

37

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2016-2017)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2017-2018)**

THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2016-2017)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT

(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(2016-2017)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.03.2017

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2017



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)

CONTENTS

		PAGE(s)
	COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iv)
	INTRODUCTION	(vi)
	REPORT	
	CHAPTER-I	
	INTRODUCTORY	1
	CHAPTER-II	
	General Performance of the Department	4
	CHAPTER-III	
	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)	15
	CHAPTER-IV	
	Schemes arising out of Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)	23
	CHAPTER-V	
	Educational Schemes for Persons with Disabilities	32
	CHAPTER-VI	
	National Institutes	37
	CHAPTER-VII	
	AWARENESS GENERATION AND PUBLICITY SCHEME AND INFORMATION AND MASS EDUCATION CELL SCHEME	43
	ANNEXURES	
I.	STATEMENTSHOWING THE NUMBER OF POSTS LYING VACANT UNDER GROUP A, B AND C IN THE ALI YAVAR JUNG NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING DISABILITIES (AY JNISHD), MUMBAI	48
ii	MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ONSOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 27.02.2017	50
III.	MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON 16.03.2017	54
	APPENDIX -I	
	STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS	56

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-2017)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
7. Smt. K. Maragatham
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule
12. Dr. Udit Raj
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
14. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamata Thakur
17. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
18. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
19. Vacant*
20. Vacant*
21. Vacant#

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Dr. Tazeen Fatma
24. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25. Shri Ahamed Hassan
26. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
27. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
28. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

* Shri Bhagwant Khuba and Shri Mohanbhai K. Kundariya changed their nomination w.e.f. 19.10.2016.

Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri changed his nomination w.e.f. 23.11.2016.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Sukhi Chand Chaudhary - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
4. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director
5. Smt. Madhu Bhutani - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Thirty-seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2017-18' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) which were laid on the Table of the House on 09 February, 2017. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) on 27 February, 2017. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 16 March, 2017.

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

4. For ease of reference, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

16 March, 2017
25 Phalgun, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The target group of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is Persons with Disabilities. The strategy for their empowerment is through schemes for educational, economic and social development and physical rehabilitation and to create an environment that provides them with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

1.2 As per Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities in India (who constitute 2.21 percent of the total population). Out of the total population of Persons with Disabilities, about 1.50 crore are male and 1.18 crore female. In Rural areas, there are 1.86 crore Persons with Disabilities. Out of which 1.04 crore are male and 82 lakhs are female. Similarly in Urban areas, there are 82 lakhs Persons with Disabilities. Out of which 46 lakhs are male and 26 lakhs are female. These include persons with visual, hearing, speech and loco-motor disabilities; mental illness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities and other disabilities.

1.3 The Constitution of India provides six Fundamental Rights to all the citizens including the persons with Disabilities. These include - Right to Equality, Right of Freedom, Right against Exploitation, Right to freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights and Right to Constitutional Remedies.

1.4 The Department deals with the following Legislations governing different aspects of disability, welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities: -

1. The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992,

2. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; and
3. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

1.5 Some of the major activities of the Department are:-

1. To act as the nodal Department for matters pertaining to Disability and Persons with Disabilities:
2. 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.
3. Education and Training of Rehabilitation Professionals.
4. International Conventions and Agreements on matters, dealt with in the Department e.g. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
5. Awareness generation, research, evaluation and training in regard to subjects allocated to the Department.
6. Charitable and Religious Endowments and promotion and development of Voluntary Efforts pertaining to subjects, allocated to the Department.

1.6 The following Statutory Bodies/PSUs Autonomous Bodies come under The purview of the Department :-

- (i) Statutory Bodies
 - (a) The Rehabilitation Council of India.
 - (b) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.
 - (c) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
- (ii) PSUs/Autonomous Bodies
 - (a) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC).
 - (b) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO).
 - (c) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun
 - (d) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai
 - (e) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad
 - (f) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai
 - (g) Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi
 - (h) Swami Vivekanand National Institute of the Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack.
 - (i) National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata
 - (j) Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC).

CHAPTER - II

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for the year 2017-18 are given under Demand No. 90. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 9th February, 2017.

2.2 The Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and the Actual Expenditure of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the last three years – both Scheme wise and Non-Scheme wise – along with the percentage expenditure over Revised Estimate are given in the following Table:

(Rs. in crore)					
Head	Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure	Percentage expenditure over RE
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Plan	2014-15	565.00	375.00	337.96	90.12
	2015-16	565.40	540.00	487.18	90.23
	2016-17	700.00	695.49	454.98 (upto 31.01.2017)	65.43
	2017-18	762.85	-	-	
Non Plan	2014-15	67.89	66.06	65.45	99.26
	2015-16	71.54	70.95	68.45	96.47
	2016-17	83.56	88.07	66.46 (upto 31.01.2017)	75.46
	2017-18	92.15	-	-	

(expenditure upto 31.1.2017)

2.3 The Department has furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on all the schemes from the year 2014-15 to 2016-17 alongwith BE for the year 2017-18 on the basis of which some schemes have been thoroughly examined and comments have been made thereon:-

Scheme-wise Expenditure during 2014-15 To 2016-17 & BE 2017-18											
(Rs. in crore)											
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			BE 2017-18
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp.	
1	National Institutes	105.00	87.00	78.97	105.25	106.00	104.27	113.00	132.87	86.52	120.00
2	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of Fitting Devices (ADIP)	110.00	101.50	101.28	125.50	151.40	151.16	130.00	170.00	128.45	150.00
3	Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	90.00	50.50	50.08	60.00	51.00	50.19	45.00	45.00	33.23	60.00
4	Rehabilitation Council of India (Plan)	5.00	3.00	3.72	4.00	4.00	3.65	4.00	4.00	2.82	4.00
5	Schemes Arising out of The Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 (SIPDA)	80.00	61.41	43.09	135.00	99.00	69.42	193.00	193.00	110.71	207.00
6	Employment for Physically Challenged	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.33	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.10
7	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corp. (NHFDC)	37.00	37.00	36.58	35.00	35.00	34.65	30.00	30.00	27.00	32.74
8	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)	20.00	0.01	0.00	21.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00
9	Spinal Injury Centre	2.00	2.00	1.80	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00

10	Establishment of National Institute of Universal Design and Barrier Free Environment	4.00	0.01	0.00	0.50	0.01	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.37
11	Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)	4.00	0.01	0.00	4.00	1.00	0.25	3.00	3.00	0.75	4.50
12	National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities	17.00	10.00	7.47	8.00	20.57	18.73	19.50	23.62	17.07	24.00
13	Post Matric Scholarship to Student with Disabilities	12.00	2.00	0.00	12.00	10.00	3.22	8.00	10.00	2.04	10.00
14	Top Class Education for PwDs	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.24	1.00	1.20	0.53	5.40
15	National Overseas Scholarship for PwDs	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.37	2.00
16	Support for Establishment/ Modernization of Braille Presses	13.00	2.00	3.86	4.66	10.65	9.80	9.10	9.10	8.40	10.00
17	Establishment of College for Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	0.50	0.01	0.00	5.00	0.50	0.00	0.10	0.81	0.00	3.00
18	Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.50	0.01	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.50
19	Budgetary Support to National Trust	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.98	0.98	5.00	7.00	4.50	15.22
20	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	0.50	0.01	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	4.00	5.00	3.50	5.00
21	Establishment of National Mission, State Missions and District Coordinators	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
22	Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.99	0.10	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
23	Establishment of Micor-enterprise Incubation Centres for Persons with Disabilities	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

24	Awareness Generation and Publicity	3.00	2.00	0.71	5.00	4.00	2.62	3.00	3.00	1.76	3.00
25	In-service Training and Senisitization of officials	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.68	2.00
26	Grants to Association for Rehabilitation under National Trust	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Research on Disability related Technology	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.29	0.40	0.40	0.12	1.00
28	Pre-matric Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities	12.00	1.00	0.00	12.00	5.00	1.69	4.00	6.00	0.28	7.00
29	Free Coaching for PwDs	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.49	0.01	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.00
30	National Programmes for Persons with Disabilities	5.00	0.02	0.00	5.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Information and Mass Education Cell	20.00	10.00	7.37	10.00	25.00	23.02	70.00	40.00	18.46	50.00
32	Grants -in-aid to National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	45.00	1.00	0.00	35.00

(Expenditure upto 31.01.2017)

2.4 The Department has furnished statement indicating BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on non-schemes for the last three years and Budget Estimates 2017-18:-

Annexure-V(B)

Statement indicating BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for the last three years and Budget Estimates 2017-18

(Non Plan- Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	BE 2014-15	RE 2014-15	Exp. 2014-15	BE 2015-16	RE 2015-16	Exp. 2015-16	BE 2016-17	RE 2016-17	Exptd. 2016-17 upto 31.1.2017	BE 2017-18
1	Secretariat	1289.00	757.00	717.00	1162.00	1088.00	997.00	1654.00	1527.00	1326.00	1708.50
2	National Institutes for Disabled Persons	5016.00	5451.50	5448.00	5512.00	5618.00	5477.00	6274.00	6802.00	4970.00	7002.00
3	Rehabilitation Council of India	175.00	165.00	165.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	200.00	223.00	160.00	235.00
4	Handling Clearance of Duty Free Consignments under Bilateral Agreements	69.50	1.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
5	Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities	239.50	231.50	215.00	280.00	199.00	181.00	227.00	254.00	190.00	268.50
	Total :	6789.00	6606.00	6545.00	7154.00	7095.00	6845.00	8356.00	8807.00	6646.00	9215.00

2.5 A perusal of above statements revealed that the Department not only could achieve the targets set during the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 but it has not been able to control the trend of underutilization of funds. For example, Post-Matric and Pre-Matric scholarship schemes for students with disabilities, Top Class Education and National Overseas Scholarship for PWDs, Awareness Generations and Publicity scheme and Information and Mass Education Cell (MEDIA) are vital schemes where the expenditure was very dismal but more funds have been allocated for the year 2017-18 under these Schemes.

2.6 When asked the reasons for such low expenditure on these Schemes, the Department in its written reply has stated as under:-

“The expenditure under some of the schemes especially scholarship schemes is low which is primarily due to technical reasons which are being constantly taken up with NIC. As the bottlenecks/hurdles are likely to be cleared, expenditure will pick up and the entire allocation will be utilized. It proposes to utilize the entire allocation of Rs.783.56 crore approved in RE 2016-17. As on date i.e. 22nd February 17, total expenditure is expected Rs. 580.05 crore and projects/proposals are being moved expeditiously. Final expenditure is expected to reach approximately Rs.675 crore under Schemes and Rs.88.06 crore under Non Scheme. The likely shortfall of expenditure to the tune of Rs.20 crores, is for the reason that proposals from North East may not culminate into expenditure.”

2.7 When the Committee asked the reasons for demanding an increased allocation of Rs. 762.85 crore for 2017-18 when the Department could not utilize/spend the allocated amount in the last 3 years and the manner in which the Department proposes to justify and utilize the enhanced amount. The Department, clarifying its position in the matter in its written reply, stated as under:-

“Under ADIP Scheme, enhanced funds are required for purchase of fitting devices, enhanced demand was projected to meet the targets of inclusion of high end devices, cochlear implant, and increased demand of camps by Members of

Parliament and other VIPs. Funds are required to complete the camps for which assessments have been done by ALIMCO and for recoupment of loan already taken by them for holding the urgent ADIP Camps. Out of about 368 requests received from various dignitaries for holding the ADIP camps during last 2 ½ years, so far 213 camps have been conducted and in 76 camps assessments have been done for distribution of aids & appliances costing Rs.34.15 crore, funds are also required to complete the 79 pending camps. Besides, ALIMCO also require funds under the scheme for ADIP-SSA and also for Headquarter Activity. Due to constraints of funds, only Rs. 22.68 crore could be released to NIs/CRCs for distribution of aids & appliances under the Scheme.

For National Institutes, enhanced funds are required for construction of new building in the National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres, approved with approx cost of Rs.40 crore by Hon'ble Minister SJ&E. Higher funds are required to meet the varied requirement of the Institutes namely, HRD Services, documentation and dissemination, extension and outreach services, Skill development, manpower development.

Higher funds are required for disbursing benefits under Scholarship Schemes (National Fellowship, Post and Pre Matric Scholarship, National Overseas, Free Coaching). Scholarship Schemes are being implemented through the National e-scholarship Portal which is a part of Digital India Campaign and wide publicity is being given through media to create awareness among the targeted beneficiaries, thus anticipating huge demand under these Schemes in the next financial year. Average Scholarship under Pre Matric Scholarship is Rs.8,465, and it is presumed that scholarship to 25000 beneficiaries would be disbursed for 2017-18. Under Post Matric Scholarship, average scholarship amount is Rs.15,000/- and it is presumed that scholarships to 23000 beneficiaries would be disbursed for 2017-18. Under National Fellowship, average fellowship amount is Rs.40,000/ per beneficiary, per month, and it is expected that beneficiaries will increase up to 1000. Likewise, beneficiaries are expected to be higher under other Scholarship Schemes also, as we are witnessing an increase in the number every year. Also, due to budgetary restraints, liability of previous year is invariably met in the next financial year.

Under the Scheme of Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, enhanced funds are required because as per DPR, the estimated cost of construction is about 100crores and approx Rs.35 crore would be required to initiate construction as per CPWD norms. Enhanced funds are also required for construction activity of ISLRTC, National Institute of Universal Design, Centre for Disability Sports etc.

Under the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, funding is done for Accessibility India Campaign, Skill Training of PwD and financial assistance provided for providing barrier free environment in Universities, Public Buildings, State Government Secretariat, office of State Commissioner for Disabilities etc. Financial assistance is also provided for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and Composite Rehabilitation Centres

(CRCs). Proposals amounting to Rs.258 crore under Accessible India Campaign have been received from States/UTs and so far an amount of Rs.90.40crore have been released as first installment in most cases. Out of RE 2016-17 of Rs.193 crore, an amount of Rs.128.72 crore has so far been released till 20.2.2017, and proposal amounting to Rs.4.15 crore are under process. Under AIC, proposals of only 17 States/UTs have been received and are being processed, while proposals from 19 States/UTs have not been received. Hence, there is an increases demand for funds under SIPDA Schemes and it is expected that more proposals shall be approved during 2017-18 and hence, an increased BE 2017-18.”

2.8 The Committee were informed that the Department had submitted an Annual Plan (2017-18) proposal to the tune of Rs. 1578.05 crore to the Ministry of Finance but only Rs.855.00 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Finance. When the Committee desired to know the reasons for such a drastic reduction in allocation, the Department stated that “there is 9 percent increase in allocation approved for the Department in BE 2017-18 as compared to BE 2016-17, which was Rs.700 crore.

2.9 When the Committee desired to know the Schemes/Programmes likely to be affected due to this reduced allocation, the Department stated that, “they would ensure that flagship/important welfare schemes of the Department are not adversely affected due to lesser allocation in BE 2017-18, by adjusting the activities proposed *vis-à-vis* available funds. Also efforts will be made for seeking higher funds at RE stage subject to the progress/activities in the new schemes, (especially establishment of Institutes namely, Disability Sports, NIIUD) which are yet to be approved”.

2.10 Further, when the Committee asked whether any new strategy has been evolved or present methodology revised so as to obviate the scope of poor performance again of various schemes in 2017-18, the Department submitted in its written reply as under:–

“It is correct that expenditure under some of the schemes especially scholarship schemes is low which are primarily due to technical reasons which are being

constantly taken up with NIC. As the bottlenecks/hurdles are likely to be cleared, expenditure will pick up and the entire allocation will be utilized.

To achieve the desired targets in 2017-18 under Scholarship Schemes, it is proposed to give wide publicity to the scholarship schemes run by this Department through electronic and print media. Many of the Schemes of the Department which were approved in the preceding two years have gained momentum especially Scholarship Schemes, SIPDA (Accessibility India Campaign, Skill Training) are definitely likely to achieve desired targets in 2017-18. Department is making all efforts to clear bottlenecks/hurdles under the Schemes, which result in slow expenditure. To achieve the desired targets in 2017-18 under Scholarship Schemes, it is proposed to give wide publicity to the scholarship schemes run by this Department through electronic and print media.”

2.11 The Committee observed that there has been a general trend of the Department to spend a major portion of the budgetary allocation under its various schemes specifically educational schemes for PWDs and SWDs in the last 2 or 3 months of the financial year while the pace of expenditure is very slow in the first three quarters of the financial year.

2.12 When the Committee desired to know the reasons for not adhering to the instructions/guidelines of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) stipulating that not more than one-third (33%) of the Budget Estimates should be spent in the last quarter of the financial year, the Department stated as under:-

“The process of disbursement of scholarship amount to students through DBT mode has not started for the financial year 2016-17. NIC has developed revamped National Scholarship Portal 2.0 and they are in the process of developing payment configuration modules for the various scholarship schemes. Due to development of revamped version of NSP, the instructions of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for spending not more than one-third (33%) of the BE in the last quarter of the financial year could not be adhered to. The Ministry of Finance as well as the Cabinet Sectt. (DBT Mission) is aware of this fact.”

2.13 The Committee note that one of the disquieting aspects that has consistently engaged their attention is the uneven pattern of expenditure by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, despite the clear cut guidelines/instructions of the Ministry of Finance not to exceed the ceiling of 33 per cent expenditure in the last quarter and 15 per cent in the month of March every financial year. The Committee observe that this is mainly due to non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and complete proposals from the State Governments/UTs, particularly from North East States which has obstructed the pace of expenditure almost under each and every scheme of the Department.

In view of the fact that uneven and disjointed pattern of expenditure hampers the planned implementation of the Schemes envisaged, besides violating the fiscal discipline imposed by the Finance Ministry, the Committee impress upon the Department of Empowerment of PwDs to sensitize the State Governments regarding the welfare schemes of PwDs and for submitting Utilization Certificates in time. For this purpose, the Committee exhort the Department to hold frequent visits/meetings with the higher officers of the State Governments including their Chief Ministers and at the time of such visits, local Members of Parliament and MLAs may also be invited which would definitely benefit the Department. Such steps, no doubt, would certainly yield positive result and put the Department on a strong footing and its budgetary allocation would not be reduced or affected sizeably by the Ministry of Finance as has been done for the year 2017-18.

2.14 The Committee note with concern that out of allocated amount of Rs.783.56 crore for the year 2016-17, the Department has utilized only Rs.580.05 crore as on 22.02.2017. The Department assured that it would be able to utilize Rs. 763.06 crore by the end of the financial year 2016-17. However there would still be likely shortfall of Rs. 20 crore (approx.) in expenditure due to non-receipt of proposals from North East States. The Committee also note that the Department sought Rs.1578.05 crore from the Ministry of Finance for 2017-18 but got only Rs.855.00 crore, which is only 9 per cent increase over the BE of 2016-17. The Committee observe that for activities like establishment/construction of Centre for Disability Sports, National Institute of Universal Design, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation and to meet the increasing demand of State Governments under Accessible India Campaign, more funds will be required by the Department. The Committee desire that the Department should convince the Ministry of Finance to enhance the allocation at the RE stage so that the implementation of all the important projects/schemes are not adversely impacted due to paucity of funds.

CHAPTER – III

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

3.1 The main objective of the Scheme is to provide grants-in-aid to the various implementing agencies (National Institutes/ Composite Regional Centres /Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India(ALIMCO)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres/State Handicapped Development Corporations/other local bodies/ NGOs) so that they are in a position to assist needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Assistive devices are given to Persons with Disabilities with an aim to improve their independent functioning, and to arrest the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability. The aids and appliances supplied under the Scheme must have due certification. The scheme also envisages conduct of corrective surgeries, whenever required, before providing an assistive device.

3.2 The following statement showing the Scheme-wise physical targets and achievement during the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 was furnished to the Committee:-

Year	Physical Target	Achievement
2014-15	2.80 lakh beneficiaries	2.39 lakh beneficiaries
2015-16	2.80 lakh beneficiaries	2.05 lakh beneficiaries

2016-17	2.80 lakh beneficiaries	1.90 lakh beneficiaries (upto 30.11.2016)
2017-18	2.50 lakh beneficiaries	

3.3 It has been observed from the above statement that during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, the targets were not achieved. The reasons given by the Department are increase in cost ceiling of aids/appliances from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 10,000/-, inclusion of cochlear implant @ 6.00 lakh per beneficiary and other high-end devices in the revised ADIP scheme.

3.4 The Committee asked about the reasons for not increasing the budgetary allocation for 2017-18 under the Scheme in proportion to the increase in cost ceiling of aids/appliances so that the number of beneficiaries could be increased and if not, at least the targets could be achieved. The Department in written reply stated as under:-

“BE under ADIP Scheme for 2016-17 was Rs.130.00 crore. Keeping in view additional requirement of funds due to increase in cost of aids and appliances and requirement for holding camps for distribution of aids and appliance, additional funds were sought. As a result, additional fund of Rs. 40.00 crore has been allocated under RE/ Supplementary grant for the year 2016-17 under ADIP scheme. The total allocation of funds during 2016-17 is now Rs.170.00 crore. Out of which Rs. 151.88 crore has been released as on 22.2.2017. The remaining funds will be fully released by 31.3.2017.

For BE 2017-18 funds for Rs. 150.00 crore are sought to meet the requirement of distribution of aids and appliances. The BE for 2017-18 has been approved for Rs 150.00 crore. Further request of funds during 2017-18 will be proposed during RE 2017-18 as per requirement.

3.5 The Committee were informed that Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under ADIP Scheme is released to the NGOs on receipt of recommendations and Inspection Report of the State Governments/UTs and further release of GIA is considered only on receipt of a satisfactory report. The Committee asked whether any comprehensive study has been done by the Department to evaluate the performance of NGOs funded by them, the Department submitted as under:-

“Planning Commission authorized the Mott Mac Donald, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh to conduct the evaluation study in respect of ADIP scheme in May, 2011. Mott Mac Donald submitted the final Report in Dec. 2012. The major findings of the issues pertained to weak Institutional coordination, poor and untimely release of funds, lack of proper and updated database of differently abled people on the census record, lack of maintenance cost of assisted devices, lack of system to evaluate the work done by Implementing Agencies, lack of awareness among the beneficiaries about the scheme. The Scheme was revised w.e.f. 1st April, 2014. Issues raised in the Evaluation Study were duly considered during revision of scheme. Under revised scheme Expert Committee/Core Groups were constituted to list out high end devices for all types of impairments. Based on the recommendation of the Expert Committee/ Core Groups lists of high end devices for distribution under the scheme have been notified. Procedure for release of grant-in-aid has been simplified. Further, for effective implementation of the Scheme and to ensure transparency the Government has taken the initiative like online submission of proposals by NGOs for availing grants-in-aid. It has also been made mandatory that all Implementing Agencies including NGOs, on receipt of grants-in-aid, should upload list of beneficiaries along with the complete details of beneficiaries (Ration Card/Aadhar Card/Voter Identity Card) in their respective websites.

3.6 The Committee find from the information submitted by the Department that no NGOs in the States/Union Territories viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Telangana have been provided grant-in-aid under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances under ADIP Scheme.

3.7 When the Committee desired to know how the Department ensures to provide better services to needy disabled persons in procuring aids and appliances to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of PWDs in these States and Union Territories, the Department submitted that:-

“Due to constraint of funds and due to increased demand from Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)- and National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres functioning under the Department for undertaking various activities outlined in the ADIP Scheme, grants-in-aid could not be released with regard to NGO proposals recommended by certain States/Union Territories. Consequent upon revision of ADIP Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2014, the Department has notified various contemporary and high-end devices for distribution to Divyangjan. Besides, Cochlear Implant programme is also one of the new initiatives in the revised ADIP Scheme. The Cochlear Implant programme was launched in the country on 3rd December, 2014. So far 623 Cochlear Implant surgeries have been done across the country (549 under ADIP + 74 under CSR). In addition, demands for holding ADIP distribution camps in different parts of the country are increasing from various quarters. However, in the case of States/Union Territories where funds could not be released to NGOs, grants-in-aid were released to ALIMCO and National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres functioning under the Department, who organize camps on Pan India basis. In all the States/Union Territories funds have been utilized across the country during last two years and current year, except in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep”.

3.8 In this context, the Secretary of the Department deposed before the Committee that :

“we are converting ADIP scheme into camp mode with the Public Sector Undertaking of the Department rather than through NGOs.”

3.9 The following statement showing the State-wise details of funds released and number of beneficiaries under the ADIP Scheme for the last three years is furnished to the Committee:-

(Rs.in Lakhs)

State-wise funds utilized and number of beneficiaries covered during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 under ADIP Scheme							
S. No.	Name of the State / UT	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17 (as on 31.01.2017)	
		Funds utilized	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilized	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds utilized	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	1147.19	21160	421.49	6328	605.96	5984
2	Bihar	250.46	5472	70.80	1108	139.10	2439
3	Chhattisgarh	340.84	4608	298.96	3772	234.41	2236
4	Goa	12.67	230	8.53	137	3.59	50
5	Gujarat	192.32	5356	121.98	1700	1572.16	21278
6	Haryana	541.66	5689	424.82	4942	639.72	9319
7	Himachal Pradesh	129.06	8552	59.61	3295	51.11	1614
8	Jammu and Kashmir	76.28	1569	85	994	217.1	2213
9	Jharkhand	368.03	9181	12.79	182	44.21	573
10	Karnataka	218.18	4001	443.46	6421	232.9	4999
11	Kerala	207.68	3213	203.28	4574	122.52	1550
12	Madhya Pradesh	656.41	15318	848.38	17341	1140.44	17065
13	Maharashtra	972.97	22062	1651.3	27065	1138.42	19723
14	Odisha	311.17	7921	758.83	13429	427.45	10846
15	Punjab	228.92	2860	1271.83	13373	532.46	8172
16	Rajasthan	674.82	12712	551.19	9272	550.2	7186
17	Tamil Nadu	408.68	10183	853.29	9243	274.68	5674
18	Uttar Pradesh	2605.12	43324	3012.77	41309	3614.11	51045
19	Uttrakhand	455.74	15168	327.73	5184	181.79	6134
20	West Bengal	476.58	16246	1150.98	18783	850.5	13311
21	Andaman & Nicobar	27.16	750	0	0	9.27	323
22	Chandigarh	2.75	59	0	0	22.05	223
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12.36	342	1.51	58	2.04	54
24	Daman & Diu	3.81	83	3.9	35	2.94	60
25	Delhi	169.31	4208	88.48	3779	466.55	6112

26	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	8.76	204
28	Arunachal Pradesh	5.22	60	7.92	353	8.43	198
29	Assam	920.25	12962	685.21	9129	407.61	7111
30	Manipur	111.33	2908	42.31	348	484.72	6383
31	Meghalaya	36.67	1015	16.26	120	31.26	439
32	Mizoram	27.92	415	2.84	31	33.07	771
33	Nagaland	41.41	616	2.44	19	0	0
34	Sikkim	14.66	332	23.11	420	0	0
35	Tripura	7.77	150	98.3	1888	89.54	1902
36	Telangana	72.61	835	111.89	982	155.69	3784
Total		11728.01	239560	13661.19	205614	14294.76	218975

3.10 It is seen from the above Statement that in most of the States like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal the fund utilization as well as the number of beneficiaries have increased during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 while in States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Jharkhand, it is decreasing.

3.11 The Committee acknowledge the fact that Assistance of Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) is one of the most important schemes for the upliftment of PwDs by providing assistive devices and corrective surgeries. The Committee, however, find that number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme has been decreasing year after year. The Department has informed the Committee that due to increase in cost ceiling of aids/ appliances from Rs.6000 to Rs.10000, inclusion of cochlear implant @ Rs.6.00 lakh per beneficiary and inclusion of other high-end devices, the overall cost has increased, leading to lesser number of beneficiaries. The Department also informed that demand for holding ADIP Distribution Camps in different parts of the country is also increasing. The Committee are of the considered view that PwDs being an integral part of our society, need extra attention and efforts by the Government so that they can demolish the social and physical barriers put up in their path of upward social mobility. The Committee feel that paucity of funds should not come in their way. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should assess their needs of funds well in advance and place them before the Ministry of Finance more convincingly and sensitize them also so that funds at the RE stage may be increased *vis-à-vis* demand for achieving targets.

3.12 The Committee note that on the one hand in States like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the number of beneficiaries are constantly increasing under ADIP scheme while on the other hand, in States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Jharkhand the figures of beneficiaries are waning. The Committee desire that in the States where number of beneficiaries are decreasing continuously, the implementing agencies should be encouraged to associate with the reputed NGOs/VOs to carry forward their activities and expand the coverage of the scheme so as to cover more and more PwDs in all parts of the country. The Committee may also be apprised of the increase in number of beneficiaries in these States by undertaking these steps by the Department.

CHAPTER - IV

SCHEMES ARISING OUT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 1995 (SIPDA)

4.1 The grants-in-aid are provided under SIPDA Scheme to State Governments and various other bodies, set up by the Central and State Governments, including Autonomous Bodies and Universities, to support activities, pursuant to implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, particularly relating to rehabilitation and provision of barrier-free access. The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) set up by the Department are also provided support under this scheme.

4.2 The Committee were informed that the financial assistance is provided under the Scheme for the following activities:-

- (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, braille signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring.

- (ii) 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).
- (iii) To establish early diagnostic and intervention centres at District Headquarters/other places having Government Medical Colleges, with a view to help hearing impaired infants and young children to acquire necessary skills to get prepared for regular schooling.
- (iv) Skill Development Training Programmes for PwDs.
- (v) One time grant to the State Governments/UTs for the Offices of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for infrastructure facilities.
- (vi) Construction of special recreation centres for PwDs where the appropriate Governments/local authorities have their own land.
- (vii) For the activities figuring in Section 45 of PwD Act viz., causing curb cuts and slopes to be made in pavement for the easy access of wheel chair users, engraving on the surface of zebra crossing for the blind or for persons with low vision, engraving on the edges of railway platforms for the blind or for persons with low vision and devising appropriate symbols of disability.
- (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 which may be considered on case-to-case basis by the Department. The thrust of the Scheme is on Accessible India

Campaign launched on 3.12.2015 by the Government and Skill Development Program under National Action Plan (NAP).

4.3 The following Statement showing the Scheme-wise details of expenditure showing BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the SIPDA Scheme for the last three years and BE 2017-18 was furnished to the Committee:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	80.00	61.41	43.09
2015-16	135.00	99.00	69.42
2016-17	193.00	193.00	110.71 (upto 31.01.2017)
2017-18	207.00		

4.4 It is noted from the above statement that there has been cut in BE funds at RE stage during the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 and also under utilization of funds in these years.

4.5 In the above context, the Committee desired to know the reasons for under utilization of funds under the scheme since 2014-15, the Department in its written reply stated as under:-

“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 2014-15. All the concerned States/UTs have been requested/reminded for sending the Utilization Certificate/progress reports in respect of the grants received by them, at the level of Secretary(DEPwD) also. Besides this, the proposals of some States/UTs were not complete, mainly because they had not sent the cost estimates in respect of the construction work prepared by CPWD/PWD.

The Accessible India Campaign/Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Scheme was launched by the Department on 3rd December, 2015 for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs and to create an enabling and barrier free environment to them. Access Audit of the buildings was conducted by this Department and on the basis of this

proposals under the Accessible India Campaign have been received w.e.f. July, 2016. So far an amount of Rs.90.40 crore has been released, under the Accessible India Campaign. An amount of Rs. 10.47 crore has also been released under this Campaign for making 917 accessible websites. “

4.6 The Committee then asked about the reasons for demanding an increased amount of Rs. 207.00 crore for 2017-18 when the funds allocated have not been utilized in the last three years, the Department explained as under:-

“The proposals under the Accessible India Campaign amounting to Rs.258 crore have so far been received from the States /UTs. So far an amount of Rs.90.40 crore has been released (in most cases, as the 1st installment). Out of RE 2016-17 for Rs.193.00 crore, an amount of Rs.128.72 crore has so far been released till 20.2.2017. Proposals amounting to Rs.4,15,79,447/- are under process. It is expected that more proposals shall be approved during 2017-18 and hence, an increased BE 2017-18.”

4.7 The Committee then sought to know the strategy in place for achieving the targets envisaged under the Accessible India Campaign in 2017-18 and timely receiving of complete financial proposals from the States/UTs, the Department in its written reply submitted as under:-

“The Department regularly issues letters to Secretaries of Ministries/Departments as well as Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs for expediting the financial proposals under SIPDA scheme for making buildings accessible.

The targets under the Accessible India Campaign are also reviewed with the Ministries/Departments in the meetings of the Central Coordination Committee under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister SJ&E. The last meeting was held on 29.11.2016. As a follow up exercise, CEC meeting was held on 8.12.2016 under the chairmanship of Secretary, SJ&E. The Department also conducts video conferencing with States/UTs in this regard.

4.8 The Committee were informed that due to pending utilization certificates specifically from North-Eastern Region utilization of funds is less under SIPDA Scheme and when the Committee desired to know the measures taken to ensure timely receipt of UCs from

North Eastern States and other States/UTs, the Department in its written reply stated as under:-

“The Secretary of DONER and the Chief Secretaries of the N.E. States have been requested to impress upon the concerned officers to furnish the pending UCs. Some States have already furnished the pending UCs and as a result their proposals received under the Accessible India Campaign have been processed.

4.9 The Committee were further informed that the Department has launched the National Action Plan for skill training of PwDs in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March, 2015 for providing financial assistance for skill development of PwDs under modified SIPDA scheme.

4.10 The Department has furnished the following statement showing statewise details of fund released and number of beneficiaries covered under National Action Plan (NAP) of SIPDA scheme during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16.

S. No.	State/UT	2014-15		2015-16	
		Fund Released /Fund Utilized (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries covered	Fund Released /Fund Utilized (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	49.8	273	100.30	1482
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9.72	60	3.98	84
3	Assam	34.8	60	102.8	690
4	Bihar	7.92	90	72.08	585
5	Chhattisgarh	56.7	250	103.95	630
6	Goa	2.5	45	24.75	150
7	Gujarat	35.34	230	104.16	674
8	Haryana	135.56	1280	258.32	1619
9	Himachal Pradesh	17.38	150	94.05	569
10	Jammu and Kashmir	17.38	150	94.05	570

S. No.	State/UT	2014-15		2015-16	
		Fund Released /Fund Utilized (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries covered	Fund Released /Fund Utilized (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries covered
11	Jharkhand	18.6	170	45.71	297
12	Karnataka	32.4	380	11.71	120
13	Kerala	4.7	85	32.82	353
14	Madhya Pradesh	56.82	689	196.27	1327
15	Maharashtra	91.37	720	107.65	795
16	Manipur	3.24	30	9.9	60
17	Meghalaya	6.48	60	17.6	170
18	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	9.9	60
19	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	9.9	60
20	Orissa	16.5	120	92.08	829
21	Punjab	21.94	300	177.75	1085
22	Rajasthan	95.28	1272	219.73	1392
23	Sikkim	12.96	120	17.22	140
24	Tamil Nadu	1.89	80	80.83	524
25	Telangana	10.08	150	100.04	1079
26	Tripura	5.88	80	19.31	190
27	Uttaranchal	7.92	90	198.43	1501
28	Uttar Pradesh	160.03	1590	719.94	4560
29	West Bengal	28.96	272	132.07	1350
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34	Delhi	60.58	560	135.30	872
35	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
36	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	14.85	90
	TOTAL	1002.73	9356	3307.45	23907

4.11 It may be seen from the above details that information regarding funds released and number of beneficiaries covered under National Action Plan (NAP) during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been given but the details of persons who got employment after getting training have not been provided. When the Committee desired to know the reasons, the Department in its reply submitted as under:-

“All the training projects are under implementation. The details of the trainees, State-wise and their employment status can be provided after completion of the training projects. All the National Institutes, NHFDC and CRCs which have imparted the skill training to PwDs during 2015-16 and 2016-17 have been requested to furnish the requisite information.”

4.12 The Committee note that during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the budget allocation under Schemes Arising out of Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA) was curtailed at RE stage and even this allocation could not be utilized fully. The reasons advanced by the Department for less utilization of funds are non-receipt of utilization certificates and incomplete proposals from States/UTs. The Committee in their earlier Reports, have time and again impressed upon the Department to take effective measures to overcome these recurrent impediments, which adversely impact the utilization of funds. The Committee are, therefore, of the firm view that it is high time the Department ironed out the deficiencies/anomalies intensified its efforts and work out concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilization of the funds in the coming years.

4.13 The Committee find that inspite of low utilization of funds in previous years under SIPDA scheme, the Department has sought higher BE of Rs. 207.00 crore for 2017-18 mainly in the name of Accessible India Campaign which is a flagship programme of the Government with barrier-free access as its integral component. The Committee are dismayed to note that buildings, roads, dividers, pavements, public convenience, bus stops, etc. are still being constructed throughout the country on the same old pattern without any provisions of barrier-free access and movement for PwDs. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Department to make sure that new infrastructure, public convenience, etc. must have the provisions of barrier-free access at the construction stage itself so that there is no need of spending public money towards converting them into barrier free in future. The Committee also recommend that detailed guidelines be

formulated in this regard and circulated to all concerned Department/Agencies dealing with construction/public works including States/UTs.

4.14 The Committee note with satisfaction that all the State/UT Governments have been implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) for skill training of persons with disabilities for imparting skill training to PwDs. The Committee find that though the Department has furnished the information regarding the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme but did not provide the information regarding number of persons who got employment after getting training citing the reason that the same would be collected from the various implementing agencies of the Scheme. The Committee are of the considered view that the success or failure of the Scheme would solely depend upon the number of persons who got employment after completing their training. It would also help the Department to modify the Scheme as per the need and requirement of the industrial sector. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to collect the requisite information, State/UT-wise and furnish to the Committee within three months after presentation of this Report.

CHAPTER - V

EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes:

5.1 These two Schemes have been launched by the Department of PWDs during the financial year 2014-15. The objectives of the Schemes are to provide financial assistance to the students with disabilities for studying in the pre-matric level (class IX and X) and post-Matric level (Classes XI, XII and upto Post graduate degree/diploma level).

5.2 As regards the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, the parental income ceiling is Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum and the scholarship amount is Rs. 350/- per month for day scholar and Rs. 600/- per month hostlers, 46,000 scholarships will be sanctioned every year 50% of the total scholarships shall be reserved for girl candidates.

As regards the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, the parental income ceiling is Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum. The average cost of these Scholarship is approximately Rs. 15,000/- per annum per candidate. 16,650 Scholarships are sanctioned every year. 50% of the total Scholarships are reserved for girls.

5.3 The following statements showing the Scheme-wise details of BE, RE and actual

expenditure during the last three years and BE for 2017-18 was furnished to the Committee:–

A. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	12.00	5.00	1.69
2016-17	4.00	6.00	0.28
2017-18	7.00	-	-

B. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	12.00	10.00	3.22
2016-17	8.00	10.00	2.04
2017-18	10.00	-	-

5.4 The Committee observed that during the year 2016-17, against the physical target of 46,000 Scholarships under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, only 16,574 applications have been received through National e-Scholarship portal when the Committee desired to know the reasons for such a poor response from the Students with Disabilities under the Scheme, the Department in its written reply stated as under:–

“During the financial year 2016-17, due to various initiatives taken by this Department, more than 16,000 applications were received for Pre-matric

Scholarships against the previous year figure of 3,878. Hence, there is four hundred per cent increase in the number of applications received during 2016-17”.

5.5 The Committee were further informed that few State Governments have failed to send the verified list of candidates. When the Committee asked the reasons the Department stated as under:–

“There are three levels of verification for scholarship applications. First the application is to be verified by the school/institute and then by district and State Government officers. State Governments are time and again advised to verify the scholarship applications. State Governments/Nodal Officers have also been called for review meetings to follow up on pending issues.”

5.6 The Committee were informed that National e-Scholarship Portal is not functioning properly therefore the payment files in PFMS Portal were not visible till the last date of financial year. When the Committee asked about the specific steps taken by Department to resolve this problem and what is the present status of National e-Scholarship Portal, the Department in its written reply stated that “the portal is developed and maintained by the NIC and this Department has little role to play in proper functioning of the National Scholarship Portal except to point out the shortcomings. The Department further stated that the revamped version of the National Scholarship Portal has been developed by the NIC and at the initial stages there are problems in its operation. This Department is constantly in touch with NIC. Officers have been deputed to assist NIC in solving this problem”.

5.7 As regards completion of verification process of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes and disbursement of Scholarship amount by the end of financial year 2016-17, the Department submitted in its written replies as under:

“The DBT mission (Cabinet Secretariat) took the decision to develop the NSP through NIC and on-board the Scholarship Schemes of the Departments of Government of India. The last date for receipt of applications was extended upto 30th November 2016 on the demand of the State Governments. The number of applications received under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes were 16574 and 19104 respectively”.

5.8 The Committee find that 3878 and 16574 applications have been received in the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively against the target of 46,000 per year under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for PwDs. The Department informed that failure to send verified list of candidates by some State Governments and revamping of National-e-portal (developed and maintained by NIC which is at the initial stage and having some technical operational problem) are the attributed reasons for not getting sufficient applications under the scheme. The Committee feel that the Department of Empowerment of PwDs is solely responsible for implementation of the Scheme and therefore, desire that it must make concerted and coordinated efforts towards timely receipt of verified list of candidates from the State Governments and to get the National-e-portal operationalised at the earliest.

CHAPTER - VI

NATIONAL INSTITUTES (NIS)

6.1 National Institutes are autonomous bodies established for different types of disabilities. These Institutes are engaged in Human Resource Development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and research and development efforts. The seven National Institutes are as follows:—

- (i) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) NIEPVD, Dehradun
- (ii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) AYJNISHD, Mumbai
- (iii) National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan) NILD, Kolkata
- (iv) Swami Vivekanand National Institute of the Rehabilitation Training and Research (Divyangjan) SVNIRTAR, Cuttack.
- (v) Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) PDUNIPPD, Delhi
- (vi) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (Divyangjan) NIEPID, Secunderabad
- (vii) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan) NIEPMD, Chennai

6.2 The following Statement showing the Scheme-wise details of expenditure showing BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under the National Institutes for the last three years and BE 2017-18 was furnished to the Committee:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	105.00	87.00	78.97
2015-16	105.25	106.00	104.27
2016-17	113.00	132.87	86.52 (upto 31.01.2017)
2017-18	120.00		

6.3 The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD) Mumbai has the main objective to provide early diagnosis and intervention services for persons with hearing loss/speech language disorders for all age groups.

6.4 The Committee were informed about the various new initiatives taken by the Institute in the last two years. These are:-

- (i) AYJNISHD(D) is the Nodal Agency for implementing Cochlear Implant program in the country. Under the ADIP Scheme, 140 Hospitals have been empanelled and 545 surgeries have been conducted under ADIP and 72 under CSR. A dedicated website www.adipcochlearimplant.in which provides beneficiary list as well as online application for parents to apply for Cochlear Implant surgery for their children who are deaf and not able to get benefit from the hearing aid.

- (ii) AYJNISHD(D) has taken up new initiative of distributing Behind the Ear (BTE) Digital Programmable Hearing aid under the ADIP Scheme. The total number of BTE Digital Hearing aid distributed in 2015-16 is 15977.

6.5 The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment undertook a Study Visit to Mumbai in the month of November, 2016. The Committee visited Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) and held discussions with the officials of the Institute. During the discussion, the Committee found that the existing strength of Group A, B and C staff is less against the sanctioned strength under each group. The following statement showing the sanctioned and existing strength of the Institute was furnished to the Committee.

Post	Sanctioned Strength	Existing Strength
Group A	41	31
Group B	43	38
Group C	144	130

6.6 In the above context, the Committee desired to know the reasons for the vacant posts, the Department in its written reply submitted that, "at present, 10 posts in Group A, 5 posts in Group B and 14 posts in Group C are vacant in the Institute. Since the institute needs a full fledged upgradation, hence it has been felt necessary to first assess whether the existing infrastructure facilities of these Institutes are sufficient for their up gradation and how much additional manpower, etc. are required for making them Institutes of National importance. Therefore, 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).”

6.7 The Committee also found that matter of filling of many posts like Dy. Director, Lecturer, JAO, Vocational Counselor and Artists etc. is either sub judice or under revival. When asked about the reasons, the Department stated as under:–

“The existing strength of the Institute is less than the sanctioned strength due to superannuation/VRS by the incumbent against the post. Some of the posts could not be filled up due to remaining vacant for more than one. Further, some posts of the Institute, which are vacant for more than one year, needs to be revived.”

6.8 A statement showing the number of posts under Group A, B and C lying vacant in the Institute is at **Annexure-I.**

6.9 When the Committee asked how does the Institute ensure to conduct its various activities for promoting education, training and rehabilitation of the Hearing Impaired due to shortage of staff, the Department in its written reply submitted as under:–

“AYJNISHD(D) has ensured its progress in conducting its various activities for promoting education, training and rehabilitation of the hearing impaired by engaging staff on outsourced basis and Guest Lecture on part-time basis.” The list of Technical and Non-technical staff outsourced is given below:

List of official on outsourced basis.

Sl. No	Designation	No. of posts
1.	Vocational Counsellor	1
2.	Asst. Professor (Sp. & Hg.)	3
3.	Clerk	3
4.	Peon	7

6.10 The Committee were further informed that following efforts have been made by the Department/Institute to complete the recruitment process:–

- (a) Some posts in the Institute have been lying vacant for more than one year. Before filling up these posts first needs revival. Accordingly, the proposal for revival of vacant posts has been received in the Department and same is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.
- (b) The remaining posts which are vacant such as Reader/Psychology, Vocational Counsellor, Mass Media Officer, Teacher, etc. has been advertised by Institute. However, Staff Inspection Unit vide their letter dated 19/01/2017 has desired to hold the advertisement released by Institute as some of the posts may not be required in the Institute or some new posts are to be created /upgraded in place of these posts in the Institute.
- (c) The work study of AYJNISHD (D) has been completed by Staff Inspection Unit. The final SIU report in respect of the Institute is awaited from Staff Inspection Unit, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Based on the SIU report, the further necessary action for creation/abolition/up gradation/filling up the posts in the Institute will be taken up.
- (d) Additional demand of different posts (Group – A - 50, Group – B – 24 and Group - C – 50) has been made to SIU by the Institute.

6.11 The Committee are happy to note that the overall performance of all the National Institutes during 2014-15 and 2015-16 was satisfactory and in the current financial year also, National Institutes are poised to achieve their targets. In November, 2016, when the Committee visited Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for speech and Hearing Disabilities at Mumbai and held discussions with the officials of the Institute and Department, they observed that the Institute had been facing shortage of staff. The Committee were informed that proposal of revival of the vacant posts has been examined by the Department in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and report of Staff Inspection Unit (SIU), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance is awaited and the action for creation/abolition/upgradation/ filling up of posts in the Institute will be taken up shortly. The Committee desire that the process of filling up of vacant posts should be completed without any further delay so that day to-day activities and working of the Institute are not affected. The Committee also desire that the Department should pursue with the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure) to finalize the SIU Report in respect of all the National Institutes so that process of filling up of posts in these Institutes is not delayed further and their functioning also does not suffer.

CHAPTER - VII

AWARENESS GENERATION AND PUBLICITY SCHEME AND INFORMATION AND MASS EDUCATION CELL SCHEME

7.1 This scheme was launched in September, 2014. The Scheme has been revised in Financial Year 2015-16 to simplify and enhance its scope, objective, eligibility etc. to broad base the implementation for better and effective outcome.

The objective of the scheme is to give publicity to (i) the schemes/programmes of the Government through electronic, print, film media etc; (ii) educate the PwDs and civil society about legal rights of PwDs; and (iii) sensitize the employers on special needs of PwDs etc.

7.2 As regards the details of Budget allocation made under the above schemes and actual expenditure incurred for the last three years and BE (2017-18), the following statement was furnished to the Committee:

(Rs. in crore)

(a) Awareness Generation and Publicity			
Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	3.00	2.00	0.71
2015-16	5.00	4.00	2.62
2016-17	3.00	3.00	1.76 (upto 31.01.2017)
2017-18	3.00		
(b) Information and Mass Education Cell			
2014-15	20.00	10.00	7.37
2015-16	10.00	25.00	23.02
2016-17	70.00	40.00	18.46 (upto 31.01.2017)
2017-18	50.00		

7.3 When the Committee asked about the reasons for less utilization of funds allocated under the Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme and Information and Mass Education Cell scheme during the last three years, the Department stated the reasons as under:—

- (a) Since the Awareness Generation and Publicity scheme was approved during the end of second half of the financial year 2014-15 hence the full allocation of funds under the Scheme could not be utilized. Subsequently, in order to have more coverage of the Scheme, it was revised again in the financial year 2015-16. Since the complete proposals were not received the Scheme could not take off in right earnest and the funds allocated during 2015-16 could not be utilized.

During 2016-17 so far funds for Rs.2.07 crore has been released. Further, proposals amounting to Rs.58.50 lakh approximately are at various stages of consideration. The proposals for NE Region have been sought from National Institutes and NGOs for disbursement of funds under NE Region. Thus the entire allocation of funds under Scheme during 2016-17 is likely to be released by 31.3.2017.

- (b) As regards Mass Education Cell, upto the year 2014-15, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had a combined Cell for both the Departments. After setting up of the independent Department, the activities under the scheme continued to be operated on ad- hoc basis. Out of the budget allocation for the year 2015-16 of Rs.25.00 crore, an amount of Rs 23.02 crore was utilized.

Consequent upon the launch of Accessible India Campaign, the budget allocation for 2016-17 was substantially enhanced to Rs 70 crore, of which Rs 55.5 crore was earmarked for Accessible India Campaign (AIC) and the balance Rs 14.5 crore was to be utilized for publishing advertisements relating to other activities of the Department.

An amount of Rs 23.57 crore was issued to DAVP for audio visual publicity, outdoor publicity and other print media publicity relating to Accessible India Campaign. However, despite persuasion at the level of senior officers of the Department, DAVP could utilize an amount of Rs 13.03 crore so far. Apparently, Rs 10.50 crore is lying with DAVP for utilization. The Department has further issued release orders for Rs 5.50 crore (approx.). However, the amount is not being released through LOA in the absence of any confirmation from DAVP, to fully utilize the balance with them upto 31.3.2017. During the current financial year so far Rs 31.55 crore has been released and balance amount of Rs.9.50 Lakh out of RE of Rs 40 crore, is likely to be utilized fully by 31.3.2017.

7.4 When the Committee desired to know the steps taken by the Department for receiving sufficient number of proposals with complete supporting documents from the State Governments under the schemes, the Department stated as under:—

“In relation to Awareness Generation Programme, based on the experience so far gathered for implementing the Scheme, it is being subjected to yet another review to make it more focused by means of simplifying the procedure further. Accordingly, the State Governments would also be requested to expedite submission of completed proposals so that the entire allocation of funds during 2017-18 could be utilized well in time.”

7.5 The Committee note with concern that there is inconsistency in funds allocation at RE stage under the Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme and Mass Education Cell Scheme for the last three years. Even the allocated amount could not be spent fully under both the schemes. The Committee were informed that since the scheme of Awareness Generation and Publicity was approved during the end of second half of the Financial Year 2014-15, the full allocation of funds under the scheme could not be utilized. The Committee note that in order to have more coverage of the scheme, it was revised again in 2015-16. The Committee find that even after that, the scheme could not take off in right earnest and is likely to be reviewed further to make it more focused by way of simplification of procedure. The Committee are of the considered view that such frequent revision of the scheme reflects poorly on the efficiency of the Department and its lack of due diligence. As a result, the scheme was probably neither practicable nor viable initially. The Committee would, therefore, like to advise the Department that before undertaking another revision of the scheme, the Department must discuss each and every aspect of the Scheme with all the stakeholders and implementing agencies including State/UT Governments so as to make it practical and workable too.

7.6 The Committee are constrained to note that the Department has released Rs. 23.57 crore to DAVP for audio visual publicity of the Accessible India Campaign Scheme but the DAVP could utilize an amount of Rs. 13.03 crore only and Rs. 10.50 crore (approx.) could not be utilized by them and the Department has again released Rs. 5.50 crore (approx.) during 2016-17. The Committee feel

that the Accessible India Campaign is the most important scheme towards the universal accessibility of PwDs and, therefore, proper and wide publicity should be given to the scheme so that more and more PwDs are made aware of the scheme so as to avail its myriad benefits . The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department should again pursue the matter with DAVP and give them definite guidelines to give mass publicity through print and electronic media so that entire amount given to them for the publicity of the scheme is fully utilized.

NEW DELHI

16 March, 2017

25 Phalgun, 1938 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

ANNEXURE-I*vide para 6.8 of the Report*

Statement showing the number of posts lying vacant under Group A,B and C in the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD).

Group – A

Sl.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Reason
1.	Dy. Director (Tech.)	1	Subjudice after the superannuation of official on 31.5.2013
2.	Dy.Director (Admn.)	1	Post not revived
3.	Executive Engineer	1	Operated on contract whenever services required.(under revival)
4.	Lecturer (MDD)	1	Post remained vacant after superannuation of official w.e.f. 30/09/2011
5.	Lecturer (Education)	1	Post remained vacant after superannuation of official w.e.f. 30/06/2012
6.	Lecturer (Speech and Hearing)	5	One subjudice and others Under revival – vacant since 29/8/2008, 1/6/2012, 3/10/2012, 1/6/2013 and 27/10/2014

Group - B

Group - B			
1.	J.A.O.	1	Fell vacant due to VRS opted on 26/11/2014
2.	P.A. to Director	1	Subjudice, case has been disposed off on 24/10/2016.

3.	Teacher Supervisor	2	Official obtained VRS in January 2016 (promotional post)
4.	Vocational Counsellor	1	Vacant due to demise of the official in the month of December 2015. (Post advertised).
Group - C			
1.	Artist	1	Vacant since 25/6/2012 – under revival
2.	Nursery Assistant	1	Vacant since 01/06/2012 – under revival
3.	UDC	1	Vacant since 1/12/2012 – under revival
4.	Cataloguer	1	Vacant since 1/5/2012 - under revival
5.	LDC	2	1. Vacant since inception of TCTD i.e. since 1986 – under revival 2. Vacant since 30/05/2014 – under revival
6.	Driver	2	Subjudice
7.	Peon	6	Outsourced as per 66 th EC decision held on 12/9/2003.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2016-17) HELD ON MONDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 2017

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room '53', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Jhina Hikaka
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Kariya Munda
7. Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik
8. Dr. Udit Raj
9. Smt. Satabdi Roy
10. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
11. Smt. Mamata Thakur

RAJYA SABHA

12. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
13. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
15. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
16. Smt. Chhaya Verma
17. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

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

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES)**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Shri N.S. Kang	Secretary
2.	Ms. N. Sumati	Chief Controller of Accounts
3.	Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi	Joint Secretary
4.	Ms. Dolly Chakraborty	Joint Secretary
5.	Smt. T.C.A. Kalyani	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
6.	Shri Mukesh Jain	JS & CEO, National Trust
7.	Shri Tushar Ranjan Mohanty	Deputy Director General
8.	Shri D.R. Sarin	CMD, ALIMCO
9.	Shri P.C. Das	CMD, NHFDC
10.	Shri S.K. Srivastava	Member Secretary, RCI

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to their Department. Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee on the subject about overall performance of the Department, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with the help of a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Department are as follows:-

- (i) Under-utilization of funds under major schemes of the Department during 2016-17.
- (ii) New Strategy evolved or present methodology revised by the Department to avoid under-utilization of funds in 2017-18.
- (iii) Need to increase funds under Assistance of Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) to achieve targets set for the year 2017-18.
- (iv) Grants-in-Aid (GIA) released to various NGOs/VOs by the Department under ADIP Scheme.
- (v) Non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and complete proposals from the State Governments, specifically under SIPDA Scheme.
- (vi) Disable-friendly State buildings under Accessible India Campaign.
- (vii) Revision of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.
- (viii) Skill Development Training Programme for PwDs under National Action Plan (NAP).
- (ix) Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes and functioning of National e-portal (developed and maintained by NIC).

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson then directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the

unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat by 2nd March, 2017 for early finalization of the Report.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner on various issues raised by the Members.

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

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 16th MARCH, 2017

The Committee met from 1025 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 Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Jhina Hikaka
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh

RAJYA SABHA

9. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
10. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
11. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
12. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
13. Smt. Chhaya Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
4. 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) *** *** *** *** ***
- (ii) Thirty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).
- (iii) *** *** *** *** ***
- (iv) *** *** *** *** ***

4. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modification. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to the Report.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No	Para	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3
1	2.13	<p>The Committee note that one of the disquieting aspects that has consistently engaged their attention is the uneven pattern of expenditure by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, despite the clear cut guidelines/instructions of the Ministry of Finance not to exceed the ceiling of 33 per cent expenditure in the last quarter and 15 per cent in the month of March every financial year. The Committee observe that this is mainly due to non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and complete proposals from the State Governments/UTs, particularly from North East States which has obstructed the pace of expenditure almost under each and every scheme of the Department.</p> <p>In view of the fact that uneven and disjointed pattern of expenditure hampers the planned implementation of the Schemes envisaged, besides violating the fiscal discipline imposed by the Finance Ministry, the Committee impress upon the Department of Empowerment of PwDs to sensitize the State Governments regarding the welfare schemes of PwDs and for submitting Utilization Certificates in time. For this purpose, the Committee exhort the Department to hold frequent visits/meetings with the higher officers of the State Governments including their Chief Ministers and at the time of such visits, local Members of Parliament and MLAs may also be invited which would definitely benefit the Department. Such steps, no doubt, would certainly yield positive result and put the Department on a strong footing and its budgetary allocation would not be reduced or affected sizeably by the Ministry of Finance as has been done for the year 2017-18.</p>
2	2.14	<p>The Committee note with concern that out of allocated amount of Rs.783.56 crore for the year 2016-17, the Department has utilized only Rs.580.05 crore as on 22.02.2017. The Department assured that it would be able to utilize Rs. 763.06 crore by the end of the financial year 2016-17. However there would still be likely shortfall of Rs. 20 crore (approx.) in expenditure due to non-receipt of proposals from North East States. The Committee also note that the Department sought Rs.1578.05 crore from the Ministry of Finance for 2017-18 but got only Rs.855.00 crore, which is only 9 per cent increase over</p>

		<p>the BE of 2016-17. The Committee observe that for activities like establishment/construction of Centre for Disability Sports, National Institute of Universal Design, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation and to meet the increasing demand of State Governments under Accessible India Campaign, more funds will be required by the Department. The Committee desire that the Department should convince the Ministry of Finance to enhance the allocation at the RE stage so that the implementation of all the important projects/schemes are not adversely impacted due to paucity of funds.</p>
3.	3.11	<p>The Committee acknowledge the fact that Assistance of Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) is one of the most important schemes for the upliftment of PwDs by providing assistive devices and corrective surgeries. The Committee, however, find that number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme has been decreasing year after year. The Department has informed the Committee that due to increase in cost ceiling of aids/ appliances from Rs.6000 to Rs.10000, inclusion of cochlear implant @ Rs.6.00 lakh per beneficiary and inclusion of other high-end devices, the overall cost has increased, leading to lesser number of beneficiaries. The Department also informed that demand for holding ADIP Distribution Camps in different parts of the country is also increasing. The Committee are of the considered view that PwDs being an integral part of our society, need extra attention and efforts by the Government so that they can demolish the social and physical barriers put up in their path of upward social mobility. The Committee feel that paucity of funds should not come in their way. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should assess their needs of funds well in advance and place them before the Ministry of Finance more convincingly and sensitize them also so that funds at the RE stage may be increased <i>vis-à-vis</i> demand for achieving targets.</p>
4.	3.12	<p>The Committee note that on the one hand in States like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the number of beneficiaries are constantly increasing under ADIP scheme while on the other hand, in States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Jharkhand the figures of beneficiaries are waning. The Committee desire that in the States where number of</p>

		beneficiaries are decreasing continuously, the implementing agencies should be encouraged to associate with the reputed NGOs/VOs to carry forward their activities and expand the coverage of the scheme so as to cover more and more PwDs in all parts of the country. The Committee may also be apprised of the increase in number of beneficiaries in these States by undertaking these steps by the Department.
5.	4.12	The Committee note that during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the budget allocation under Schemes Arising out of Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA) was curtailed at RE stage and even this allocation could not be utilized fully. The reasons advanced by the Department for less utilization of funds are non-receipt of utilization certificates and incomplete proposals from States/UTs. The Committee in their earlier Reports, have time and again impressed upon the Department to take effective measures to overcome these recurrent impediments, which adversely impact the utilization of funds. The Committee are, therefore, of the firm view that it is high time the Department ironed out the deficiencies/anomalies intensified its efforts and work out concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilization of the funds in the coming years.
6.	4.13	The Committee find that inspite of low utilization of funds in previous years under SIPDA scheme, the Department has sought higher BE of Rs. 207.00 crore for 2017-18 mainly in the name of Accessible India Campaign which is a flagship programme of the Government with barrier-free access as its integral component. The Committee are dismayed to note that buildings, roads, dividers, pavements, public convenience, bus stops, etc. are still being constructed throughout the country on the same old pattern without any provisions of barrier-free access and movement for PwDs. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Department to make sure that new infrastructure, public convenience, etc. must have the provisions of barrier-free access at the construction stage itself so that there is no need of spending public money towards converting them into barrier free in future. The Committee also recommend that detailed guidelines be formulated in this regard and circulated to all concerned Department/Agencies dealing with construction/public works including States/UTs.
7.	4.14	The Committee note with satisfaction that all the State/UT Governments have been implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) for skill training of persons with disabilities for imparting skill training to PwDs. The Committee find that though the

		<p>Department has furnished the information regarding the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme but did not provide the information regarding number of persons who got employment after getting training citing the reason that the same would be collected from the various implementing agencies of the Scheme. The Committee are of the considered view that the success or failure of the Scheme would solely depend upon the number of persons who got employment after completing their training. It would also help the Department to modify the Scheme as per the need and requirement of the industrial sector. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to collect the requisite information, State/UT-wise and furnish to the Committee within three months after presentation of this Report.</p>
8.	5.8	<p>The Committee find that 3878 and 16574 applications have been received in the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively against the target of 46,000 per year under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for PwDs. The Department informed that failure to send verified list of candidates by some State Governments and revamping of National-e-portal (developed and maintained by NIC which is at the initial stage and having some technical operational problem) are the attributed reasons for not getting sufficient applications under the scheme. The Committee feel that the Department of Empowerment of PwDs is solely responsible for implementation of the Scheme and therefore, desire that it must make concerted and coordinated efforts towards timely receipt of verified list of candidates from the State Governments and to get the National-e-portal operationalised at the earliest.</p>
9.	6.11	<p>The Committee are happy to note that the overall performance of all the National Institutes during 2014-15 and 2015-16 was satisfactory and in the current financial year also, National Institutes are poised to achieve their targets. In November, 2016, when the Committee visited Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for speech and Hearing Disabilities at Mumbai and held discussions with the officials of the Institute and Department, they observed that the Institute had been facing shortage of staff. The Committee were informed that proposal of revival of the vacant posts has been examined by the Department in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and report of Staff Inspection Unit (SIU), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance is awaited and the action for creation/abolition/upgradation/ filling up of posts in the Institute will be taken up shortly. The Committee desire that the process of filling up of vacant posts should be completed without any</p>

		<p>further delay so that day to-day activities and working of the Institute are not affected. The Committee also desire that the Department should pursue with the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure) to finalize the SIU Report in respect of all the National Institutes so that process of filling up of posts in these Institutes is not delayed further and their functioning also does not suffer.</p>
10.	7.5	<p>The Committee note with concern that there is inconsistency in funds allocation at RE stage under the Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme and Mass Education Cell Scheme for the last three years. Even the allocated amount could not be spent fully under both the schemes. The Committee were informed that since the scheme of Awareness Generation and Publicity was approved during the end of second half of the Financial Year 2014-15, the full allocation of funds under the scheme could not be utilized. The Committee note that in order to have more coverage of the scheme, it was revised again in 2015-16. The Committee find that even after that, the scheme could not take off in right earnest and is likely to be reviewed further to make it more focused by way of simplification of procedure. The Committee are of the considered view that such frequent revision of the scheme reflects poorly on the efficiency of the Department and its lack of due diligence. As a result, the scheme was probably neither practicable nor viable initially. The Committee would, therefore, like to advise the Department that before undertaking another revision of the scheme, the Department must discuss each and every aspect of the Scheme with all the stakeholders and implementing agencies including State/UT Governments so as to make it practical and workable too.</p>
11.	7.6	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that the Department has released Rs. 23.57 crore to DAVP for audio visual publicity of the Accessible India Campaign Scheme but the DAVP could utilize an amount of Rs. 13.03 crore only and Rs. 10.50 crore (approx.) could not be utilized by them and the Department has again released Rs. 5.50 crore (approx.) during 2016-17. The Committee feel that the Accessible India Campaign is the most important scheme towards the universal accessibility of PwDs and, therefore, proper and wide publicity should be given to the scheme so that more and more PwDs are made aware of the scheme so as to avail its myriad benefits. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department should again pursue the matter with DAVP and give them definite guidelines to give mass publicity through print and electronic media so that entire</p>

		amount given to them for the publicity of the scheme is fully utilized.
--	--	---