Department
- (b) Three schemes namely Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Top Class Education are being run through the National Scholarship Portal (www.scholarships.gov.in) from 2015-16 onwards.
- (c) Letters have been issued to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to popularize the Scholarship schemes among the institute under them.
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs has been requested to bring wide publicity to the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship among the Indian Embassies/High Commission abroad.
- (e) Request have been made to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to bring the National Overseas Scholarship to the notice of all Educational Institutes under that Ministry.
- (f) The schemes have been brought to the notice of all the National Institute under this Department & Non-Governmental Organizations receiving grants under the DDRS scheme with a request to popularize the scheme among the targeted beneficiaries.
- (g) So far as Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities is concerned the scheme is implemented by University Grants Commission. UGC issues Advertisement through Newspaper and website to call for application and to create awareness about the schemes to all educational institutes in the country.
- (h) The National Scholarship Portal www.scholarships.gov.in has been launched as a part of Digital India campaign by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st July, 2015. Three

schemes namely Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Top Class Education have been included.

(i) Four Regional Workshops were conducted at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad to sensitize the State Governments of the schemes and also to apprise them of the process involved in the grant of scholarships.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

Comments of the Committee

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

(Recommendation, Para 2.30)

4.3 The Committee note that the expenditure of funds in the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) has been quite low from the year 2012-2013 onwards, less than 50% of the B.E. The Department has now reduced the BE of the scheme in the year 2015-16 to Rs. 60 crore i.e. almost 50% of the previous year allocation. The Committee desire the Department to introspect and look into the reasons as to why the Scheme could not achieved its physical and financial targets. The Committee have been informed that the Scheme is also to be revised. The Committee would like to apprise of the revised Schemes. As the Scheme is NGO centric, the Committee desire that specific and close monitoring be done to prevent any misuse of funds by the NGOs.

Reply of the Government

4.4 The RE allocation for the year 2014-15 was Rs. 50.50 crores out of which Rs. 50.08 crores was released during the 2014-15. During the year 2014-15,170 proposals

for the year 2012-13, 429 proposals for 2013-14 and 248 for 2014-15 totaling to 847 projects proposals were sanctioned and Grant-in-aid was released for Rs.50.08 crores benefiting 1.81 lakhs beneficiaries.

2. In order to expedite proposals under DDRS the following measures were taken:-

State Level Meetings of State Social Welfare Minister-in-Charge of Disability Affairs and Secretaries held on 23.08.2014 and 2nd & 3rd July, 2015 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment. In this meeting the State Governments were impressed upon to submit proposals in time with complete details & documents as required under the scheme.

3. This Department has developed a centralized on-line portal www.ngograntsje.gov.in. All applications by NGOs seeking Grant-in-aid (GIA) under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) are invited and tracked/monitored through on-line process in the NGO portal from the financial year 2014-15 onwards.

4. Letters have been issued on 12.06.2015 to all the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of States/Union Territories dealing with disability regarding submission of proposals/applications by NGOs and VOs seeking grant-in-aid under DDRS of the Department only on-line on the interactive website www.ngograntsje.gov.in.

5. As regards revision of DDRS Scheme, a Note for the Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC) for revision of the Scheme has been prepared after due consultation with stakeholders and steps for appraisal & revision of the Scheme is under consideration. The draft Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal has been sent to the Integrated Finance Division of Department of Empowerment of Persons with

Disabilities (DEPwD) for their comments & concurrence after which the same will be put up to EFC.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) O.M. No.1/4/2015-2016/Budget (DDA) dated 27th October, 2015)

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER – V

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

-Nil-

**New Delhi;
17 December, 2015
26 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)**

**RAMESH BAIS,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment.**

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 2015

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor
3. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
7. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
8. Smt. Mamta Thakur
9. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

10. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
11. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
12. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
2. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

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

(i) Twenty-first Action Taken Report on Twelfth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

(ii) *****

(iii) *****

(iv) *****

(v) *****

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any change. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWELFTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	9	
II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.8, 2.9, 2.14, 2.15, 2.20, 2.24 and 2.36).	7	77.78
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 and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter –I (Paragraph Nos. 2.25 and 2.30)	2	22.22
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature – Nil.	0	0