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(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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

EIGHTH REPORT

**March, 2015/Phalguna, 1936 (Saka)**

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

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Review of the functioning of National Institutes working in the field of Disability'.

Presented to Lok Sabha on 13.3.2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 13.3.2015



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2015/Phalguna, 1936 (Saka)

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

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

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

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

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

* Nominated w.e.f. 22.12.2014

** Nominated w.e.f. 29.1.2015

Nominated w.e.f. 25.3.2015

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2014-15) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Eighth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of the functioning of National Institutes working in the field of Disability".

2. The Forty-fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21st February, 2014. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 1st September, 2014. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 10th March, 2015.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

10 March, 2015

19 Phalguna, 1936 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of the functioning of National Institutes working in the field of Disability".

1.2 The Forty-Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.02.2014. It contained 23 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

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

Paragraph Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23.

(Total 17 - Chapter II)

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

-Nil-
(Chapter III)

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

Paragraph Nos. 6, 11, 15 and 21.

(Total 4 - Chapter IV)

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

Paragraph Nos. 8 and 13.

(Total 2 - Chapter V)

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

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

A. Educational Scholarships for persons with different abilities

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 6)

1.5 The Committee noted that the Department of Disability Affairs is implementing the National Scholarship Schemes for students with disabilities under National Fund for Empowerment of PwDs. Under the National Scholarship Scheme, financial assistance is provided to students with disabilities to enable them to pursue professional or technical courses from recognized institutes and get employed/self-employed. The number of scholarships have been increased to 1500 per year from the year 2013-14. The Committee noted that new schemes of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, National Overseas Scholarship and Top Class Education Scheme for PwDs are under the consideration of the Government. The Committee recommended that in view of vital importance of these schemes in educational empowerment of PwDs, they be approved and introduced in this academic year itself. Further, special incentives be given to the visually challenged scholars pursuing higher education, particularly free board and lodging in the University/educational institutions.

1.6 The Ministry stated in their Action Taken Reply :-

“The new Schemes of Pre-Matric and Post - Matric scholarship for students with disabilities, National Overseas Scholarship and Scholarship for Top Class Education are actively under consideration in the Department of Disability Affairs:-

- i) Pre-Matric and Post - Matric scholarship for students with disabilities:- These two schemes have been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (DA) on 22nd July, 2014. Now, these schemes are being processed for seeking approval of the competent authorities.
- ii) National Overseas Scholarship:-The scheme has been formulated and the Note for the Standing Finance Committee has been circulated to the various Ministries/Department concerned to obtain their comments/views. Views of the Ministry of External Affairs are awaited. Thereafter, the proposed scheme will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for approval.
- iii) Scholarship for Top Class Education:- The proposed scheme is being modified in consultation with the Integrated Finance Division of the Ministry.

Besides above, National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) is also implementing following two National Scholarship Schemes of Students with Disabilities on behalf of Department of Disability Affairs:

- (i) Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities from funds of the Ministry called the National Fund for People with Disabilities.
- (ii) Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities founded out of Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Trust Fund):- Under this Scheme, 2000 scholarships will be awarded to eligible students with disabilities for degree and post graduate level professional and technical courses from recognized institutions in India.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities is a fellowship scheme for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. courses in any University recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).

Central Sector Scheme of support for establishment/modernization/capacity augmentation of Braille Presses. The Central Government has proposed to establish fifteen new Braille Presses in the States and one Braille Printing Unit in UT and to modernize existing ten Braille Presses and augment one Braille Press during 2014-15.”

1.7 The Committee had earlier recommended that important education schemes for the persons with different abilities might be approved and introduced in the academic year itself. The Committee are unhappy to note that the schemes for Pre-matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for Students with disabilities are still under process, the Top Class Education Schemes is still being modified with the Integrated Finance Division of the Ministry and the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is yet to take off as it is yet to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for approval. The Committee, while reiterating their recommendation, impress upon the Ministry to implement these schemes expeditiously which are so vital for empowerment of persons with different abilities.

B. Dearth of trained manpower in the disability sector

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 8)

1.8 The Committee are concerned to note that as per the information given by the Rehabilitation Council of India, there is a tremendous shortfall of professionals working in the disability sector. One of the primary reasons given for this shortfall is the poor compensation and pay packages given to professionals working in the field of disability. As dedicated and motivated personnel are essential to carry forward the Government programmes in this field, and keeping in view the landmark judgment of the Delhi High Court in September 2009 which directed the government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to ensure equal terms and conditions of service for special teachers with teachers with diplomas and degrees in General Education, the Committee recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs pursue with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the State Governments to give remunerative pay packages to the people working in the disability sector, with good promotional avenues at par with the professionals working in normal schools and universities so that more young people are encouraged to take up this noble profession.

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

“Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy has launched the Scheme for Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) from the year 2009-10.

With regard to attractive remunerative pay packages and good promotional avenue to the professionals/personal working in the disability sector and at par with the professionals working in schools and institutes, it is submitted that the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments for ensuring good conditions of service and better career prospects for special teachers.”

1.10 The Committee had recommended that the Department pursue with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the State Governments to give remunerative pay packages to the people working in the disability sector, with good promotional avenues at par with the professional working in normal schools and universities so that more young people are encouraged to join the profession. It has been informed that the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a Scheme for Inclusive Education for Disabled at secondary stage from the year 2009-10. As regards remunerative pay packages and promotional avenues, the Government has stated that the matter would be taken up with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments. The Committee are unhappy at callous and dilatory approach of the Ministry and reiterate that the Government must take up the matter in right earnest with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments without further delay so that shortfall of professionals in the education field can be abridged and young people get motivated to join this profession.

C. Need for more allocation under Non-Plan Head of the Budget

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 11)

1.11 The Committee while going through the financial statement of the National Institutes for the last three years observes that the National Institutes are able to spend almost their entire Plan and Non-Plan Budget. However, as pointed out by the Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, during evidence, the Non-Plan Budget was a problem area for all the National Institutes since, Ministry of Finance had refused to increase the funds in this Head and this had created problems in the functioning of the National Institutes. The Committee felt that due to inadequate non-plan allocation, it was increasingly becoming difficult for the National Institutes to pay for salaries and allowances and meet other non-plan expenditure. The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Finance revise the ceiling on non-plan expenditure and make available more funds so that the National Institutes do not face any problem in their day to day administration and that they able to cater to the needs of the vulnerable target groups.

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

“Budget Estimate (BE) under Non-Plan for the year 2013-14 was Rs.4650.00 lakh. During the current financial year 2014-15, BE of Rs.5016.00 lakh has been allocated under Non-Plan head for National Institutes which is not sufficient to meet the expenditure under Non-Plan head (GIA Salary). The matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure) for additional requirement of funds under Non-Plan (GIA salary) head at RE stage during 2014-15. Based on the requirement of the National Institutes, the additional requirement of funds under Non-Plan will be of Rs.3000.00 lakh (GIA Salary)”.

1.13 The Committee were unhappy at the fact that the non-plan Budget was a problem area for the National Institutes and since there was no increase in the funds, it was becoming difficult for the National Institutes to pay for salaries and allowances and meet other non-plan expenditure. The Committee have been informed that based on the requirement projected by National Institutes, there would be an additional requirement of funds of about Rs. 30 crore. The Committee desire that the matter may be vigorously pursued with the Ministry of Finance so that the shortfall of funds in the non-plan head of the National Institutes may be met with required allocation in the next financial year.

D. Sanction of posts and capital grants for the National Institutes for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 15)

1.14 The Committee noted that the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun is a premier institute working in the field of visual disability. The Institute is engaged in human resource development and has, Statedly, produced 71% of trained blind teachers for the country. A placement unit is also being run by the Institute and it enjoys the status of a Special Employment Exchange. On enquired by the Committee, the representative of the NIVH deposed that the Institute was facing severe crunch of manpower and capital resource. As there were only 10 Group 'A' sanctioned posts, the Institute was being run with help of retired officers. The Committee were also constrained to note that in the Institute campus, many buildings are in dilapidated condition and some are more than 100 years old. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department of Disability Affairs pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance for sanction of more posts and capital funds for the NIVH Institute urgently and the Committee be apprised within six months.

1.15 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :

"The NIVH, Dehradun has prepared a Vision Document with Plan of Action for next three years, which inter-alia seeks to provide Rs. 50.00 Crores for construction of new buildings at the Institute's Headquarters and Regional Centres. The proposal has been approved by the Institute's Executive Council in its 88th meeting held on 4.7.2014. Secretary, DA is holding a special session of the General Council of NIVH to finalize the Vision Document along with Plan of Action for next three years. After the document is finalized, the proposal will be examined and taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

Department of Disability Affairs has already submitted the material to Ministry of Finance for work study by SIU. Based on the SIU Report for proposal for additional post of Group "A" will be taken with the Ministry of Finance."

1.16 The Committee were informed that the National Institute of Visually Handicapped was facing severe crunch of manpower and capital resources and the sanctioned Group A posts were only 10 and the Institute was being run by retired officers. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the matter be pursued with the Ministry of Finance for sanction of capital funds and Group 'A' posts. The Committee have been informed that a vision document with plan of action for next three years has been prepared. The proposal is yet to be taken up with the Ministry of Finance. The work study of Staff Investigation Unit for increasing the Group 'A' posts would also be taken up with Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire the Ministry to take up both the matters with the Ministry of Finance on priority basis so as to help start the renovation work in the National Institute as also equip it with the optimal manpower for its smooth and efficient functioning.

E. National Institutes to be declared as National Institutes of Technology

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para No. 21)

1.17 The Committee noted that the Baswan Committee has found that the National Institutes are best suited to the IIT/NIT model and have recommended a governance model, general as well as academic in line with IIT/IIM under a Central Act. From their examination of the statistics on record and the study visits to some of the Institutes, the Committee concurred with the recommendations of the Baswan Committee and recommended that a Central Act should be passed to declare the National Institutes as NITs and Institutes of National Importance.

1.18 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated :

“The recommendations/observation of the Baswan Committee to make the National Institutes as NIITs and Institutes of National importance are already under active consideration of the Department.”

1.19 The Committee noted that the Baswan Committee had recommended that the National Institutes are best suited to the Indian Institute of Technology/National Institute of Technology (IIT/NIT) Model and have recommended a governance model, general as well as academic in line with IIT/IIM under a Central Act. The Committee concurred with the view of the Baswan Committee and desired that the Government bring in a Central legislation to declare the National Institutes as NITs and Institutes of national importance. The Committee have been informed that the matter is under active consideration of the Department. The Committee once again reiterate that the matter may be taken up in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for bringing all the National Institutes under a Central Act so as to declare them as Institutes of National Importance.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 1)

2.1 The Committee note that Disability is a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional issue and needs to be dealt with in a multi-pronged strategy involving the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) as also other Government Departments like Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Rural Development, etc., State/UT Governments apart from the community and family, who play an important part in mitigating the effects of disability and help in normal development of the persons with different abilities. Article 41 of the Constitution provides that the State make effective provisions for securing the right to work, education and public assistance for persons with different abilities. The Committee note that India was among the first countries to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Convention has since been ratified by the Parliament also. The Committee also note that the Government have introduced a new Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2014 Bill in Rajya Sabha on 7th February, 2014 to replace the existing Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. Statedly, the Bill is in harmony with UNCRPD and has been drafted after extensive consultations with the stakeholders. The Committee hope that the aforesaid Bill if enacted, after its due examination in Parliament, would go a long way to protect the rights as also empower the persons with different abilities.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2014 and the same has been referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination and Report. The report of the Committee is still awaited. Necessary action will be taken once the report is received in the Department.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2)

2.3 The Committee were apprised that a major role is to be played by the respective State Governments in relation to education, employment, rehabilitation, social security and protection of rights of persons with disabilities. As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, disability appears in the State list (entry 9). In the XIth Schedule and XIIth Schedule, which pertains to the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats and the Municipalities respectively, implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice include the welfare and safeguarding of the interests of persons with disabilities. The Committee were apprised that some States had already drawn up a plan on Rehabilitation of Disabled People, whereas other States were yet to do so. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs exhort the State Governments which have not drawn plan for PwDs to draw up a comprehensive action plan so that Government policies and programmes for the welfare of persons with different abilities reach the remote and rural areas of the country and they be informed of the status thereof, state-wise in due course.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Government of India has formulated National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2006 which provides policy direction for ensuring equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in the society. Welfare of Persons with Disabilities being subject matter of the State by virtue entry 9 of the State List of Schedule of VII Constitution of India. The State are expected to formulate policies of thereon so as to reflect their commitment and outline their action plan for welfare and empowerment of PwDs in line with the provisions of UNCRPD. In this regard, Central Government has requested the State Govts. to formulate and adopt policies.

Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) has also requested on 23rd June, 2014 the Chief Ministries of the States to draw their State's Disability Policy. As per available information, 7 States namely Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu have their State Policy. The formulation of policies in the States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh is under process.

The issue was further discussed in the State Minister's Conference held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) on 23.08.2014 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. During the meeting it emerged that most of the State have initiated the process of formulating their State Policy for PwDs. All the States agreed to finalize their State Policy for PwDs at the earliest.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

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

2.5 As per the population census 2011, the population of persons with disabilities in the country has been estimated at 2.68 cr. which is 2.22% of the population of the country. 69% of the population lives in the rural areas and 31% in the urban areas. As per the Rehabilitation Council of India, the percentage of persons with disabilities in the USA is 12%, in UK 18%, in Germany 9%, 5% in Sri Lanka, 3% in Pakistan. Taking a note of the fact that the disability figures in India are low as per the data of the Registrar General of India, the Committee were informed by the representative of the Department of Disability Affairs that there was apprehension of undercounting in the 2011 census. The Committee also note that 69% of the population of PwDs reside in the rural areas and due to lack of education and social stigma attached to disability, they are not taking benefit of the Government policies and programmes for the welfare of PwDs. There is, therefore, a need for greater sensitization and awareness generation for the implementation of schemes for the welfare of PwDs for which Panchayats/local bodies have a larger role to play. Taking serious note of the prevailing social milieu and the tendency not to report or under report to the Census about the family member affected by disability, impact on the policies and programmes of the Government and the Budget allocated for the disability sector, the Committee recommend that State-wise figures of PwDs be maintained and sustained efforts be made to build public awareness so that the census reflects the correct figures of persons with different abilities. Further, the Government should launch special programmes for sensitizing the Panchayats/local bodies so that people residing in rural areas can avail the benefits of the schemes for the PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.6 Noting the concerns for sensitizing the Panchayats/local bodies, the Department has undertaken the following steps:-

- (i) Formulation of Universal ID for Persons with Disabilities.
- (ii) Awareness Generation Scheme.
- (iii) Badhte Kadam.
- (iv) Publication/Conferences/Events.

Formulation of Universal ID for Persons with Disabilities

The disability certificate presently issued by State is not valid in some other States and not recognized by all organizations for eg. the Railways, etc.

In this regard it is submitted, that in pursuance to the meeting of State Secretaries held on 28.04.2014, a Committee under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (DA) and comprising of Principal Secretary/Secretary of UP, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar and Tamil Nadu and representatives of NIC and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was constituted to suggest a mechanism for identification and certification of persons with disabilities. The first meeting of the Committee was on 05.06.2014 and it was of the view that there is need to develop a Smart Card based system so as to have an universal system for identification and certification of PwDs across the country. This would be in turn pave the way for recognition of PwDs across the country based on certification by any State/UT. After detail discussion following "in-principle" agreement was arrived at by all the members:

- (i) In view of the different parameters adopted in the two Census operations and the various conclusions arrived at by the State Govt. in the surveys, it would be difficult to determined any bench mark for 100% coverage viz-a-viz Census 2011, broadly 70% coverage should

be expected for achieving this objective as PwD Act defines a PwD in terms of 40% disability only. There is also variation in survey data of States when compared with census data.

- (ii) There is therefore, need to conduct a primary survey for identification of PwDs across the country. The survey should cover every Ward and Panchayat.
- (iii) NIC/Department of Electronics (National E-governance Division) would formulate a details project report (DPR) for the survey. The State surveys would be web-enabled.
- (iv) Agencies would be selected by the State for survey, as per their requirement (based on specified norms) and also for developing Smart Cards.
- (v) Electronic devices need to be used at the primary level of data collection.
- (vi) The DPR may be finalized by one month by Department of Electronics and Information Technology for consideration under their E-Gov. plan in consultation with NICs and their empanelled consultant.
- (vii) Department of Disability Affairs would write to the States/UTs requesting for a plan of their State/UT to conducting the survey & them to carry out the entire process of issue of Disability Certificates/Smart Cards. The entire project, since its falls within the purview of the Scheme of Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, shall be funded under the SIPDA Scheme. States and other agencies shall be required to partner the Scheme also.
- (viii) The Ministry would develop a format generating primary data at the central level and send it to the States for comments and subsequently

finalise the same so as to have uniformity in data collection. The format will be available in English/Hindi/regional languages.

- (ix) It was decided to co-opt representatives from DGHS, Ministry of Railway, Departments of Posts & Telegraph, and Department of Financial Services as members of the Committee.
- (x) The Committee shall meet again as soon as the formulation of the DPR is finalized.

Awareness Generation Scheme.

The Central Government has started the Scheme for Awareness Generation and Publicity with the following objective:-

- (i) To give wide publicity through electronic, print and multimedia to the schemes, programmes, legal mandate and rights of PwDs.
- (ii) To create enabling environment for social inclusion for PwDs.
- (iii) To sensitize employers and other groups on special needs of specially abled persons.
- (iv) To develop content for rehabilitation of different types of disabilities.
- (v) To provide effective grievances redressal.
- (vi) To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of legal provisions and welfare schemes.

Badhte Kadam

Badhte Kadam is a Pan India discoverability Awareness Raising Campaign which is held every year since 2009 all over India by National Trust. The aim of Badhte Kadam is to raise awareness so as to bring about change in the attitudes of public towards disability in the society. The programme is being organized in coordination with State Nodal Agency Centres (SNACs) located in different States and Registered Organizations across the country. During the programme, several

methods of mass awareness campaign, including awareness rally, melas ,games, exhibitions, nukkad-nataks, dance competitions, painting competitions etc were conducted in which persons with disabilities, their family members and elected representatives etc. participated. The programmes also attracted wide media coverage.

Badhte Kadam 2013 marks the fifth year of Badhte Kadam. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organized a composite camp in the War Heroes Memorial Stadium, Ambala Cantt on 18th November 2013 with participation by apex organizations of the Ministry e.g. National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Backward Class Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC), National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation (NSCFDC), National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC), Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) and National Trust.

National Trust's signature song was also launched in Hindi and Kannad In order to publicize its programmes & schemes to a larger audience. A new method of publicity has also been used through Road Shows, in which two vehicles loaded with LED screens, along-with posters, banners, leaflets, audios, video messages from Hon'ble Minister of MSJ&E, Secretary of Deptt. of Disability Affairs, JS(DD), Chairperson of National Trust, JS&CEO of National Trust, Board member of NT were used.

Publication/Conferences/Events

The following Publications/Conferences/Events were organized to give wide publicity for the schemes and programmes for PwDs:

- (i) A pamphlet regarding the activities of the Department was widely circulated to Hon'ble Ministers and all senior officers of the Government of India.
- (ii) 'SPANDAN' Special Performance Awards to recognize best practices and celebrate role models in the sector of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – were organized on 5th September, 2012 and 2013 by the National Trust for Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (National Trust)
- (iii) 'Antarchaksu' – a simulation workshop aimed at giving a preview for sighted persons into the world of the visually challenged and other persons with disabilities – was organized in collaboration with Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged , Mumbai at J.N.U. New Delhi from 4th to 6th October, 2012
- (iv) The 1st Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) World Congress was held in Agra from 26th to 28th November, 2013 in which 1200 delegates from 85 countries participated and shared their experiences, current trends and developing ways for future achievements in the field of CBR.
- (v) Tableaux in the Republic Day Parade of 2013 – The new Department put up its tableaux in the Republic Day Parade of 26th January, 2013 showcasing that accessibility and inclusion is the key to the empowerment of persons with disabilities. In this tableaux people with disabilities also performed.
- (vi) National Awards Function at Vigyan Bhawan – On 6th February, 2013 and 3rd December, 2013. The National Awards functions were organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble President of India conferred National

Awards to disabled achievers and outstanding rehabilitation workers and professionals.

- (vii) National Festival 'Samarth 2014' – Celebrating Diversity' : The Department organized a National Festival 'Samarth 2014 – Celebrating Diversity' on 15th -16th January, 2014 at New Delhi to showcase the abilities of the persons with disabilities. The events during the Festival comprised of (i) National Programmes of Music & Dance; (ii) Festival of films on disability themes; (3) 5 exhibitions "Colours of Ability" of visual arts; products made by disabled people; disabled artisans/craftsmen; in action abiliympics; aids and assistive devices.
- (viii) National Conferences on technical themes organized: The Department since its inception in May, 2012 has organized 7 National Conferences on technical themes namely (i) National Conference on Intellectual Disability (ii) National Seminar on Holistic Rehabilitation Aspect of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (iii) National Consultation for Rehabilitation of People affected by Leprosy (iv) Seminar on Rehabilitation in Surgical Management of Deformity in empowerment of Persons with Hearing Impairment (vi) National Conference on Rehabilitation of Persons with Spinal Cord Injury and (vii) National Conference on Harnessing Technology for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Impairment.
- (ix) Telecast of Republic Day Parade 2014 in Sign Language: The Department in coordination with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting arranged Sign Language Interpretation of live telecast of Republic Day Parades 2014 on 3 all India channels of Doordarshan for persons with hearing impairment.

- (x) Wheelchairs for General Election – 2014: Central Government provided wheelchairs in polling booths, in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during General Election 2014.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 4)

2.7 The Committee note that the statutory bodies, like the RCI, the National Trust and the National Institutes are important bodies working for the welfare of PwDs. The RCI regulates and monitors the training of professionals, promotes research in rehabilitation and special education and has been providing vital data on disability, the National Trust also implements schemes for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple disabilities. The Committee are pleased to note that the Publication of Rehabilitation Council of India on the status of Disability in India 2012, contains comprehensive information about Disability in the country which can prove a useful tool for chalking out the policies and programmes of the Government in the different areas of disabilities. The Committee during their study visits to some of the National Institutes observed the laudable work being done by these Institutes. The Committee recommend that since RCI, National Trust and the National Institutes are doing pioneering work for the welfare of PwDs, they should be given optimum allocations and necessary professional support to carry out the important work for the welfare of PwDs. The Government may consider to have a disability budget on the lines of the gender budget or the SCP/TSP given the number of PwDs and the serious problems confronted by them.

Reply of the Government

2.8 Under the 11th Five Year Plan, all Central Ministries/Departments were required to allocate 3% of their funds for PwDs. Letters have been issued by Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) to this effect to all Central Ministries/Departments.

The Department of Disability Affairs is providing all necessary support and funds to RCI, National Trust and National Institutes based on their demands to carry out mandated activities and in case, additional budgetary support is required the matter will be considered in the Department.

RCI has enhanced from Rs.3.00 Crore to Rs.5.00 Crore under the current financial year 2014-15. The National Institutes (NIs) have also enhanced budget allocation from Rs.90.00 Crore to Rs.105.00 Crore during current financial year 2014-15.

It is also, mentioned that in order to promote activities for SC/ST, an allocation of Rs. 30.00 Crore for National Institutes and Rs. 1.20 Crore for RCI has been made during 2014-15.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

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

2.9 The Committee note that prevention of disability is cost effective in the sense that less financial allocation is needed to prevent disability from happening as compared to allocation required to treat, care and rehabilitate persons who become disabled. Many types of disabilities are caused due to malnutrition and many cases of disability are preventable by providing expecting mothers with better prenatal and postnatal care as well as proper nutrition for infants and mothers. The Committee recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs along with Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare should chalk out a strategy to prevent disability at pre and post natal stage and make it a part of the National Health Mission given the success of national campaigns for fighting cholera, small pox, TB and polio.

Reply of the Government

2.10 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India under National Health Mission (NHM) has taken the following key steps to accelerate the pace of decline in maternal mortality and all measures are being undertaken as an preventive measures for provision of quality services in care during pregnancy and child birth:-

- Demand promotion through Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a conditional cash transfer scheme to promote institutional delivery.
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) has been launched in 2011, which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including Caesarean section. The initiative stipulates free drugs, diagnostics, blood and diet, besides free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home. Similar entitlements are available for sick newborns and infants accessing public health institutions for treatment.
- Providing resources for operationalization of sub-centers, Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers and District Hospitals for providing 24x7 basic and comprehensive obstetric care, neonatal, infant and child care services.

- Strengthening of 'Delivery Points' (around 17000) for provision of comprehensive Reproductive, Maternal, New Born Child Health and Adolescent (RMNCH+A) services.
- To overcome the shortage of specialists, Capacity building of MBBS doctors in Anesthesia (LSAS) and Obstetric Care including C-section (EmOC) skills particularly in rural areas.
- To Capacity building of health care providers through training programmes in basic and comprehensive obstetric care and skilled attendance at birth.
- Operationalization of Comprehensive Abortion Care Services and Reproductive Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Infections (RTI/STI) at health facilities with a focus on "Delivery Points". For operationalization these services we are providing necessary funds to the states for procurement of drugs, equipments and capacity building of service providers in the skills required.
- Maternal Death Review (MDR) is being implemented across the country both at facilities and in the community. The purpose is to take corrective action at appropriate levels and improve the quality of obstetric care. MDR Software has been launched recently to improve the quality of reviews and analysis. All States are reporting regularly on a monthly monitoring format.
- Under the National Iron+ Initiative, Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant, lactating women and to children and adolescents for prevention and treatment of anemia
- Identifying the severely anemic cases in pregnant women and children at sub centers and PHCs for their timely management.

- To tackle the problem of anemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are being distributed in endemic areas.
- Village Health and Nutrition Days in rural areas as an outreach activity, for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including health and nutrition education.
- Setting up of Skill Labs with earmarked skill stations for different training programs to enhance the quality of training in the states.
- Establishing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings at high caseload facilities to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and children.
- A new initiative of “Prevention of PPH through Community based advance distribution of Misoprostol” by ASHAs/ANMs has been launched for high home delivery districts. Operational Guidelines and Reference Manual have been disseminated to the States
- Quality Assurance Manuals and Supportive Supervision tools have been rolled out to strengthen quality of care in service delivery.
- For safe care of pregnant women, especially in labour room and maternity wards, Government of India has disseminated an Maternal Newborn Health tool kit, which includes WHO Safe Birthing Checklist to ensure adherence to clinical protocols and prompt identification of danger sign and prompt referral. A system of patient satisfaction has also been developed as a check list to ensure delivery of all these components. The guidelines intend to create Mother and baby friendly environment where respecting the right of every mother and baby to stay safe in the facility is given due importance.

- Name Based web enabled tracking of pregnant women & children to ensure optimal antenatal, intranatal and postnatal care to pregnant women and care to new-borns, infants and children.
- Engagement of more than 8.9 lakhs Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) to generate demand and facilitate accessing of health care services by the community.
- Regular IEC/BCC is done including messages on early registration for ANC, regular ANC, institutional delivery, nutrition, care during pregnancy etc. Funds are being provided to the States through PIPs for comprehensive IEC/BCC on Maternal and New Born health. Standardized IEC/BCC packages are being prepared at National level and have been disseminated to the States.
- To sharpen the focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations in underserved areas, 184 High Priority Districts have been identified for implementation of Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Health+ Adolescent (RMNCH+A) interventions for achieving improved maternal and child health outcomes.

In addition, the National Rural Health Mission of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a new initiative i.e Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in February 2013. This is an initiative for screening of children and provision of early interventions services to provide comprehensive care to all the children in the community. The scheme will cover all the children in the age group 0 – 18 years all over the country in a phased manner.

The purpose of these services is to improve the overall quality of life of children through early detection of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability. The burden of birth defects, development delays in children deficiencies and diseases is significant in children and this is one of the

important factor for child mortality and out of pocket expenditure for poor families. Birth defects account for 9.6% of all newborn deaths and 4% of under five mortality. According to March of Dimes, 2006, out of every 100 babies born in this country annually, 6 to 7 have a birth defect. In Indian context, this would translate to 17 lakhs birth defects annually. Development delays affect atleast 10% children and these delays if not intercepted timely may lead to permanent disabilities including cognitive, hearing or vision.

It has been noted by the Department, the Department of Disability Affairs along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will explore all possibilities to chalk out a strategy to prevent disability at pre and post natal stage and make it a part of the National Health Mission given the success of national campaigns for fighting cholera, small pox, TB and polio.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 7)

2.11 The Committee in their 35th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Department of Disability Affairs (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) had desired to know the precise number of vacancies and the posts reserved for the people with disabilities and the percentage it constitutes to the total vacancies in the Central Governments/State Governments and UTs. The Ministry have stated in their action taken reply that DOPT is the nodal Ministry for filling up of reserve vacancies in Government Departments. DOPT has already requested all Ministries/Departments to conduct special drive for filling of vacancies under OH category. The Committee further recommend that Department of Disability Affairs should take up the matter with DOPT to ensure that Annual Reports of all the

Ministries/Departments/PSUs, etc. give data invariably on the percentage employment of PwDs in their organization/establishment in keeping with the policy of 3% reservation in Government jobs for the PwDs.

Reply of the Government

2.12 All the Central Ministries/Departments and the States/UTs have been requested to take steps to identify the posts for PwDs and arrange for special recruitment drive to fill the vacancies meant for PwDs on priority basis. They have been requested to submit half yearly data on appointment of PwDs vide letter from Secretary dated 06.05.2014 and 10.05.2014. Further, Hon'ble Minister has written to DoPT to advise the line Ministries/Departments accordingly on 27.06.2014.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 9)

2.13 The Committee note that the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) under the Ministry of Rural Development, is a component of National Social Assistance Programme. Under the scheme, a central assistance of only Rs. 300/- per month is provided to persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-79 years belonging to a household living below poverty line (BPL) as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. The Committee feel that the pension is too meager to give any worthwhile support to PwDs. Further, the age and BPL criteria also need to be done away with as parents of children below 18 years suffering from disabilities are in dire need of financial help to take care of needs of proper nutrition and medical aid of these disadvantaged children. The Committee, therefore, recommend that disability pension should be increased to atleast Rs.1500/- per month with no age ceiling. Also the BPL criteria should be revised to include economically weaker APL sections for availing the pension. The

Committee would like to be apprised of the disability pension given by the different State Governments in due course.

Reply of the Government

2.14 Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Schemes (IGNDPS) under the Ministry of Rural Development, is one of the components of National Social Assistance Programme (NASP). At present under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension (IGNDPS) Scheme, Central assistance of @Rs.300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary would be shifted to Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) for getting pension of Rs.500/- P.M.

i) On the directions of the Union Cabinet, a Task Force was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force considered all the issues, demands and suggestions relating to social assistance/ security/pensions, received from various quarter and submitted its report to the Ministry inter-alia recommending, expanding the scope of coverage and enhancing the quantum of pension. The recommendations of the Task Force have been examined in details in the Ministry of Rural Development and accepted with certain modifications. Further action has been initiated to take the approval of the Competent Authority through the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

ii) The Task Force has recommended/proposed the following for grant of assistance /pension under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

Age	Pension (Rs.)	Disability Criteria
0-79 years	500	40-79% disability
80 years and above (No migration to IGNOAPS)	1000	40-79 disability
80% disability and above – Double the normal pension for the respective age group (Rs.1000 and Rs.2000 respectively).		

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para No. 10)

2.15 The Committee note that there are 7 National Institutes working in the field of Disability located at Dehradun, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cuttack, Secunderabad, Chennai and Delhi. Eight composite regional centres have been set up by the National Institutes at Sundernagar, Srinagar, Lucknow, Guwahati, Patna, Bhopal, Ahmedabad and Kozikode. There are 8 regional centres of the National Institutes. The Committee feel that each National Institute should have a composite regional centre in every State and regional centres in every District to increase their coverage so that the facilities and technical knowhow available with the National Institutes reach every nook and corner of the country. To begin with, such centres may be opened in remote, far flung States which are lacking in health infrastructure. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs should take urgent action and draw out a comprehensive plan in this regard.

Reply of the Government

2.16 In order to increase the coverage of CRCs, Department of Disability Affairs has taken up the matter with the State Governments of Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh to set up CRCs in these States. These State Governments have been requested to confirm the following:-

- (i) That State Government would like this Department to establish a CRC in the State.

- (ii) The city where the State Government would allot 5 acres of land, together with the details of the plot of land proposed to be allotted, and
- (iii) Details of an existing building which the State Government would make available for the CRC to start functioning at the earliest, unit its own building is ready.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 12)

2.17 The Committee note that 52 Group 'A' posts, 36 Group 'B' posts, 94 Group 'C' posts and 23 Group 'D' posts, are lying vacant in the National Institutes. For Group 'A' posts, against a sanctioned strength of 173 posts, the vacant posts were 52. The vacancies in Group 'A' posts was about 30%. A large number of technical posts *i.e.*, 56 are also lying vacant in the National Institutes. The Committee find such a gross shortfall of manpower in both Technical/Non-Technical wings has put extra burden, both mentally and physically on the existing manpower, to run these institutes and cater to the large no. of persons who visit these institutes everyday. Since efficient and motivated manpower is a sine qua non for running the National Institutes, the Committee recommend that immediate and effective steps be taken to fill up these vacancies for smooth functioning of the National Institutes.

Reply of the Government

2.18 The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU), Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has already completed work study of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhayay Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. After implementation of SIU report, the total sanctioned strength has become 24. Out of 24 posts of Group A, 18 posts have been filled up and the remaining 6 posts will be filled after following the due

process of recruitment. Similarly, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has been requested to complete work study of the NIs (NIRTAR, NIVH, NIHH and NIMH). Based on the SIU report these Institute, the vacant posts will be filled up on priority basis. The report the NIOH will be submitted soon to Department of Expenditure for the work study as and when the same is received from the Institute. The work study of the NIEPMD is not required since the Institute was established only in 2005.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 14)

2.19 The Committee note that one of the tasks of the National Institutes is to develop cheap and innovative aids and appliances and each of the Institute are doing good work in developing and distributing these aids and appliances. Most of the appliances provided to the persons with disabilities have been through the ADIP Scheme free of cost and in few cases, provided on payment basis. The Committee recommend that there should be wider coverage for distribution of aids and appliances by the National Institutes through camps and workshops, especially in rural and remote areas, where there is low awareness of these aids and appliances. The Committee further desire that special camps be held in strife torn areas, in the bordering states, where the people are affected due to land mines/skirmishes missile/grenade attacks and other hostile activities which incapacitates or causes physical deformities to a large number of people regularly.

Reply of the Government

2.20 Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme has been revised w.e.f 01.04.2014. In the revised Scheme, the cost limit of aids/appliances has been increased from Rs.6000/- to Rs.10,000/- . In case of SwDs students beyond IX class, the limit has been raised from Rs.8000/- to Rs.12,000/-. The income ceiling of beneficiaries has also been increased from Rs.6500/- per month to Rs.15000/- per month for getting benefit of full cost of aid/appliance and from maximum Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per month for 50% of the cost of aid/appliance.

As per procedure adopted during 2013-14 and which is also being followed during 2014-15, State Govts/UTs have been requested to focus on coverage of inaccessible and unserved areas while recommending implementing agency for organizing camps under the ADIP Scheme.

National Institute have been released grants-in-aid for Rs.13.50 crore during 2013-14 for carrying out ADIP activities in different parts of the country against Rs.2.568 crore during 2012-13.

Ministry is also in the process to organize composite camps during 2014-15 through National Institutes and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry, in different parts of the country.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16, Para No. 16)

2.21 The Committee note that the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH), Mumbai established on 9th August, 1983, is an apex

institute working in the field of hearing disability. The Institute also runs Doctoral Programmes in Audiology and Speech along with other educational programmes both at graduate, undergraduate and diploma level. The Committee were informed that there was an increase in the Human Resource Development Programmes of the Institute and more manpower was required to handle it. The Committee also note that cochlear implant technology is a major advancement and has a big role in early intervention programme, as informed by the representative of AYJNIHH, there was a need to set up diagnosis and intervention units for cochlear implantation. Since with the adoption of this technology, hearing abilities can be developed/enhanced in young hearing impaired children, the Committee recommend that the Government formulate a scheme with 100% Government assistance so that the cochlear implants can be made available for the hearing impaired children of weaker section to enable them to lead a normal life. Further, the Department of Disability needs to review urgently the sanctioned staff and faculty strength of the Institute in the context of tremendous work expansion of the Institute and take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for sanction of additional posts.

Reply of the Government

2.22 The Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids & Appliances (ADIP) Scheme have been implemented since 1981 and now has been revised w.e.f 01.04.2014. The revised ADIP scheme contains a provision to provide Cochlear Implants to upto 500 children per year, with ceiling of Rs.6.00 lakh per unit to be borne by the Central Govt.

Ministry is also in the process to organize composite camps for distribution of aids/appliances to PwDs under ADIP Scheme in various parts of the country through

National Institutes (NIs) and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO).

With regard to review the sanctioned staff and faculty strength of AYJINHH Institute the Govt. already initiated action for carrying out the work study by the SIU, Ministry of Finance, and Department of Expenditure of the Institutes. In this regard, detailed information received in the prescribed performa from AYJNHH has been submitted to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs for carrying out the work study these Institutes.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 17)

2.23 The Committee note that the National Institute for Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) has a prime objective of manpower development in the field of mental disability. As stated by the representative of the Institute, there is a huge gap between the requirement and the actual availability of professionals in this field. Notably, along with long term courses, the Institute conducts 50-60 short term training programmes every year. The Committee are pleased to note that the NIMH provides various models of rehabilitation services such as centre based, home based, community based, mobile services, etc. The Committee recommend that the Institute should tie up with NGOs who can be suitably trained by them so that its programmes can have a wider impact and coverage with the involvement of the community and family to secure better care and rehabilitation of the mentally handicapped persons. The Committee also recommend early setting up a National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation.

Reply of the Government

2.24 NIMH has developed various models of Community Based Rehabilitation Services such as Centre based, Home based, Community based, Mobile Services etc. to reach un-reached communities, Institute undertakes many community and outreach programmes for MI including in the North-East.

The NIMH is also engaged in conducting training programs for the NGOs in order to update them with latest trends in the area of rehabilitation of persons with intellectual disabilities. This includes special education, behaviour modification, various therapeutic conditions of speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, etc. The candidates for these programmes are from all over the country. During the year 2013-14, a total of 1055 professionals and personnel were trained by NIMH. The beneficiaries of these training programs are persons with intellectual disabilities.

In addition to the above, Institute has also systematically trained the medical doctors, supervisory and grassroots level officials for creation of awareness on disability as well as its prevention in the State of Sikkim.

Specific activities by tying up with NGOs in order to ensure more coverage of beneficiaries will be taken up with priority. The proposal for setting up a National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation is under consideration in the Department of Disability Affairs.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18, Para No. 18)

2.25 The Committee note that Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped (PDUIPH) was converted into an autonomous body in the year 1976. The Institute is doing commendable work in providing therapeutic treatment to patients with disability conditions like paraplegia, hemiplegia, arthritis, cerebral palsy, post polio residual paralysis, congenital anomalies, speech therapy etc. The Committee observe that due to shortage of professional human resource, especially faculty posts, the Institute is not able to get affiliation from the University of Delhi to run the Post Graduate Programmes. Considering the dire necessity of requisite faculty posts, the Committee recommend that the matter be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for sanction of faculty posts for the Institute and the Committee apprised.

Reply of the Government

2.26 Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) has carried out work study of the Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for Physically Handicapped (PDUIPH). The recommendation of SIU have been intimated in the Institute and based on the recommendation 15 posts including 03 posts of Associate Professor (PT-1, OT-1, PO-1) 4 posts for Assist. Professor (PT-1, OT-1, P & O-2) and 08 posts of lecture (PT-3, OT-3, P & O-2) have been created/ sanctioned, out of which 9 have been filled up. Rests of the posts are in the process of filling up.

A proposal to start Masters degree has again been submitted to Delhi University with a request for inspection of the Institute's infrastructure, so that the Master degree could be started as early as possible.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 19, Para No. 19)

2.27 The Committee note that a Committee was constituted on 25th October, 2010 under B.S. Baswan to make recommendations for strengthening of the National Institutes. The Baswan Committee report points out apparent lacunae in the functioning of the National Institutes. The primary role of the National Institutes, when established, was capacity building followed by research. However, over the years, their role shifted more to patient care due to shortcomings of the mainstream health system. The Committee recommend that in order to strengthen their primary objectives of training manpower, capacity building and research as also catering to patients who avail the services of these institutes, allocation to the National Institutes should be adequately enhanced to meet their various requirements as recommended by the Baswan Committee.

Reply of the Government

28. The National Institutes(NIs) are engaged in Human Resources Development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to the Persons with Disabilities and Research and Development efforts. The main aims and objective of NIs are (i) to conduct courses various categories of rehabilitation professionals/personnel, (ii) to develop, promote, manufacture and distribute aids & appliances, (iii) to promote any aspects of education, rehabilitation or employment of PwDs and (iv) to conduct, sponsors, coordinate and or subsidize research and collaboration with in other organization. Details of activities of National Institutes are as follows:-

National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun

(i) Human Resource Development

- M.Ed. Special Education (Visual Impairment) (1 year)
- B.Ed. Special Education (Visual Impairment) (1 year)
- Diploma in Special Education (Visual Impairment) (2 years)
- Diploma in Special Education (HI) (2 years)

- Diploma in Special Education (MR) (2 years)
- Diploma in Special Education (Cerebral Palsy) (2 Years)

(ii) Rehabilitation Services for visually impaired

- National Braille and Talking Book Library Service
- Medical and Functional Assessment Of Disability
- Guidance, Counseling and Referral Services
- Training In Independent Living Skills
- Placement Service
- Production And Supply of Braille Books
- Production And Supply of Large Print Books
- Production And Supply of Braille Appliances
- Production And Supply of Talking Books
- Community Based Rehabilitation Camps
- Community Based Vocational Training
- Consultancy Services for Government Organisations & NGOs.

(iii) Trainings

- Computer Application and Programming Skills
- Computer Operation
- Braille Shorthand (Hindi)
- Executive Secretary-ship
- Office Management
- Radio Broadcasting & Journalism
- Medical Transcription
- Call Centre Operation
- Light Engineering
- Electronics Assembly
- Disposable Paper Products Making
- Hand Made Paper Making
- Book Binding & Stationery
- Fishnet Making
- Reflexology
- Caning of Chairs
- Training in Horticulture and Masonry under MANREGA Guidelines

iv) Research & Development

- Review of Bharati Braille
- Developing Braille Code for Hindustani Music Notation
- Aligning Bharati Braille to UNI Code Symbols
- Developing Braille Codes for the Languages of North East
- Designing Online Braille Library
- Designing a Pre-School Model of Education
- Designing a Home Based Model of Functional Education for VI MR Children
- Designing a Hill Model of Inclusive School For V.I. Children
- Designing Proto Type of Arithmetic
- Upward Braille Writing Frame
- A Study of the Status of Teaching Braille in Universities Offering B. Ed. Special Education in Visual Impairment
- Study of Braille Requirements of College and School Going VI Students

Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai

(i) Human Resource Development

- Doctoral Programme-
 - Ph.D in the discipline of Audiology & Speech – Language Pathology
 - Ph.D in the discipline of Special Education
- Post Graduate Programmes-
 - Master of Education (HI) [M.Ed (HI)]
 - Master of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology (MASLP)
 - Master of Arts in Disability Communication & Deaf Studies (M.A. DCDS)
- Graduate Programmes-
 - Bachelor of Education [B.Ed (HI)]
- Under Graduate Programmes-
 - Bachelor of Audiology & Speech & Language Pathology (BASLP)
- Diploma Programmes-
 - Diploma in Hearing Language Speech (DHLS)
 - Diploma in Sign Language Interpreter course (DSLIC)
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Programme:

- NIHH was accredited as National Institute of Open Schooling for the education of Persons with Hearing Impairment.
- Short Term Training Programme(STP):
 - The Institute conducts STP in Disability Rehabilitation for rehabilitation professionals, academic personnel, parents, media professionals, Doctors, Anganwadi & grass-root level workers.
 - In the last 3 years has conducted 187 short term training programmes.

(ii) Rehabilitation Services

- Evaluation and diagnosis of hearing, speech and language disorders
- Selection and fitting of hearing aids and ear moulds
- Hearing Aid Sale Counter
- Psychological evaluation and Educational Evaluation
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Psychotherapy and behaviour therapy
- Pre-school
- Parent Infant Programme
- Parent guidance and counselling
- Vocational training and placement
- Referral and follow-up services
- Outreach and extension activities
- Skill Development Training Programmes for PWDs

(iii) Research & Development

- Research & Development activities are an integral part
- Published 112 research articles in various National & International journals during last 3 years
- 132 scientific research papers presented in National & International conferences during last 3 years
- Research projects taken to increase and improve Rehabilitation services; funded by DST, C-DAC and AIISH

National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderbad

(i) Human Resource Development

- M.Phil in Rehabilitation Psychology
- Master in Disability Rehabilitation Administration
- M.Ed Special Education (Mental Retardation)
- M.Sc Disability Studies (Early Intervention)
- B.Ed in Special Education (Mental Retardation) (2 years)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Early Intervention
- Diploma in Early Childhood Special Education (Mental Retardation)
- D.Ed. Special Education (Mental Retardation)
- Diploma in Vocational Rehabilitation (Mental Retardation)
- Diploma in Community Based Rehabilitation

(ii) Rehabilitation Services

General Services	Hydrotherapy	Parent counseling
Medical Services	Special Education	Vocational Assessment, Guidance & Counseling
Early Intervention Services	Profound Mental Retardation	Vocational Guidance & Information
Physiotherapy/ Orthopaedic	Autism and Mental Retardation	Workstation (Vocational Training)
Biochemical Analysis	Sensory Impairment	Occupational Therapy
Speech & Audiology	Computer Assisted Instruction	Resource room (Visual Acuity) & slow learners
EEG (Electroencephalogram)	Group Activity	Family Cottages
EMG (Electromyography)	Mobile/ Home Based Training	Respite Care
Services for Multiple Disability	Psychological Assessment	

Nutrition	Behaviour Modification	
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(iii) Research & Development

- The Institute has completed 63 research projects and 98 publications.
- R&D conducted in the areas of early intervention, psychology, special education, therapeutic, vocational and independent living, community based rehabilitation, ICT and management.
- R&D in collaboration with Indo-US Projects, UNICEF, ICSSR, S&T Mission Mode etc.

National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Chennai

(i) Human Resource Development

- Post Graduate Diploma in Neuro Developmental Therapy (One Year)
- Bachelor's in Education (Multiple Disabilities) (One Year)
- D. Ed Special Education (Autism Spectrum Disorder) (Two Years)
- D. Ed Special Education (Deafblindness) (Two Years)
- D. Ed Special Education (Cerebral Palsy) (Two Years)
- Certificate course in Prosthetic and Orthotic (One Year)
- Master in Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) (Two Years)*
- Post Graduate Diploma in Early Intervention (One Year+ 3 months internship)*

* Started in 2013

(ii) Rehabilitation Services

- Early Intervention
- Medical Intervention
- Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy
- Special Education
- Psychological Intervention
- Speech & Hearing Intervention
- Vocational Training, Vocational Guidance & Counseling

- Sensory Integration, Prosthetic & Orthotic services, Mobile services
- Distribution of Aids & Appliances
- Medical treatment
 - First aid services.
 - Medicines for epilepsy, psychiatric disorder are given free of cost.
- Referral Services -
 - Dental care from Ragas Dental College, Chennai
 - Intractable seizures and psychiatric illness – referral to NIMHANS and
Ophthalmic referral to Shankar Netralaya, Chennai

(iii) Research & Development

- Genetic Profiling of Clients with Multiple Disabilities - Genetics of Consanguinity
- Study of sleep patterns in children with Multiple Disabilities and its effect in day to day functioning.
- Study on ventilatory pattern, parameters and intervention for the clients with spastic Quadriplegic cerebral palsy.
- Existing service provisions for Persons with Multiple Disabilities in India – A database compilation.
- Technology Adaptation for Persons with Multiple Disabilities with Multi Sensory Impairment in Skill training set up through Mecatronic devices.

Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation and Training, Odisha

(i) Human Resource Development

- The Institute is conducting 5 long term courses like 4 and 1/2 years BPT, BOT, BPO courses and 2 years MPT & MOT courses affiliated to Utkal University.
- The Institute also runs Diplomate National Board (DNB) in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PMR) conducted by National Board.
- The Institute conducts 12 Short Term Courses every year.

(ii) Rehabilitation Services

- Medical treatment & therapies:
 - A pioneer in corrective surgeries of different deformities both congenial and acquired.

- Runs a 100 bedded hospital.
- Provides comprehensive services to patients with various types of / Locomotor disabilities through Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Prosthetics and Orthotics.
- Workshop:

One of the major activities of the Institute is fabrication and fitment of Prosthetic & Orthotic appliances to the persons with locomotor disabilities.
- Extension and Outreach Services:
 - Several Assessment Camps and Surgical Camps at various places in collaboration with local Administration/ NGOs are conducted.
 - Institute also provides therapeutic rehabilitation services (Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy) to persons with disabilities, through its three sub-centres at Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

(iii) Research & Development

▪ SINGLE AXIS FOOT ANKLE ASSEMBLY

New Ankle foot design & developed for comfortable walking on uneven ground including sloping surface.

▪ MODULAR HIP DISARTICULATION PROSTHESIS

Light weight Modular Hip Disarticulation Prosthesis incorporating four bar linkage knee joint for complete loss of entire lower limb from hip joint.

Correction of “C” curve (Hockey stick) deformity of leg and foot by Ilizarov method.

▪ OTHER RESEARCH WORK

There is continuous strive to develop the system of minimally invasive surgical procedure to solve mainly problems of pediatric orthopedics and developmental deformity disorder.

Pt. Deendayal Upadachayay Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi

(i) Human Resource Development

- Institute is running 3 degree level courses namely Bachelor of Physical Therapy, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and Bachelor of Prosthetics and Orthotics courses of 4 ½ years duration in affiliation with the University of Delhi.
- Diploma in Special Education (VI) at CRC Lucknow.

- Three Degree Level courses, one Post Graduate Diploma and one undergraduate Diploma course at CRC Shrinagar.

(ii) Rehabilitation Services

- The Institute runs outdoor services for providing therapeutic treatment to patients with disabling conditions like Paraplegia, Hemiplegia, Arthritis, Cerebral Palsy, Post Polio Residual Paralysis, Congenital anomalies, Speech Therapy etc.
- Tailormade as well as readymade aids and appliances.
- Psychological and Social Counseling and Vocational Guidance to PWDs and their family members.
- Information about facilities and concession provided by Government.

(iii) Research & Development

Projects completed-

The department of Prosthetics & Orthotics has completed three projects under Science & Technology mission mode

- Development of Prosthetic knee for endoskeleton above knee prosthesis
- Development of Reciprocal orthotic for quadriplegic persons
- Development of Energy Storing Synergy Foot Ankle Assembly – Synergy Foot

On-Going Projects-

Presently, the department of Occupational therapy is conducting 2 research projects on Post Stroke Rehabilitation-

- Role of less affected upper extremity in post stroke rehabilitation.
- Effectiveness of Mirror Therapy on motor recovery of upper extremity in chronic stroke patients.

Recent Publications - During 2010-2013 around 40 research papers published

- Department of Occupational Therapy - 22
- Department of Physiotherapy -12
- Department of Prosthetics & Orthotics - 06

National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata

(i) Human Resource Development

- DNB (PMR)- 2/3 years
- Masters in Physiotherapy-2 Yrs.

- Masters in Occupational Therapy- 2 Yrs.
- Masters in Prosthetics & Orthotics- 2 Yrs.
- Masters in Nursing- 2 Yrs.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Disability Rehabilitation and Management- 1 Yr.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Engineering- 1 Yr.
- Bachelor in Occupational Therapy- 4 ½ Years
- Bachelor in Physiotherapy- 4 ½ Yrs.
- Bachelor in Prosthetics & Orthotics- 4 ½ Yrs.
- Post Basic Diploma in Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation Nursing- 1 Yr.
- Diploma in Rehabilitation Therapy- 2 ½ Yrs.
- Diploma in Hearing, Language & Speech- 1 Yr.
- Diploma in Tools & Die Making- 4 Yrs.
- Certificate in Prosthetics & Orthotics Technician- 1 Yr.
- Certificate in CAD-CAM (for PWLD candidate)-1 Yr

(ii) Rehabilitation Services

- Institutional Services
 - Medical Rehabilitation
 - Physiotherapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Prosthetics & Orthotics
 - Socio Economic Rehabilitation
 - Rehabilitation Nursing
 - Rehabilitation Engineering
- Community Based Rehabilitation
- Outreach Services through camps

Services through RCs & CRCs

(iii) Research & Development

- Projects- completed(03)
 - Myo-electric hand in collaboration with CSIO, Chandigarh.
 - Development of prefabricated lower limb orthosis.

- Development of Pressure sore device for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury using Wheel Chair.
- Projects- ongoing(04)
- Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) assisted walking among persons with chronic stroke (Hemiplegics) with drop foot in collaboration with IIT, Kharagpur
- Medical Image Processing : “Establishing Correlation Of Spinal Deformity In Various Planes, Finding Some Variables And Parameters”
- Indigenous Pressure Mat Based Low Cost Gait Analyzer- Catalyzed & Supported by DST (SEED), New Delhi, Govt. of India
- Myo-electric Controlled Active Foot- Project Approved by DST (SERC)

Publication in International Journals- 25 Nos; Patent Applied- 01

The National Institutes (NIs) have enhanced budget allocation from Rs.90.00 crore to Rs.105.00 crore during current financial year 2014-15.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 20, Para No. 20)

2.29 Notably, the Baswan Committee has observed that there is an urgently felt need to upgrade these Institutes and to bring them at par with the universities and medical colleges in the country. The Baswan Committee have, therefore, rightly recommended that the best possible way of doing this would be to declare them as National Institutes of Technology under a central Act, as also declaring them as Institutes of national importance. The Committee were apprised that the Staff Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance has been asked to conduct studies for five National Institutes. It was also submitted that for PDUIPH, the study was conducted in 2009 and the proposal for 24 new faculty posts for the Institute was sent to Ministry of Finance sometime back. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs peruse the matter with the Ministry of Finance so that the SIU studies are completed at the earliest and action is taken earnestly to give them the requisite human resource and the status of NITs.

Reply of the Government

2.30 Based on recommendation of the Baswan Committee, it was decided by the Central Government to carry out the work study of the National Institutes by the SIU of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. The SIU of Ministry of Finance has already conducted work study of PDUIPH, New Delhi and its recommendation has been accepted by Department of Disability Affairs. Since NIEPMD has been established in 2006, the work study of the Institute is not required at present. Therefore, SIU Ministry of Finance, Department Expenditure was requested vide OM dated 2.09.2013 to carry out work study of the remaining five (NIVH, NIHH, NIRTAR, NIOH and NIMH) National Institutes and reminder issued on 17.02.2014. The Department has already initiated action for carrying out the work study by the SIU, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure of the National Institutes except PDUIPH and NIEPMD. Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (SIU) requested vide their letter No.60/12/2014-SIU dated 10.06.2014 to furnish the requisite data/information in the prescribed formats to them for carrying out work study.

In this regard, the detailed information/data received in the prescribed performa from NIVH, NIHH SVNIRTAR and NIMH has been submitted to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs for carrying out the work study of these Institutes. Information in respect of NIOH will be submitted soon on receipt of information in the prescribed performa.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 22, Para No. 22)

2.31 The Committee note that R&D is an important aspect of the mandate of the National Institutes and they are required to engage in R&D in the concerned area of disability. Taking note of the huge task of patient care and want of segregation of funds for specific purposes, the Committee desire that at least 5%-10% of the Budget allocated to the National Institutes should be spent on R&D work. The Committee recommends that all the National Institutes should endeavour to establish technical collaborations and tie-ups with international institutes of repute to keep abreast with the latest trends in developing aids and appliances and other advancements made in the disability sector to benefit the disabled persons visiting our National Institutes.

Reply of the Government

2.32 All National Institutes have been suitably directed to increase their R& D activities and at least 5% of Plan funds should be earmarked for the R&D activities. The status of R&D projects of the National Institutes is as under:-

AYJNIHH

The Institute is having collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Nation Forum, British Council Library, University College of London, National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), Rochester, New York United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), Department of Science & Technology, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) etc in disability related issues and R&D activities.

NIOH

Institute is having one research and development unit with faculties who are having additional responsibilities. Institute run projects in collaboration with IIT-Kharagpur, Jadavpur University and IIST, Howrah. The Institute is in process of patent of one equipment- 'Functional Electrical Stimulation' which was developed in collaboration with IIT Khargapur. In last financial year 12 numbers of papers were published in reputed journals by the staff of the Institute.

NIVH

NIVH is in the process of setting up a demonstration of lab of modern access technologies to assist researchers, scholars, industries, employers and the end users. In order to encourage all the faculty members working in various department of NIVH to undertake systematic research and to publish research papers in leading research journals. To encourage research in the area of Braille Development, Louis Braille Memorial Fellowship has been established. A special workshop has been convened from 7-14 July, 2014 in which ten faculty members of NIVH were helped in developing their research proposals with the help of a senior research expert of the country. 9 proposals have been finalized and these will implemented by the Institute of the next two years. The Institute will be starting Ph. D programmes in special education with provision of 4 research fellowship (two senior and two junior) as per UGC norms. The Institute plans to upgrade its Design and Development Unit to a CAD Centre with a tool and design workshop for production of proto type devices.

NIRTAR

The Institute caters to research and development apart from the main function of Human Resource Development. The Department of Physical Medicine,

Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Prosthetic & Orthotics undertake research projects. Currently 51 research projects are being undertaken by the Institute. The Department of Physiotherapy of the Institute has collaborated with Monash University, Australia to undertake an international study on the “Translation of Research Evidence to Clinical Practice via Social Media. Institute is also in process of starting one year part time certificate programme in Orthopaedic Manual Therapy in collaboration with the Institute of Therapeutic Sciences, Michigan, USA. The Department of Physiotherapy working on the prospects of collaborating with Manchester Metropolitan University UK in the field of manual therapy. The Department of Medicine and Rehabilitation has been planning to collaborate with UKBB, Switzerland for management of Cerebral Palsy and Pediatric Deformity correction.

NIMH

NIMH has completed 66 R&D projects. Institute has collaborated with reputed International Organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, INDO-US RUPEE FUND, INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL & Indian Organizations such as S&T Mission Mode and ICSSR.

NIEPMD

Following five R&D projects are launched by the Institute:-

1. Bio Chemical Profile of Clients with Multiple Disabilities
2. Neuro diagnostic Profile of Clients with Multiple Disabilities
3. Study of Sleep Patterns in children with Multiple Disabilities and its effect in day to day functioning
4. A study on ventilator pattern, parameters and intervention for the clients with spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy.
5. Existing service provisions for Persons with MD in India – A Database compilation

The research on Bio chemical profile of clients with MD was completed and has been published in the Online International Journal. All the projects were initiated in the year 2010-11 and it is in the completion stage. On completion of the above said 5 projects, the outcome will be either prototype or developing manuals / publishing in reputed peer journals. After completion, NIEPMD proposes to conduct 5 other research projects and also proposes to approach ICMR, UNCIEF, WHO and any other research funding authorities for funding.

IPH

The Institute completed two research projects in March, 2014 with intramural funding. Out of two research projects submitted by the Institute to the ICMR for funding one has been sanctioned. There are 5 more research proposals to be considered by the Research Committee and Ethical Committee on the Institute.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2014]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 23, Para No. 23)

2.33 With ageing, especially after 80 years, most of the people are afflicted with an assortment of disabilities, namely blindness, low vision, locomotor disability, hearing impairment, mental retardation, mental illness, etc., to a varying degree adversely impacting their ability to conduct their daily chores in a normal manner. The Committee note that there is a move to expand the Department of Disability Affairs so that 'Geriatric Care' can also be taken up by the Department (as stated in 39th Report of the Committee on Implementation of Schemes for the Welfare of Senior Citizens). There is no right based law in the country to address the disabilities borne out of ageing. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a law be enacted, for the 80+ people, recognizing their general disability, which would be quite distinct

from mere health care, which in any case, the State is bound to provide, for providing special assistance/facilities to them so that they can conduct their daily chores in a dignified manner in a barrier free environment.

Reply of the Government

2.34 Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment run the scheme namely Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

The aims and objectives of the scheme are as follows:-

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality of life of the Older Persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building of Government / Non-Governmental Organizations / Panchayati Raj Institutions / local bodies and the Community at large.

3. APPROACH

Assistance under the scheme will be given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions / local bodies and eligible Non-Governmental Voluntary Organizations for the following purposes:-

- (i) Programmes catering to the basic needs of Older Persons particularly food, shelter and health care to the destitute elderly;
- (ii) Programmes to build and strengthen intergenerational relationships particularly between children / youth and Older Persons;
- (iii) Programmes for encouraging Active and Productive Ageing;
- (iv) Programmes for providing Institutional as well as Non Institutional Care / Services to Older Persons;

- (v) Research, Advocacy and Awareness building programmes in the field of Ageing; and
- (vi) Any other programmes in the best interests of Older Persons.

The Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi is already providing services to geriatric age group people in its out of door services from 9 AM to 1.00 PM. The elderly persons with complications related to stroke, hypertension, diabetes mellitus and degenerative joint disorders are being taken care of.

The institute has developed a separate set up to start special clinics on two days in a week in the afternoon hours i.e. 2.00 pm to 5.00pm. Two orthopedic surgeons were shortlisted and offered the appointment on honorary/Contractual basis. Both of them have not joined so far.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 3-25/2013-DDIV
Govt. of India dt. 16.08.2014]

CHAPTER III

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

- NIL -

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 6)

4.1 The Committee note that the Department of Disability Affairs is implementing the National Scholarship Schemes for students with disabilities under National Fund for Empowerment of PwDs. Under the National Scholarship Scheme, financial assistance is provided to students with disabilities to enable them to pursue professional or technical courses from recognized institutes and get employed/self-employed. The number of scholarships have been increased to 1500 per year from the year 2013-14. The Committee note that new schemes of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, National Overseas Scholarship and Top Class Education Scheme for PwDs are under the consideration of the Government. The Committee recommend that in view of vital importance of these schemes in educational empowerment of PwDs, they be approved and introduced in this academic year itself. Further, special incentives be given to the visually challenged scholars pursuing higher education, particularly free board and lodging in the University/educational institutions.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The new Schemes of Pre-Matric and Post - Matric scholarship for students with disabilities, National Overseas Scholarship and Scholarship for Top Class Education are actively under consideration in the Department of Disability Affairs:-

- (i) Pre-Matric and Post - Matric scholarship for students with disabilities:-
These two schemes have been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (DA) on 22nd July, 2014.

Now, these schemes are being processed for seeking approval of the competent authorities.

- (ii) National Overseas Scholarship:-The scheme has been formulated and the Note for the Standing Finance Committee has been circulated to the various Ministries/Department concerned to obtain their comments/views. Views of the Ministry of External Affairs are awaited. Thereafter, the proposed scheme will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for approval.
- (iii) Scholarship for Top Class Education:- The proposed scheme is being modified in consultation with the Integrated Finance Division of the Ministry.

Besides above, National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) is also implementing following two National Scholarship Schemes of Students with Disabilities on behalf of Department of Disability Affairs:-

- (iii) Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities from funds of the Ministry called the National Fund for People with Disabilities:- Under the Scheme, financial assistance given to students with atleast 40% disability certified, as per the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, for pursuing Post Matric/ Post Secondary technical and professional courses including Ph.D & M. Phil from recognized institutions. However, for students with Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, and Profound or Severe Hearing Impairment, scholarships are awarded for pursuing secondary level courses also.

Scholarship of (a) Rs.1000/- p.m. for hostellers and Rs.700/- p.m for day scholarship studying in professional courses at graduation and above level, and (b) Rs.700/- for hostellers and Rs.400/- for day scholars pursuing Diploma/Certificate

level professional courses and in respect of students with Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities and Profound or Severe Hearing Impairment, for pursuing general/technical/vocational courses after class-VII, course fee is reimbursed up to a ceiling of Rs.10,000/- per year.

(iv) Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities founded out of Trust Found for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Trust Fund):- Under this Scheme, 2000 scholarships will be awarded to eligible students with disabilities for degree and post graduate level professional and technical courses from recognized institutions in India.

Reimbursement of Non-Refundable fees restricted to the limit of fee of similar courses in Government/Government –aided institutions.

Maintenance allowance will be paid to the students for 10 months @ 2500/- per month for Professional Graduate Courses and Rs.3000/- per month for Professional Post-Graduate Courses in one academic year.

Book/Stationery allowance will be paid to students pursuing professional Graduate Courses @ Rs.6,000/- per annum and Rs.10,000/- per annum for pursuing professional Post-Graduate courses.

Financial Assistance can be given for aids & appliances (only once during life time) to differently-abled students pursuing Degree/PG level professional/technical courses.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities is a fellowship scheme for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. courses in any University recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC). The details of the scheme are as follows:-

- 1) Number of fellowships to be given is 200 per annum
- 2) The scheme is effective from 2012-13. However selection of candidates of the year 2012-13 could be done only in 2013-14.

- 3) The fellowship amount ranges from Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 18,000/- per month. In addition, there are provisions of Escort/Reader Allowance and House Rent Allowance (wherever applicable).
- 4) Duration of Fellowship: 2 years for M.Phil and 5 years for Ph.D.
- 5) Selection of candidates is done by UGC,
- 6) Disbursement of fellowship amount is done by the Department of Disability Affairs through Canara Bank who has been designated for this purpose.
- 7) The Fellowship amount is remitted by the Canara bank direct to the bank accounts of the selected candidates.
- 8) The number of selected candidates, funds released so far are shown below:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
No. of Beneficiaries	176	178	<i>Selection of candidates is yet to be done, applications are being called for.</i>	354
Amount Released (In Rs. Crore)	-	9.655 <i>(for candidates of both the years)</i>	2.00 <i>(for beneficiaries of the previous years)</i>	11.655

Central Sector Scheme of support for establishment/modernization/capacity augmentation of Braille Presses.

The Central Government has proposed to establish fifteen new Braille Presses in the States and one Braille Printing Unit in UT and to modernize existing ten Braille Presses and augment one Braille Press during 2014-15.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 11)

4.3 The Committee while going through the financial statement of the National Institutes for the last three years observes that the National Institutes are able to spend almost their entire Plan and Non-Plan Budget. However, as pointed out by the Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, during evidence, the Non-Plan Budget was a problem area for all the National Institutes since, Ministry of Finance had refused to increase the funds in this Head and this had created problems in the functioning of the National Institutes. The Committee feel that due to inadequate non-plan allocation, it was increasingly becoming difficult for the National Institutes to pay for salaries and allowances and meet other non-plan expenditure. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Finance revise the ceiling on non-plan expenditure and make available more funds so that the National Institutes do not face any problem in their day to day administration and that they able to cater to the needs of their vulnerable target groups.

Reply of the Government

4.4 Budget Estimate (BE) under Non-Plan for the year 2013-14 was Rs.4650.00 lakh. During the current financial year 2014-15, BE of Rs.5016.00 lakh has been allocated under Non-Plan head for National Institutes which is not sufficient to meet the expenditure under Non-Plan head (GIA Salary). The matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure) for additional requirement of funds under Non-Plan (GIA salary) head at RE stage during 2014-15. Based on the requirement of the NIs, the additional requirement of funds under Non-Plan will be of Rs.3000.00 lakh (GIA Salary).

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 15)

4.5 The Committee note that the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun is a premier institute working in the field of visual disability. The Institute is engaged in human resource development and has, Statedly, produced 71% of trained blind teachers for the country. A placement unit is also being run by the Institute and it enjoys the status of a Special Employment Exchange. On enquired by the Committee, the representative of the NIVH deposed that the Institute was facing severe crunch of manpower and capital resource. As there were only 10 Group 'A' sanctioned posts, the Institute was being run with help of retired officers. The Committee were also constrained to note that in the Institute campus, many buildings are in dilapidated condition and some are more than 100 years old. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance for sanction of more posts and capital funds for the NIVH Institute urgently and the Committee be apprised within six months.

Reply of the Government

4.6 The NIVH, Dehradun has prepared a Vision Document with Plan of Action for next three years, which inter-alia seeks to provide Rs. 50.00 Crores for construction of new buildings at the Institute's Headquarters and Regional Centres. The proposal has been approved by the Institute's Executive Council in its 88th meeting held on 4.7.2014. Secretary, DA is holding a special session of the General Council of NIVH to finalize the Vision Document along with Plan of Action for next three years. After the document is finalized, the proposal will be examined and taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

Department of Disability Affairs has already submitted the material to Ministry of Finance for work study by SIU. Based on the SIU Report for proposal for additional post of Group “A” will be taken with the Ministry of Finance.

[Department of Disability Affairs’ OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para No. 21)

4.7 The Committee note that the Baswan Committee has found that the National Institutes are best suited to the IIT/NIT model and have recommended a governance model, general as well as academic in line with IIT/IIM under a Central Act. From their examination of the statistics on record and the study visits to some of the Institutes, the Committee concur with the recommendations of the Baswan Committee and recommend that a Central Act should be passed to declare the National Institutes as NITs and Institutes of National Importance.

Reply of the Government

4.8 The recommendations/observation of the Baswan Committee to make the National Institutes as NIITs and Institutes of National importance are already under active consideration of the Department.

[Department of Disability Affairs’ OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 8)

5.1 The Committee are concerned to note that as per the information given by the Rehabilitation Council of India, there is a tremendous shortfall of professionals working in the disability sector. One of the primary reasons given for this shortfall is the poor compensation and pay packages given to professionals working in the field of disability. As dedicated and motivated personnel are essential to carry forward the Government programmes in this field, and keeping in view the landmark judgment of the Delhi High Court in September 2009 which directed the government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to ensure equal terms and conditions of service for special teachers with teachers with diplomas and degrees in General Education, the Committee recommend that the Department of Disability Affairs pursue with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the State Governments to give remunerative pay packages to the people working in the disability sector, with good promotional avenues at par with the professionals working in normal schools and universities so that more young people are encouraged to take up this noble profession.

Reply of the Government

5.2 Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy has launched the Scheme for Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) from the year 2009-10. The aims, objectives and components of the Schemes are as follows:-

Aims

To enable all students with disabilities, after completing eight years of elementary schooling, to pursue further four years of secondary schooling in an inclusive and enabling environment.

Objectives

The scheme covers all children studying at secondary stage in Government, local body and Government-aided schools, with one or more disabilities as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act (1995) and the National Trust Act (1999) in the class IX to XII, namely blindness, low vision, leprosy cured, hearing impairment, locomotor disabilities, mental retardation, mental illness, autism and cerebral palsy, and may eventually cover speech impairment, learning disabilities, etc. Girls with disabilities receive special focus to help them gain access to secondary schools, as also to information and guidance for their developing potential. Setting up of Model inclusive schools in every State is envisaged.

Components

Assistance is admissible for two major components

- (i) Student-oriented components, such as medical and educational assessment, books and stationery, uniforms, transport allowance, reader allowance, stipend for girls, support services, assistive devices, boarding the lodging facility, therapeutic services, teaching learning materials, etc.
- (ii) Other components include appointment of special education teachers, allowances for general teachers for teaching such children, teacher

training, orientation of school administrators, establishment of resource room, providing barrier free environment, etc.

With regard to attractive remunerative pay packages and good promotional avenue to the professionals/personal working in the disability sector and at par with the professionals working in schools and institutes, it is submitted that the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments for ensuring good conditions of service and better career prospects for special teachers.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No. 13)

5.3 The Committee note that the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) does not have sanctioned Group 'C' and 'D' posts. The Committee were informed that since it is a relatively new institute, these posts have not been sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance and the Institute has been asked to outsource these posts. The Department of Disability Affairs submitted that there is a felt need for nurses, caregivers, lab technicians, assistants, stenographers, etc. which are Group 'C' posts. The Committee recommend that the matter be taken up again with the Ministry of Finance and the required posts should be sanctioned in this Institute like all other National Institutes and the Committee apprised.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The Executive Council of the National Institute in its meeting held on 15.07.2014 has directed the Director (NIEPMD) to submit the detailed proposal for creation of Group C posts in the Institute and the same will be taken with the Ministry of Finance for sanction.

[Department of Disability Affairs' OM No. 22-27/2013 NI
dt. 01.09.2014]

NEW DELHI;
10 March, 2015
19 Phalguna, 1936 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairman
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment.

ANNEXURE - I

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH,
2015.**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Committee Room No. 139, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

6. Shri Jhina Hikaka
7. Shri Bhagwant Khuba
8. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
9. Smt. Maragatham K.
10. Prof. A.S.R. Naik
11. Dr. Udit Raj
12. Prof. Sadhu Singh

RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Ahamed Hassan
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
15. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting had been convened to consider and adopt the Seventh Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Implementation of schemes for Welfare of Senior Citizens" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment), Eighth Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of the functioning of National Institutes working in the field of disability" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), Ninth Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-fourth Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Working of Ashram Schools in Tribal Areas" pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tenth Report of the Committee on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme" pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

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

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

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

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	23	--
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23).	17	73.9
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies - Nil	0	0
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted (Paragraph Nos. 6, 11, 15 and 21).	4	17.4
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos. 8 and 13).	2	8.7