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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2017-18)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2018-19)**

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2018/Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

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EMPOWERMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(2018-19)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 08.03.2018

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 08.03.2018



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2018/Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2017-18)**

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
7. Shri Sadashiv Kisan Lokhande
8. Smt. K. Maragatham
9. Shri Kariya Munda
10. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
11. Dr. Udit Raj
12. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
13. Smt. Satabdi Roy
14. Kunwar Bhartendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamata Thakur
17. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
18. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
19. Vacant*
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

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

* Prof. A. Seetaram Naik changed his nomination w.e.f. 03.11.2017.

(iv)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Director
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Additional Director
4. Smt. Madhu Bhutani - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Fifty-First Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2018-19' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) which were laid on the Table of the House on 6th February, 2018. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) on 20th February, 2018. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 7th March, 2018.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2018-19).

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

NEW DELHI;

07 March, 2018

16 Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

(vi)

REPORT

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 In order to give focused attention to policy issues and meaningful thrust to the activities aimed at welfare and empowerment of the persons with disabilities on 08.12.2014, a separate Department was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The Department acts as a nodal agency for matters pertaining to disability and persons with disabilities including effecting closer coordination among different stakeholders: related Central Ministries, State/UT Governments, NGOs etc. in matters pertaining to disability.

1.2 As per Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities in India (constitute 2.21 percent of the total population). Out of the total population of Persons with Disabilities, about 1.50 crore are male and 1.18 crore female. In Rural areas, there are 1.86 crore Persons with Disabilities. Out of which 1.04 crore are male and 82 lakhs are female. Similarly in Urban areas, there are 82 lakhs Persons with Disabilities. Out of which 46 lakhs are male and 36 lakhs are female. These include persons with visual, hearing, speech and loco-motor disabilities; mental illness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities and other disabilities. State-wise population of Persons with Disabilities

as per census 2011 is as under:

Sl.No.	State	Total disabled population as per Census 2011
1	Andhra Pradesh	1219785
2	Arunachal Pradesh	26,734
3	Assam	4,80,065
4	Bihar	23,31,009
5	Chhattisgarh	6,24,937
6	Delhi	2,34,882
7	Goa	33,012
8	Gujarat	10,92,302
9	Haryana	5,46,374
10	Himachal Pradesh	1,55,316
11	J&K	3,61,153
12	Jharkhand	7,69,980
13	Karnataka	13,24,205
14	Kerala	7,61,843
15	Madhya Pradesh	15,51,931
16	Maharashtra	29,63,392
17	Manipur	58,547
18	Mizoram	15,160
19	Meghalaya	44,317
20	Nagaland	29,631
21	Odisha	12,44,402
22	Punjab	6,54,063
23	Rajasthan	15,63,694
24	Sikkim	18,187

25	Tamil Nadu	11,79,963
26	Telangana	10,46,822
27	Tripura	64,346
28	Uttar Pradesh	41,57,514
29	Uttarakhand	1,85,272
30	West Bengal	20,17,406
31	A&N Islands	6,660
32	Chandigarh	14,796
33	Daman & Diu	2,196
34	D& N Haveli	3,294
35	Lakshadweep	1,615
36	Puducherry	30,189
	Total	2,68,14,994

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

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

1. The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 (34 of 1992).
2. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (44 of 1999).
3. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (49 of 2016).

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

1. To act as the nodal Department for matters pertaining to Disability and Persons with Disabilities.
2. Special Schemes aimed at rehabilitation and social, educational and economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, e.g. supply of aids and appliances, scholarships, residential schools, skill training, concessional loans and subsidy for self-employment etc.
3. Education and Training of Rehabilitation Professionals.
4. International Conventions and Agreements on matters, dealt with in the Department e.g. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
5. Awareness generation, research, evaluation and training in regard to subjects allocated to the Department.
6. Charitable and Religious Endowments and promotion and development of Voluntary Efforts pertaining to subjects, allocated to the Department.

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

(a) **Statutory Bodies**

- (i) The Rehabilitation Council of India.

- (ii) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.
- (iii) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

(b) **CPSUs/Autonomous Bodies**

- (i) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC).
- (ii) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur.

(c) **National Institutes**

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

- (vii) National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata.
- (viii) Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC).

CHAPTER - II

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for the year 2018-19 are given under Demand No. 90. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 6th February, 2018.

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

Scheme-wise Expenditure:

Rs. (in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	565.40	540.00	487.18
2016-17	700.00	695.49	684.78
2017-18	558.73	650.27	374.55
2018-19	743.76	-	-

(expenditure upto 18.01.2018)

Non Scheme-wise Expenditure:

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	71.54	70.95	68.45
2016-17	83.56	88.07	87.86
2017-18	296.28	304.73	169.06 (upto 18.01.2018)
2018-19	326.24	-	-

2.3 The Department has furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on all the schemes from the year 2015-16 to 2017-18 alongwith BE for the year 2018-19 on the basis of which some schemes have been thoroughly examined and comments have been made thereon:-

Scheme-wise Expenditure during 2015-16 To 2017-18 & BE 2018-19											
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19
		BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	A E	BE	RE	A E upto 18.1.2018	BE
1	National Institutes	105.25	106.00	104.27	113.00	132.87	132.87	190.02	222.50	137.86	215.00
2	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of Fitting Devices (ADIP)	125.50	151.40	151.16	130.00	170.00	170.00	150.00	200.00	142.56	220.00
3	Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	60.00	51.00	50.19	45.00	45.00	45.00	60.00	60.00	39.88	70.00
4	Rehabilitation Council of India	4.00	4.00	3.65	4.00	4.00	4.00	6.35	6.35	2.69	7.20
5	Schemes Arising out of The Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 (SIPDA)	135.00	99.00	69.42	193.00	193.00	186.83	207.00	257.00	132.00	300.00
6	Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector For Providing Employment To Persons With Disabilities	0.50	0.50	0.33	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10
7	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corp. (NHFDC)	35.00	35.00	34.65	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.74	32.74	16.37	38.48
8	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)	21.00	5.00	3.58	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00
9	Indian Spinal Injury Centre	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.99	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
10	National	0.50	0.01	-	0.37	0.36	--	0.37	0.37	-	0.50

	Institute for Inclusive and Universal Design										
11	Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)	4.00	1.00	0.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.50	5.50	2.20	5.00
12	National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities	8.00	20.57	18.73	19.50	23.62	23.62	24.00	36.41	20.75	0.00
13	Post Matric Scholarship to Student with Disabilities	12.00	10.00	3.22	8.00	10.00	9.82	10.00	16.05	8.64	0.00
14	Top Class Education for PwDs	0.50	0.50	0.24	1.00	1.20	0.54	5.40	1.00	0.24	0.00
15	National Overseas Scholarship for PwDs	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.38	2.00	2.00	0.35	0.00
16	Support for Establishment / Modernization of Braille Presses	4.66	10.65	9.80	9.10	9.10	9.09	10.00	10.00	6.70	10.00
17	Establishment of College for Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	5.00	0.50	0.00	0.10	0.81	0.81	3.00	0.70	0.00	3.00
18	Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports	0.50	0.01	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.50	2.50	0.00	2.50
19	Budgetary Support to National Trust	0.98	0.98	0.98	5.00	7.00	5.00	15.22	17.00	9.42	17.00
20	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	0.50	0.50	0.50	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.24	5.00
21	Establishment of National Mission, State Missions and District Coordinators	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	0.99	0.10	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	14.05
23	Awareness Generation and Publicity	5.00	4.00	2.62	3.00	3.00	2.65	3.00	3.00	0.70	3.00
24	Scholarship for Students with Disabilities (New Scheme)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.66

25	In Service Training and Sensitization of key functionaries of Central/State Govts, Local Bodies and other Service Providers	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
26	Research on Disability related Technology	0.50	0.50	0.29	0.40	0.40	0.26	1.00	1.00	0.09	1.00
27	Pre-matric Scholarship for SwDs	12.00	5.00	1.60	4.00	6.00	5.54	7.00	10.00	2.04	0.00
28	Free Coaching for PwDs	0.49	0.01	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.02	0.00
29	National Programmes for Persons with Disabilities	5.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Information and Mass Education Cell	10.00	25.00	23.02	70.00	40.00	39.96	50.00	25.00	13.65	35.00
31	Grants -in-aid to National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies	0.00	1.00	0.00	45.00	1.00	0.00	35.00	5.00	0.00	13.00

2.4 The Department has furnished statement indicating BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on non-schemes for the last three years and Budget Estimates 2018-19:-

Non Scheme-wise Expenditure during 2015-16 to 2017-18 and Budget Estimates 2018-19											
(Non Plan- Rs. in lakhs)											
Sl. No.	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	BE 2015-16	RE 2015-16	Exp. 2015-16	BE 2016-17	RE 2016-17	Exp. 2016-17	BE 2017-18	RE 2017-18	Exp. 2017-18 upto 18.1.2018	BE 2018-19
1	National Institutes (NIs)	105.25	106	104.28	175.74	200.89	200.89	190.02	222.50	137.86	215.00
2	Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)	4.00	1.00	0.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.50	5.50	2.20	5.00

3	*Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	0.99	0.10	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	14.05
4	Rehabilitation Council Of India (RCI)	4.00	4.00	3.65	6.00	6.23	6.23	6.35	6.35	2.69	7.20
5	*Establishment of National Institute for Inclusive and Universal Design	0.50	0.01	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.50
6.	* Grants -in-aid to National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies	0.00	1.00	0.00	45.00	1.00	0.00	35.00	5.00	0.00	13.00
7.	Establishment of Centre For Disability Sports	0.50	0.01	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.50	2.50	0.00	2.50
8.	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)	21.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00
9.	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corp. (NHFDC)	35.00	35.00	34.65	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.74	32.74	16.37	38.48
10.	Other contractual service Handling Clearance of Duty Free Consignments	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
11.	Secretariat (Est. Exptd.)	4.00	3.25	3.21	16.54	15.27	15.25	17.09	21.54	13.89	22.00
12.	Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Est. Exptd.)	-	-	-	2.27	2.54	2.36	2.69	3.22	1.89	3.50

***Till 2015-16, allocation of BE, RE and Actual Expenditure is known as Plan and Non-Plan. Hence Scheme and Non-Scheme Expenditure can only be provided for the year 2016-17 onwards. For FY 2015-16 allocation may please be treated as Plan Scheme Expenditure.**

2.5 A perusal of the above statements revealed that the Department has achieved the target in most of their vital schemes set during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 but it could utilize only Rs. 374.55 crore out of allocated amount of Rs. 695.49 crore (57%) in the year 2017-18. For example, Schemes arising out of Implementation of PWDs Act, 1995(SIPDA), Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for students with disabilities, National Fellowship for PWDs, Top Class Education for PWDs, National

Overseas Scholarship for PWDs, Awareness Generations and Publicity scheme and Information and Mass Education Cell (MEDIA) are those important schemes where the Department could not spend even 50 per cent funds from the allocated amount even at the end of the third quarter of financial year and assured that the entire allocation will be utilised by 31.03.2018.

2.6 When asked the reasons for such low expenditure under some important schemes and the manner in which the Department proposes to utilize the enhanced amount, the Department in its written reply has stated as under:-

"Due to increase in cost ceiling of aids and assistive devices, inclusion of high-end devices including Motorised tricycles/wheel chair and Cochlear Implant Programme stipulated in the Scheme, increased demand for holding camps by Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other dignitaries during 2017-18, more funds have been demanded during 2018-19 under the ADIP Scheme.

- A large number of proposals for holding camps for MPs/dignitaries/waitlist for Cochlear Implants etc. are pending for which more funds are required under the ADIP Scheme. Proposals from other implementing agencies including National Institutes/State Corporation/ Composite Regional Centres(CRCs)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres(DDRCs)/ Indian Red Cross Societies (IRCS)/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)are also to be funded under the ADIP scheme. Funds are also required for ADIP SSA activity.
- For National Institutes, enhanced funds are required for construction of new buildings in the National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres,

approved with approx cost of Rs. 80 crore for both. Higher funds are required to meet the various requirement of the Institutes namely, HRD Services, documentation and dissemination, extension and outreach services, Skill development, manpower development.

- Higher funds are required for disbursing benefits under Scholarship Schemes (National Fellowship, Post and Pre Matric Scholarship, National Overseas, Free Coaching). Scholarship Schemes are being implemented through the National e-scholarship Portal which is a part of Digital India Campaign and wide publicity is being given through media to create awareness among the targeted beneficiaries, thus anticipating huge demand under these Schemes in the next financial year. Average Scholarship under Pre Matric Scholarship is Rs.8,465, and it is presumed that scholarship to 25000 beneficiaries would be disbursed for 2018-19. Under Post Matric Scholarship, average scholarship amount is Rs.15,000/- and it is presumed that scholarships to 23000 beneficiaries would be disbursed for 2018-19. Under National Fellowship, average fellowship amount is Rs.40,000/ per beneficiary, per month, and it is expected that beneficiaries will increase up to 1000. Likewise, beneficiaries are expected to be higher under other Scholarship Schemes also, as we are witnessing an increase in the number every year. Also, due to budgetary restraints, liability of previous year is invariably met in the next financial year.

- Under the Scheme of Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, enhanced funds are required because as per Detailed Project Report (DPR), the estimated cost of construction is about Rs. 100 crore and approx Rs.35 crore would be required to initiate construction as per CPWD norms.
- Under the Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA), funding is done for Accessibility India Campaign, Skill Training of PwD and financial assistance provided for providing barrier free environment in Universities, Public Buildings, State Government Secretariat, office of State Commissioner for Disabilities etc. Financial assistance is also provided for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs). Under AIC number. of proposals have been received from State/UT Govts. enhanced funds are required to process and release the funds under AIC. Out of RE 2017-18 of Rs.257.00 crore, an amount of Rs.164.40 crore has so far been released till 15.2.2018. There is an increased demand for funds under SIPDA Schemes and it is expected that more proposals shall be approved during 2018-19.
- Higher funds are required for Establishment of Disability Sports Centre, Establishment of National Institute for Inclusive and Universal Design and Modernization of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)."

2.7 The Committee were informed that the Department had submitted an Annual Plan (2018-19) proposed to the tune of Rs. 1701.21 crore to the M/o Finance and against this only Rs. 1070.00 crore (scheme and non-scheme-wise) has been approved. When the Committee desired to know the reasons for reduction of Rs. 631.21 crore in BE 2018-19 and the schemes/programmes likely to be affected due to this reduced allocation, the Department stated that:

"Ministry of Finance has approved 23.08% increase in allocation for the Department in BE 2018-19 viz a viz BE 2017-18 and 10.23% increase in allocation *viz-a-viz* RE 2017-18. "

2.8 Further, when the Committee asked whether the Department intends to desire any new strategy or revised its present methodology to achieve the desired targets in 2018-19 and to obviate the scope of poor performance under its vital schemes also in 2018-19, the Department clarified in its written reply as under:

"The strategy for ensuring that implementation of its vital/flagship schemes is not adversely affected, Department will make efforts to utilize the allocation in the first 6-7 months of the FY, which would form the basis for demanding higher funds at RE stage."

2.9 While examining the Demands for Grants (2017-18), the Committee observed that uneven and disjointed pattern of expenditure hampers the proper implementation of the Schemes meant for PwDs and desired the Department to sensitize the State Governments and hold frequent visits/meetings with higher officers of the State Governments and inviting local MPs and MLAs also in such meetings.

2.10 In this context, when the Committee desired to know the efforts made by the Department for involvement of local Members of Parliament and MLAs in meetings held with state officials, the Department replied as under:-

"Observations of the Committee regarding involving Local Members of Parliament and MLAs in discussions and meeting with State Officials has been noted for compliance."

2.11 The Committee were informed that the main reasons for non utilization of allocated funds by the Department are non receipt of State Governments recommendations on time, shortage of funds, inadequate number of proposals received from States/UTs and incomplete/late receipt of proposals of NGOs. When the Committee asked whether the Department has taken up these issues with perpetually erring and defaulting States to find out a concrete solution to the problems, the Department submitted in its written replies as follows:-

"Under the SIPDA Scheme, the Department has regularly taken up the matter related to pending Utilization Certificates with the States/UTs on one to one basis through D.O. letters at the level of Minister and Secretary. The matter is also being pursued regularly with States/UTs through Video Conferencing. Due to concerted efforts of the Department, Utilization certificates have been received from various States/UTs and their proposals for release of Grant-in-aid have been considered. As a result, out of Budget Allocation of Rs. 193.00 crore during 2016-17 funds amounting to Rs. 186.83 crore, i.e. 96.80% have been released to States/UTs."

2.12 The Committee note with concern that as in previous years, this year also the Department has not been able to check the trend of inconsistent and uneven expenditure. The pace of expenditure in the first three and half quarter is slow and a large chunk of the funds, i.e. 37 per cent are to be utilized in the last one and a half month in the financial year 2017-18. The Committee find that some important Schemes like Budgetary support to National Trust, Rehabilitation Council of India, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) have 50 per cent unspent balance as on 15.02.2018. The Committee observe that under the Schemes like, Indian Spinal Injury Centre, Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports there is 'nil' expenditure up to 18.01.2018. This reflects poor performance/implementation of important Schemes by the Department. The Committee feel that the Schemes planned by the Department for the Persons with Disabilities are good in concept but they lack proper execution and this is one of the main reasons for the Department not getting desired budgetary support from the Ministry of Finance. Year after year, the Committee find that Department giving same reply viz., non-receipt of UCs, incomplete and deficient proposals from the State Governments, for low utilization of funds under various Schemes but nothing has reversed the trend of inconsistent, uneven and disjointed expenditure. The Committee feel that the Department too has done nothing beyond holding regular review meetings, issuing reminders and pursuing with State Governments. The Committee observe that when there is a large chunk of funds left unused and there is a hurry to spend the money, somehow the quality of scrutiny and proper examination of the documents is compromised. The

Committee, therefore, desire that the requirement of various formalities for giving grants to various implementing agencies should be completed well in advance so that the entire allocation for 2018-19 could be utilized fully and timely. The Committee desire that as the same issues keep appearing perennially, the Department should forethink the same and act accordingly.

2.13 As most of the Schemes are now being implemented through online portal, the delay on the part of the State Governments for submitting proposals, furnishing Utilization Certificates may be tackled if the State Governments or implementing Agencies are fully aware of various formalities/procedure involved in these portals. The Committee are of the view that the Department should make all out efforts to sensitize all the stakeholders who are involved for implementing various Schemes so that unnecessary delay in completing the formalities could be avoided. The Committee desire that all the websites/portals of the Department should be made accessible to PwDs within a period of six months.

ISSUE OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATES

2.14 The RPwD Act, 2016 provides certain benefits to Persons with Disabilities who have not less than 40% of any disability, as certified by a Medical Authority. Thus, a person with a disability who wishes to avail the benefits under the Act has to obtain a disability certificate from the Medical Authority notified for the purpose. The certificates are issued based on guidelines framed by the Department of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

2.15 The State Governments are responsible for issuing Disability Certificates on the basis of applications received from persons with disabilities. The comparative State wise position of issuance of Disability Certificates viz-a-viz Census 2011 as on August, 2017 is as under: **(Annual Report pg. 9)**

State-Wise status of issuance of Disability Certificates as on August, 2017				
S.No.	State	Total disabled population in the State	No. of persons issued Disability Certificate	
			Total	% age
1	Andhra Pradesh	1103789	938220	85.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	33315	2907	8.73
3	Assam	480065	309587	64.49
4	Bihar	2331009	1235434	53.00
5	Chhattisgarh	624900	316853	50.70
6	Delhi	234882	147227	62.68
7	Goa	33012	19202	58.17
8	Gujarat	1092302	551658	50.50
9	Haryana	455040	339190	74.54
10	Himachal Pradesh	155316	84317	54.29
11	J&K	361153	179385	49.67
12	Jharkhand	769980	433702	56.33
13	Karnataka	1324205	965305	72.90
14	Kerala	761843	314777	41.32

15	Madhya Pradesh	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
16	Maharashtra	2963392	1611628	54.38
17	Manipur	54110	19923	36.82
18	Mizoram	15160	10407	68.65
19	Meghalaya	44317	34885	78.72
20	Nagaland	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
21	Odisha	1244402	842250	67.68
22	Punjab	654063	382081	58.42
23	Rajasthan	1563694	459458	29.38
24	Sikkim	18187	8707	47.87
25	Tamil Nadu	1179963	1159021	98.23
26	Telangana	1046822	654403	62.51
27	Tripura	64346	76831	119.40
28	Uttar Pradesh	4157514	2060903	49.57
29	Uttarakhand	185272	105478	56.93
30	West Bengal	2017406	1187699	58.87
31	A&N Islands	6660	3346	50.24
32	Chandigarh	14796	23635	159.74
33	Daman & Diu	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
34	D& N Haveli	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
35	Lakshadweep	1678	1302	77.59
36	Puducherry	30189	27954	92.60
	Total	25022782	14507675	57.98

(Annual Report pg. 138-139)

2.16 The Committee note that State Governments are responsible for issuing of Disability Certificate to PwDs on the basis of applications received from Persons with Disabilities. As per data available from the Office of Chief Commissioner of PwDs as on August, 2017 out of 2,50,22,782 PwDs, the Disability Certificates were issued to 1,45,07,675 PwDs which is 57.98%.

2.17 When the Committee desired to know the action taken by the Department to issue Disability Certificate to all the PwDs, the Department submitted in its written reply as under:

"It may be noted that issuance of certificate of disability is the primary responsibility of the States/UTs. As per the RPwD Act certificate of disability was issued to persons with disability having disability 40 per cent or more whereas the Census, 2011 data does not necessarily reflect the number of persons with disabilities having disabilities 40 per cent or more which is the primary cause of mismatch of actual certificate of disability issued and the Census figures. However, with a view to impress upon the States/UTs to issue certificates to all the PwDs in their States/UTs, the issue was being raised in annual conferences of the State Ministers/Secretaries. It is further stated that Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities is continuously monitoring the progress regarding grant of certificate of disability with the State Governments.

It is further stated that the Government has taken steps for implementation of the Unique Disability ID project which envisages issuance of certificate of disability as well as UDID card to each person with disability on campaign mode. So far the project has been implemented in 14 States/UTs namely Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. The project will be rolled out to all the States/UTs covering all the Districts by December, 2018".

2.18 The Department informed that for better coordination with State Governments so as to facilitate hassle-free issuance of the Disability Certificates, the Chief Commissioner for PwDs is continuously monitoring the status of issuance of Disability Certificate in coordination with States Commissioners for PwDs.

2.19 The issue is also discussed in the yearly conference of State Commissioners and annual conference of State Ministers dealing with disability issues. The Department further informed that an application software has been developed for creation of National Database for PwDs and also to issue Unique ID card to each Divyangjan. This would also provide a web based programme for issuance of Disability Certificate in a more systematic and transparent manner. The Department has been continuously in correspondence with the States/UTs for implementation of this project. The Committee were informed that at present UDID card have been issued to 4 lakh PwDs.

2.20 The Committee note that Disability Certificate is a basic document to avail benefits of various Schemes meant for PwDs. It is a fact that to acquire a Disability Certificate from authority is a very big task for a disabled person particularly in rural areas. The Committee find that out of 2.68 crore only 57 per cent PwDs have disability certificates till August, 2017. The Committee find that there are many lengthy procedures involved in issuing of Disability Certificate viz., medical examination, availability of Specialists/Doctors for examining a disabled persons for particular disability etc. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter regarding issue of Disability Certificate should be taken up with all the State Governments on regular intervals and the status report be taken from them in every three months. The Committee also recommend that the procedure of acquiring Disability Certificate should be further simplified to cover more PwDs at the earliest. The Committee have been informed that an application software has been developed for creation of National Database for PwDs and also to issue Unique ID card to each PwD. This would also provide a web based programme for issuance of Disability Certificate in a more systematic and transparent manner. The Committee were also informed that at present 4 lakh UDID have been issued to PwDs. This project has been implemented in fourteen States/UTs only and will be rolled out to all the States by December, 2018. The Committee, however, desire the Department to ensure that project is rolled out within specified time period without fail so that the entire PwD population could be provided with Unique ID Card and Disability Certificate.

CHAPTER - III

SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016 (SIPDA)

3.1 The grants-in-aid is provided under SIPDA Scheme to State Governments, various other bodies set up by the Central and State Governments including Autonomous bodies and Universities to support activities for proper and effective implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

The Department has furnished the following statement showing Budget allocation, Revised allocation and actual expenditure incurred under SIPDA Scheme for the year 2015-16 to 2017-18 and BE for 2018-19:–

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	135.00	99.00	69.42
2016-17	193.00	193.00	186.83
2017-18	207.00	257.00	132.00 (upto 18.01.2018)
2018-19	300.00	-	-

3.2 It has been observed from the above statement that there is underutilization of funds under the SIPDA scheme since 2015-16. Even then an amount of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated to the Department. When the Committee asked about the reasons for underutilization of funds and how the Department proposes to utilize the enhanced amount under the scheme, the Department in its written reply furnished as under:

"The proposals received from a number of States could not be considered for want of Utilization Certificates in respect of previous grant-in-aid released to them till the years 2014-15. All the concerned States/ UTs were requested/reminded for sending the Utilization Certificate/progress reports in respect of the grants

received by them, at the level of Secretary (DEPwD) also. Besides this, the proposals of some States/UTs were not complete, mainly because they had not sent the cost estimates in respect of the construction work prepared by Executive Engineer of CPWD/PWD.

3.3 The Accessible India Campaign/Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Scheme was launched by the Department on 3rd December, 2015 for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs and to create an enabling and barrier free environment to them. Access Audit of the buildings was conducted by this Department and on the basis of these proposals under the Accessible India Campaign were received w.e.f. July, 2016. During 2016-17, proposals under the Accessible India Campaign were received for retrofitting of Govt. buildings and also for construction of accessible websites. Total funds amounting to Rs.84.67 crore were released under this campaign.

3.4 Out of budget provision of Rs.193.00 crore for the year 2016-17 under the SIPDA Scheme, funds amounting to Rs.186.83 crore were released which is 96.8%. During 2017-18, out of BE of Rs.207.00 crore, an amount of Rs.164.40 crore has been released upto 15.2.2018 which is 79.42% for different activities. The remaining budget allocation under the Scheme will be fully utilised during the remaining period of 2017-18 mainly on account of the skill development programme for Persons with disabilities under the National Action Plan and for the Accessible India Campaign.

3.5 The Department informed that the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016 (RPwDs Act) has come into force on 19.04.2017 and the Government have also notified Rules under the Act on 15.06.2017. As against 7 disabilities a total of 21 disabilities have been recognized by the new Act. A number of rights and entitlements have been provided for persons with disabilities which includes (i) Inclusive Education; (ii)

Accessibility; (iii) Health; (iv) Manpower Development; (v) Skill Development; and (vi) Employment in Government & Private sector.

3.6 When the Committee desired to know how the accessibility standards specified in the harmonized guidelines are being comply with all States/UTs for proper implementation of Rules notified under the Act, the Department in its written replies submitted as under:

"The Central Government has notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 on 15.06.2017. Rule 15 of the said Rules provides the Rules for accessibility. Under this Rule the standards specified in the Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons as issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs were adopted as the standards of accessibility for built environment. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act has inbuilt provision to ensure compliance of these standards. As per Section 44 of the said Act, every new building of any establishment is required to adhere to these accessibility standards to obtain permission from the respective authorities. Similarly for existing buildings, a time limit of five years has been given under Section 45 of the Act to comply with these standards. It may further be noted that the Act provides penalty for violation of these provisions in terms of Section 89 & 90 of the said Act. Therefore the provisions in the Act/Rules are self sufficient. Further, the State Governments have been requested to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Act and Rules."

3.7 The Committee found that as per NITI Aayog's directions a disability specific survey should be done for implementation of RPWD Act. In the above context, when the Committee desired to know the status of survey and the amount allocated for this survey, the Secretary of the Department deposed of the Committee as under:-

“We have allocated Rs. 70 crore for this survey but the State Government first come forward to see that the UDID Card needs to be implemented by their Health Department and the Social Justice Department of the State Government, Secondly, they have also to see that the Medical Board are integrated with the UDID and issue the disability Certificate. Thirdly, we need to have such doctors who will certify the degree of Disability in the Mental Autism, Cases etc. We also have notified the assessment guidelines on how to assess a person of these disabilities”.

3.8 Further when the Committee asked whether the assessment guidelines have been sent to the State Governments, the Secretary of the Department during the evidence stated that they have just formulated the assessment guidelines in consultation with experts 'For Autism and for learning disabilities, they will have to see that their medical boards are put in place the Secretary also said that there would be shortage of clinical psychologists, neurologists and such doctors who hold camps to see from neighbouring States or from neighbouring districts to hold alternate camps once a month such camps are held and people who are suffering from these diseases are not left out in the shortage of doctors and will not come in the way of issuing disability Certificates.

3.9 Regarding Monitoring Mechanism evolved for implementation of RPwD Act, the Department stated that:

"As per the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the State Commissioners are responsible for monitoring of the provisions of the Act and Schemes, programmes meant for persons with disabilities."

3.10 The Committee observed that pending Utilization Certificates is one of the reasons for less utilization of funds under SIPDA Scheme. When the Committee desired to know the measures taken for timely receipt of UCs from North-Eastern States and other States/UTs, the Department submitted its written replies as under:

"The Secretary of DONER and the Chief Secretaries of the N.E. States and other States/UTs have been requested regularly to furnish the pending UCs. Some States have already furnished the pending UCs and as a result their proposals received under the Accessible India Campaign have been processed. All the States are regularly reminded for furnishing the Utilization Certificates. During the Regional Conferences of States/UTs, the issue of furnishing of the Utilization certificates in respect of grants-in-aid released under the SIPDA Scheme has been the main point of Agenda. The matter is also being pursued regularly with States/UTs through Video Conferencing. Due to concerted efforts of the Department, Utilization Certificates have been received from various States/UTs and their proposals for release of Grant-in-aid have been considered. As a result, out of Budget Allocation of Rs.193.00 crore during 2016-17, funds amounting to Rs.186.83 crore, i.e. 96.80% funds have been released to

States/UTs. During 2017-18, out of BE for Rs.207.00 crore, funds to the tune of Rs.164.40 crore i.e. 79.42% have been released as on 15.2.2018 and balance funds will be fully utilized by the end of this financial year."

3.11 The Committee note that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 included extra categories of disabilities. Twenty-one disabilities including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Multiple Sclerosis, Acid Attack-victim, Thalassemia, Parkinson's disease, Intellectual Disability, Hemophilia have now been recognized by the new Act. The Department has informed that guidelines for assessment of a person to be included in the category of a disabled person under the Act have been formulated to certify the degree of disability in Mental Autism cases and other disabilities. The Committee note that Central Rules under RPwDs Act have been notified on 15.06.2017 and only four States i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya have framed Rules and notified. The Committee desire that the Department should impress upon all the State Governments to frame the Rules under the Act within a definite time frame. As State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities in the States have important role to monitor implementation of provisions of RPwDs Act, Schemes and Programmes meant for PwDs, the Committee also desire the Department to issue instructions to all the State Governments to appoint independent State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the States. The Committee may also be apprised regarding notification of Rules by the State Governments and also appointment of State Commissioners after three months from the date of presentation of the Report.

National Action Plan (NAP)

3.12 The Committee were informed that the Department has launched the National Action Plan for skill training of PwDs in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March, 2015. The National Action Plan (NAP) plans to bring all the main stakeholders like various Central Government Ministries, State Governments, NGOs, PSUs and the Private Sector on one platform.

The NAP has the following main components:

- (i) Financial assistance for implementation of National Action Plan will be provided under the scheme of SIPDA (Scheme for implementation of persons with disability Act, 1995).
- (ii) A Project Monitoring Unit has been constituted in the DEPwD. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between DEPwD and MSDE.
- (iii) The vocational / skill training would be provided by a network of skill training providers led by Training Partners both from Govt. and non-Govt. sector including Vocational Rehabilitation Centres run by Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- (iv) A separate Sector Skill Council for PwDs has been set up in collaboration with MSDE.
- (v) For every such training cluster, a number of private sector organizations and PSUs are mapped, who provide them CSR funds, and training support and employer connect.

(vi) DEPwD along with National Skill Development Corporation help these training providers by connecting them with various private sector organizations and PSUs for providing employment connect as well as for obtaining CSR support.

3.13 Further Department furnished the following statement showing the State/UT-wise details of vocational/skill training provided to PwDs since inception of National Action Plan (NAP):

S. No	Name of State	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1120
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100
3.	Assam	750
4.	Bihar	200
5.	Chandigarh	100
6.	Chhatisgarh	3510
7.	Chennai	400
8.	Delhi	48570
9.	Gujarat	900
10.	Haryana	790
11.	Himachal Pradesh	150
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	900
13.	Karnataka	400
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3680
15.	Maharashtra	7525
16.	Manipur	780
17.	Odisha	1640
18.	Punjab	50
19.	Rajasthan	1040
20.	Sikkim	300
21.	Tamilnadu	200
22.	Telengana	100
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2010
24.	Uttarakhand	2552
25.	West Bengal	6526
	Total	84293

3.14 The Committee were informed that a separate sector Skill Council for PwDs has been set up in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

(MSDE). When the Committee asked about the functions of the Council, the Department stated as under:

"Skill Council for Person with Disability has responsibility for skills and workforce development of Persons with Disability. SCPwD gives employers direct exposure on training policy and is looking at education and training at all levels. The Key objective of the Council is to create a robust and vibrant ecosystem for quality education and skill development for PwDs in the country. Its core functions are as follows:

- a) Affiliation of Training Partner
- b) Trainers Orientation Program
- c) Assessor Orientation Program
- d) Assessment
- e) Certification
- f) Job Role mapping to specific disability".

3.15 The Committee were informed that under National Action Plan (NAP) a target of skilling 5 lakh PwDs in next 3 years (1 lakh in first year, 1.5 lakh in second year and 2.5 lakh in third year) has been fixed. When the Committee asked how the Department would ensure to achieve the target of skilling 5 lakh PwDs in next 3 years, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

"The Department imparts skill training through Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs) which consists of Govt. organisations as well as NGOs. As on date there

are 238 ETPs. Selection committee meetings are held regularly. The aim is to increase the number of beneficiaries to achieve the target".

3.16 In the above context, the Department has furnished the following statement showing the details of target fixed and number of PwDs provided Skill training under the National Action Plan from 2015-16 to 2018-19:-

Sr. No.	Year	Target	No. of PwDs provided skill training
1.	2015-16	30,000	28042
2.	2016-17	50,000	44276
3.	2017-18	75,000	10005*
4.	2018-19	90,000	-

3.17 The Committee observed that the targets fixed by the Department are not achieving since inception of National Action Plan, when the Committee desired to know how the Department ensure to achieve the desired targets in stipulated time with slow pace of implementation of scheme. The Department in its written replies stated as under:-

"Though the National Action Plan was launched on 21st March, 2015, there was no guidelines for implementation mechanism of the scheme. The scheme guidelines were formulated on 28th January, 2016. The time gap was due to the fact that there was no separate scheme and budget allocation for Skill Development. Skill development activities are to be undertaken from the budget allocation of umbrella scheme called SIPDA (Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016). Approval of SFC was required to include the skill development programs under NAP as a part of the guidelines for SIPDA.

Earlier, the Department was undertaking skill development activities through National Institutes and NHFDC. In order to scale up the activities, it was decided to associate Voluntary Organizations and other Government agencies as training partners. For selection of training partners, an inter-departmental selection committee was constituted. Selection of training partners was a rigorous process of examining the infrastructure and training capacities etc. of the organizations. Hence, it took time for selection. As on date, there are 238 organizations who are empanelled as training partners (ETPs). Out of these ETPs, 25 are Government organizations and the rest are private organizations. ETPs are supposed to submit their project specific proposals which are again scrutinized by the Selection Committee. Based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, targets were given to ETPs to start the training. Presently, the training of PwDs is going on. During the current year, training of 26,425 PwDs has already started and offer letter to ETPs have been issued for training of another 66000 PwDs. The training programs are at various stages of completion, assessment (examination), certification and placement etc.

Since the initial preparatory work for implementation of the NAP is complete, it is expected that skill development activities will now pick up speed. During the current financial year, this Department have achieved a target of providing skill training to 75000 PwDs which will increase to 90000 PwDs in 2018-19. There are certain challenges in the field like finding suitable job roles which have acceptance in the industry for providing jobs for various types of disabilities and getting such job roles approved by the National Skill Development

Corporation(NSDC). However, this Department is continuously pursuing with NSDC and Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities(SCPwD) in identifying and developing job roles which would be suitable for various types of disabilities. In addition, empanelment of ETPs is an ongoing process. The Department is going to empanel more ETPs so that more training programs can be taken up through them. The target of 75,000 PwDs in 2017-18 and 90,000 PwDs in 2018-19 can be achieved with the all-out effort of this Department subject to the availability of sufficient funds under the scheme".

3.18 When asked about the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme got employment, the Secretary during the evidence stated that:

"The Skill Ministry are now actually hosting a portal like the Employment Exchange, of how many people are being trained, in which institutes, in which sector and how many are actually getting jobs. They are going to have a job portal where you get information on what kind of jobs are available and where. Normally, disabled category people are always looking for Government job. But we find that there is a lot of industry interest being evinced like even in the hospitality and hotel industry, Lemon Tree Group of hotels, Microsoft and IBM are taking a lot of people with disabled category, particularly the hearing impaired

are doing very well in restaurants because they are oblivious to sound and they take lot of orders. So, their performance and output seem to be better. So, a particular kind of disability is suited for a particular kind of job. This is what we are doing in terms of understanding and trying to bring partnership between the training institutes, the industry and the disabled category of persons who are being trained.

3.19 The Committee note that the National Action Plan (NAP) for skill training to PwDs was launched by the Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March, 2015 for providing financial assistance for skill development of PwDs. The Committee find that when the Scheme was launched the initial target to skill 5 lakh PwDs in next three years was fixed. The Committee note that till the end of year 2017-18, 1,55,000 PwDs have been provided skill training and the target for 2018-19 is only to cover 90,000 PwDs. It means 2,45,000 beneficiaries, in total, will be covered under NAP by 2018-19. The Department has explained operational difficulties being experienced by them in implementation of skill development programme and steps taken to overcome these difficulties. The Committee are of the firm view that at the time of conceptualization and formulation of any Scheme road map or blue print for its implementation must be well thought of so that the difficulties, if any, can be visualized at initial stage itself. The Committee also desire that target too should be realistic to be achieved. The Committee further desire that the employability aspect, after the training, should also be looked into for success of the National Action Plan.

CHAPTER - IV

SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

4.1 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs is implementing six scholarship schemes for students with disabilities at present:-

- i) Pre-matric (For Class IX & X)
- ii) Post-matric (For Class XI to Post-graduate degree/diploma)
- iii) Top Class Education (For Post-graduate degree/diploma in notified institutes of excellence)
- iv) National Fellowship (For M.Phil/Ph.D in Indian Universities)
- v) National Overseas Scholarship (For Master's Degree/Doctorate's in foreign universities abroad)
- vi) Free Coaching (For appearing in competitive examinations for Government jobs and admission to technical and professional courses)

4.2 The Committee were informed that with the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) and approval of the competent Authority, these six scholarship schemes have been merged into an Umbrella Scheme titled 'Scholarships for Students with Disability'. This Umbrella Scheme will be effective from 01.04.2018. An amount of Rs. 75.66 crore is earmarked as BE 2018-19 under the scheme. The merger/unification of the schemes has been proposed to remove the demand-supply imbalance of budget allocation. In other words, if there is surplus fund available in one component, that surplus can be utilized in the other component. Hence, from the year 2018-19 onwards, the allocation of funds shall be done in the unified scheme titled – “Scholarships for Students with Disabilities. However, in order to avoid the extreme situation where a major chunk of the budget allocation gets consumed by only one

component of the scheme leaving little funds for the others, a provision has been kept in the scheme that the utilization of funds for a component shall vary from a minimum of 5% to a maximum of 50% of the total budget allocation for the entire scheme.

4.3 The Committee observed that under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SwDs, out of allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore, the Department had utilised only Rs. 2.04 crore as on 18.01.2018. When the Committee asked about the reasons for such a minimal utilisation i.e. only 20% till January, 2018 and how the Department propose to utilise the remaining major amount i.e. Rs. 7.06 crore within two months, the Department in its written reply submitted as under:-

4.4 The payment process for release of scholarship in respect of candidates for the year 2017-18 is yet to be start because the respective State Governments are yet to send the digital payment file to this Department through National Scholarship Portal(NSP). Whatever amount has been released under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme (Rs. 2.04 Cr as on 15.2.2018), it is in respect of previous year's left out candidates. During the current financial year 2017-18, 12000 (Aprox) number of applications have been received under Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme, for which the amount required is Rs. 10.20 crore (approx) Hence, as and when digital files from State Governments are received, the balance amount is likely to be utilized. However, since the budget allocation is divided in four components i.e. General, Scheduled Caste(SC), Scheduled Tribe(ST) and North East Region(NE), the allocated fund under some heads like ST/NE may remain unspent due to non-availability of candidates belonging to that category.

4.5 Further, when the Committee desired to know the allocation of funds and actual expenditure incurred on six scholarship schemes separately during the last 3 years, the following statement was furnished to the Committee:-

S.No	Scheme	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
		RE	Actual Exp.	RE	Actual Exp.	RE	Actual Exp.
1.	Pre-Matric	5.00	1.60	6.00	5.54	10.00	2.04
2.	Post-Matric	10.00	3.21	10.00	9.82	16.05	8.69
3.	Top Class Education	0.50	0.24	1.20	0.86	1.00	0.25
4.	National Fellowship for PwDs	20.57	19.97	23.62	19.27	36.41	20.75
5.	National Overseas	0.50	0.00	1.00	0.37	2.00	0.35
6.	Free Coaching for SwDs	The scheme did not exist		The scheme did not exist		2.00	0.03

4.6 The Committee found that there is undue delay in transfer of Scholarship amount to the beneficiary's bank account. When the Committee desired to know the reason, a representative of the Department admitted before the Committee that:-

“The Department is operating six Scholarship Schemes for SwDs and out of these, the majority of Scholarship Slots are under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes. Both these schemes are implemented through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and the scholarship amount is directly transferred to the Aadhar linked bank account of the beneficiary through DBT. The reason for delay in transfer of scholarship amount to the beneficiary's account is largely because of lengthy process involved. The last date of application is 30th October which sometime is changed to 30th November. The whole procedural process is completed by the end of January/February”.

4.7 In the above context, when the Committee asked about the reasons for low utilisation in each scheme, the Department stated as under:

The scholarship amount of students of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship shall be released on receipt of funds under RE 2017-18 which are likely to be made available in March 2018 and the expenditure will be incurred in various schemes.

4.8 During the year 2015-16, the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) was launched and the portal was in preparatory stage. Due to technical issues involved in portal, all the State Governments were not able to process the applications on the NSP. Hence, there was less expenditure during 2015-16 of the schemes boarded on the portal. The entire amount earmarked for 2016-17 in Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme was spent. There was saving in National Overseas Scholarship Scheme during 2016-17 due to the reason that only two candidates were able to get admission in foreign universities abroad. During 2017-18, also due to this reason, there was saving in this scheme since no new candidate was able to get admission.

4.9 The Committee note that all the six Scholarship Schemes which are implementing by the Department for PwDs have been merged into one Umbrella Scheme i.e. Scholarships for Students with Disability and now will be effective from 01.04.2018 and Rs. 75.66 crore has been earmarked as BE 2018-19. The justification given behind the merger of all these six Scholarship Schemes is to remove the demand-supply imbalance of budget allocation. The Department conceded that the delay in disbursement of Scholarships to PwDs was due to lengthy process involved in disbursement of Scholarships. The Committee desire that there is an imperative need to streamline the entire procedure involved in grant of Scholarships to obviate any scope of delay, time-schedule be fixed, applicable all over the country and all the State/UTs Governments must adhere to time schedule. As the academic sessions of most of the educational Schemes for which Scholarships have been provided by the Department generally start from April to July all over the country, the Committee desire that the first three months can be given for submitting of applications and next three months for completion of all procedural formalities so that students could get scholarship amount by mid-session and large number of students with disabilities do not face financial difficulties and are not discouraged from dropping out due to financial hardships.

4.10 The Committee note that a Autism Spectrum Disorder, Mental illness and Intellectual disability are also covered by RPwDs Act, 2016. The Committee recommend that the Department should request the Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments to establish more 'special schools' for the

children who are suffering from these diseases and need special form of education.

CHAPTER V

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

5.1 The Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) of the Department is a Central Sector Scheme that includes projects for providing education and vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The Scheme has been operational since 1999 with the objective of ensuring effective implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act (PwD) through creating an enabling environment and encouraging non-governmental organizations through financial assistance for undertaking projects for the empowerment of the PwDs.

5.2 The Department has furnished that the following statement showing BE, RE and actual expenditure incurred under DDRS for the last three years and BE for 2018-19:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	60.00	51.00	50.19
2016-17	45.00	45.00	45.00
2017-18	60.00	60.00	39.88 (upto 18.01.2018)
2018-19	70.00		

5.3 Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme guidelines are applicable since 01.04.2003. The cost norms and guidelines of the Scheme have been revised with effect from April 01, 2018. The revision includes revised cost norms for honoraria and recurring items of expenditure. Besides, rationalization and merger of various model projects have been carried out. As against 18 model projects in the existing scheme, the revised scheme contains 9 model projects.

5.4 A total of 14 new trades that can be offered in VTCs have also been added considering emerging requirements for new skill such as: computer applications and programming, web-designing, internet management, mobile repairing etc.

5.5 When the Committee desired to know State/UTs wise details of Grant-in-Aid released to NGOs under DDRS during the last three years. The Department furnished the following statement:-

State/UTs wise No. of Organizations supported and GIA released under DDRS during the last three years							
(Rs. in Lakhs)							
S.No.	Name of the State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		No. of Organisation Supported	GIA Released	No. of Organisation Supported	GIA Released	No. of Organisation Supported	GIA Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	71	937.24	68	826.83	73	763.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	6.74	1	9.64
3	Assam	24	156.81	16	88.92	15	94.01
4	Bihar	4	55.2	7	62.03	6	25.16
5	Chattisgarh	6	32.88	7	47.49	6	17.51
6	Delhi	12	77.62	21	197.81	14	82.16
7	Goa	1	10.09	1	8.87	1	4.89
8	Gujarat	24	63.45	19	47.24	17	32.2
9	Haryana	19	121.77	17	117.94	18	116.24
10	Himachal Pradesh	3	8.79	4	20.53	6	24.16
11	Jammu & Kashmir	3	19.46	2	9.58	1	3.25
12	Jharkhand	2	7.3	2	2.45	1	0.94
13	Karnataka	14	102.82	8	77.52	9	96.73
14	Kerala	54	567.05	41	362.25	56	446.16
15	Madhya Pradesh	21	135.14	31	132.69	23	99.75
16	Maharashtra	40	250.45	28	141.47	29	221.47
17	Manipur	43	225.11	30	284.38	37	270.91

18	Meghalaya	6	36.61	6	45.86	7	65.16
19	Mizoram	2	23.93	2	11.25	2	7.38
20	Nagaland	0	0	1	0.41	0	0
21	Odisha	47	363.29	48	445.1	49	329.31
22	Pondicherry	1	7.18	1	14.83	4	7.16
23	Punjab	12	119	6	46.23	11	68.95
24	Rajasthan	29	101.66	30	139.18	27	136.12
25	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Tamil Nadu	27	68.89	28	234.29	22	98.77
27	Tripura	2	8.44	1	1	4	12.09
28	Uttar Pradesh	62	463.42	51	550.16	52	376.19
29	Uttrakhand	9	50.88	9	41.47	0	28.01
30	West Bengal	23	143.43	41	304.34	37	361.66
31	Andman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Telangana	79	850.13	61	750.13	64	700.88
	Total	640	5008.04	589	5018.99	592	4500

5.6 Details of physical targets and achievements from 2014-15 to 2017-18 under the DDR Scheme is given below:

Year	No. of beneficiaries (in lakhs)		% Achievement
	Target	Achievement	
2014-15	40000	36159	90.39
2015-16	38000	35461	93.31
2016-17	38000	32298	84.99
2017-18	40000	24598	61.49 (as on 31.12.2017)

5.7 When the Committee desired to know the steps introduced in the revised scheme to ensure timely receipt of State Government's recommendations and Utilization Certificates from States/UTs, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

"The organisation has to apply for Grant-in- Aid on the online portal of the Ministry (e-Anudaan) and forward the complete proposal to District Social Welfare Officer. Upon inspection and submission of online inspection report, the District Social Welfare Officer would forward the proposal to respective State Government/UT administration and to Government of India. If the State Government/UT administration does not decide on the proposal within 60 days, Government of India can decide on the proposal on the basis of inspection report submitted by the inspecting officer for NGOs receiving Grant-in- Aid under the scheme."

5.8 The Committee find that Organizations have to apply for Grant-in -Aid through online portal 'e-anudan' of the Department. When the Committee desired to know the State-wise details of organizations which have applied for Grant-in-Aid through online portal, the Department furnished the following statement to the Committee:

State/UTs wise number of organizations received Grant-in-Aid through 'e-Anudaan' under DDRS		
S.No.	Name of the State	Number of Organisation received GIA through 'E-Anudaan'
1	Andhra Pradesh	81
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3	Assam	20
4	Bihar	10
5	Chattisgarh	8
6	Delhi	19

7	Goa	1
8	Gujarat	25
9	Haryana	29
10	Himachal Pradesh	7
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1
12	Jharkhand	1
13	Karnataka	9
14	Kerala	64
15	Madhya Pradesh	26
16	Maharashtra	46
17	Manipur	49
18	Meghalaya	6
19	Mizoram	2
20	Nagaland	1
21	Odisha	50
22	Pondicherry	5
23	Punjab	14
24	Rajasthan	36
25	Sikkim	0
26	Tamil Nadu	30
27	Tripura	3
28	Uttar Pradesh	60
29	Uttrakhand	4
30	West Bengal	66
31	Andman and Nicobar	0
32	Chandigarh	0
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
34	Daman & Diu	0
35	Lakshadweep	0
36	Telangana	66
	Total	740

5.9 The Committee found that there have been reports of leakage and misuse of funds by NGOs every now and then even after streamlining the procedure by the Department with regard to grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. When the Committee

enquired about the measures taken by the Department to tackle such incidents under the revised scheme, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

"There is monitoring mechanism under DDRS to avoid misuse of funds by NGOs which is as under:-

- (i) Release of grants to implementing agencies during a year are made only on receipt of Utilization Certificates in respect of previous year's grants sanctioned to them.
- (ii) Field review of programmes by the officers.
- (iii) The programmes implemented through implementing agencies are inspected every year by the State Government and the inspection report is submitted to the Department along with the State Government recommendation.
- (iv) The Annual Report of Implementing Agencies receiving grant of more than Rs. 50.00 lakhs are laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament (As per GFR 2017).
- (v) In the event of proven misappropriation of funds by an implementing agencies, the Department initiates action to blacklist."

5.10 The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) set up by the Department are also funded under this scheme, after they have been run for a period of five years (for centres set up in the Jammu & Kashmir or North East) and three years for the rest of the country. Subsequently, these centres are handed over to a prominent NGO of the District for their further continuance and maintenance."

5.11 The Committee find that 310 districts have been identified for setting up of DDRS, out of which 263 DDRCs have been set up as on January, 2018. The

Committee were informed that out of 263 DDRCs 181 have received grant-in-aid only once since the year 2009-10 and only 72 DDRCs have received financial assistance at least twice during the last five years and are considered to be functional.

5.12 When the Committee asked about 181 DDRCs have received Grant-in-Aid once are totally non-functional or closed, the Department submitted in its written reply as follows:

"One of the main reasons for DDRCs not being functional is that the District Management Team finds it difficult to run DDRCs on account of low rate of honorarium of the staff. Revision of the DDRC Scheme has been approved under which the rate of honorarium has been enhanced 2.5 times of the existing rate. The revision is going to be effective from 01.04.2018. It is expected that the District Management Teams would come forward to make the DDRCs functional again under the revised Scheme".

5.13 When the Committee desired to know the status of remaining 47 DDRCs, the Department in its written reply submitted as under:

"310 districts have been identified for setting up DDRCs, out of which 263 DDRCs have been set up. DDRCs could not be set up in remaining 47 districts as no complete proposal along with requisite documents was received from the respective State Government/District Administration."

5.14 The Committee observe that grant-in-aid is provided to Non Government Organizations for undertaking various projects of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for the empowerment of PwDs. The Committee

note with satisfaction that the Budget allocated during 2015-16, 2016-17 has been utilized fully. The Department informed that for proper implementation/monitoring of the Scheme Grant-in-Aid to NGOs has been provided through e-Anudaan portal only and 740 organizations have received Grant-in-Aid through this Portal. The Committee are constrained to note that the State of Sikkim and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep have not received any Grant-in-Aid through e-Anudaan and only one Organization in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Nagaland received grants through the Portal. The Committee desire to know the poor status of implementation of DDRS Scheme in the above States and the Union Territories The Committee note that the District Management Team find it difficult to run DDRCs on account of low rate of honorarium of the staff. As the rate of honorarium has been enhanced by 2.5 times of the existing rate which is effective from 01.04.2018, the Committee are hopeful that by the revision of rate of honorarium one of the difficulties faced by DDRCs will be sorted out.

5.15 The Committee feel that the number of organizations supported under the Scheme in a State must be in consonance with the population of that State because States with large population like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. have large number of PwDs. If the number of supported organization is not commensurate with the disabled population, then there are chances of large number of PwDs being left out of the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to fix the number of NGOs/VOs to be supported

according to the State-wise population of persons with Disabilities as per census 2011.

5.16 The Department has adopted monitoring mechanism to avoid misuse of funds and in the event of proven misappropriation of funds by an implementing agency, the Department initiates action to blacklist them. The Committee feel that the matter should not end with blacklisting of the fraudulent agency as the money so misappropriated is public money and must be recovered back. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department besides blacklisting the agencies, must also resort to legal action so that the misappropriated money could also be recovered from them.

CHAPTER VI

NATIONAL INSTITUTES

6.1 There are eight National Institutes under the Department of PwDs working in the field of disability. National Institutes are autonomous bodies established for different types of disabilities. These institutes are engaged in Human Resources Development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and Research and Development efforts. 'The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)' is established by the Department in the year 2016. The main objective of the centre will be to develop manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language.

6.2 For the year 2017-18, the BE is Rs. 190.02 crore, RE is 222.50 crore and the Actual Expenditure is Rs. 137.86 crore upto January, 2018 under National Institutes. Now, an allocation of Rs. 215 crore is made under BE 2018-19 for National Institutes.

6.3 The following statement showing details of Regional Centres (RCs)/Composite Regional Centre (CRCs) under the National Institutes is furnished to the Committee:

S. No.	National Institute	Year of establishment	Regional Centres (RCs)/Regional Chapters	Composite Regional Centre(CRC)
1.	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun	1979	One RC (Chennai) Two Regional Chapter (Kolkata & Secunderabad)	One [Sundernagar (HP)]

2.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai	1983	Four RCs (Kolkata, Secunderabad, NOIDA and Bhubaneswar)	Two (Bhopal & Ahmedabad)
3.	National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata	1978	Three RCs (Dehradun Aizwal & Arunachal Pradesh)	Three (Patna, Arunachal Pradesh & Tripura)
4.	Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training & Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack	1975	None	Two (Guwahati & Chhattisgarh)
5.	Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi	1960	One RC (Secunderabad)	Two (Lucknow & Srinagar)
6.	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad	1984	Three RCs (NOIDA, Mumbai and Kolkata)	Two (Nellore & Davangere)
7.	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, (NIEPMD)	2005	None	Two (Kozhikode & Nagpur)
8.	Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)	2016	None	-

6.4 When the Committee desired to know any of the National Institute which is facing shortage of staff and steps taken by the Department to improve the staff strength in such Institutes, the Department in its written reply submitted as under:

"The Department intends the National Institutes to become the Institute of National Importance. Ministry of Finance (Staff Inspection Unit) was requested to carry out assessment in the five National Institutes i.e. (i) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun; (ii) Swami Vivekanand National Institute of the Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack; (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai; (iv) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad; (v) National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata to assess whether the existing infrastructure facilities of the National Institutes are sufficient for their up-gradation and how much additional manpower, etc. are required for making them Institutes of National Importance. Therefore, Ministry decided to get the work study of the National Institutes by the SIU of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

Two Institutes namely Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai were not taken up for inspection of SIU as Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has already completed work study of PDUNIPPD, New Delhi and

recommendation of SIU has been implemented in the Institute. The work study of the NIEPMD is not required since the Institute was established only in 2005.

6.5 SIU after completion of their assessment of these five Institutes have recommended to the Government of India for abolition of posts laying vacant and creation of additional posts in these Institutes. The report of SIU has been examined in the Department and accepted by the Government. Detailed proposal for creation of additional posts in the five National Institutes has been referred to Ministry of Finance, Department Expenditure. The details of creation of additional and abolition posts Institute-wise as under:-

Name of National Institute	Number of additional posts for creation	Number of posts laying vacant for abolition
SVNIRTAR	84	106
AYJNISHD	26	36
NILD	41	56
NIEPID	24	25
NIEPVD	80	71
Total	255	294

6.6 The details of group-wise filled up and vacant regular posts in the National Institutes are as under:-

Name of NIs	Group wise filled up posts			Group wise vacant posts		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
NIEPID	13	65	184	--	2	1
NILD	19	30	58	15	8	2
NIEPID	20	26	57	7	8	22
NIEPMD	13	15	0	3	1	0
SVNIRTAR	20	56	81	16	13	38
AYJNISHD	29	29	115	5	4	9
PDUNIPD	19	35	76	5	14	31

6.7 The Committee note that in order to upgrade the National Institutes to the Institutes of National Importance an assessment of manpower was conducted by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU). The SIU on completion of the study has recommended abolition of 294 posts lying vacant and creation of 255 new posts. The Committee find that the number of posts recommended for abolition is more than the number of new posts to be created. The Committee, therefore, would like the Department to ensure that the reduced staff strength should not come in the way of smooth functioning of these Institutes and obstruct the upgradation of NIS to the Institutes of National Importance. The Committee find that 204 vacancies in Group A, B and C are still vacant in 7 National Institutes. The Committee desire that these vacancies should be filled up without further delay.

CHAPTER VII

INFORMATION AND MASS EDUCATION CELL (MEDIA) SCHEME

7.1 The objective of the scheme is to spread awareness about the Schemes and programmes of the Department and dissemination of information about the rights of target groups of the Department through print, electronic, outdoor and other forms of the Media.

7.2 The Department has furnished the following statement on BE, RE and Actual Expenditure for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and BE 2018-19 under the Information and Mass Education Cell Scheme :

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	10.00	25.00	23.02
2016-17	70.00	40.00	39.96
2017-18	50.00	25.00	13.65 (upto 18.01.2018)
2018-19	35.00	-	-

7.3 When the Committee desired to know the reasons for less utilisation of allocated amount under the scheme during the last 3 years, the Department in its written reply stated as under:-

"Under Information and Mass Education Scheme Prior to the financial year 2014-15, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had a combined Cell for both the Departments. After setting up of the independent Department, the media activities of the Department commenced w.e.f. 2015-16. Accordingly, against the

enhanced RE Allocation of Rs.25.00 crore for the year 2015-16 an amount of Rs 23.02 Crore, i.e. 92.08% of funds was utilised. Similarly for the year 2016-17, almost entire RE allocation of Rs.40.00 crore was utilized. For the year 2017-18, funds of Rs.25.00 crore has been allocated under RE out of which Rs.15.16 crore (including Letter of Authorities(LOA) issued to DAVP has been utilized up to 12.2.2018. Balance amount of Rs.9.84, Lakh out of RE of Rs 25.00 Crore, is likely to be utilised fully by 31.3.2018."

7.4 When the Committee asked about the Department whether any directions given to the concerned State Governments to submit their recommendations regarding the proposals of non-government organisations as per latest guidelines of NITI AYOg, the Department in its written reply submitted as under:

"State/UT Govts. are being continuously requested to publicize the Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme and expedite their recommendation for non-government organization so that proposals are considered for release of grant. Latest reminders to Principal Secretaries of States/UTs was sent on 23.01.2018. Further, State/UTs are also reminded in the regional conferences organized by the Department."

7.5 The Committee were informed that the that the main constraint for smooth functioning of Media Unit in non-filling up of post of Deputy Director (Media) after bifurcation of the Department from M/o Social Justice & Empowerment. The Department has started independent media activities w.e.f. 2015-16.

7.6 When the Committee asked about the reasons for not filling the post of Deputy Director (Media) and current status of filling up of the post, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

"Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was bifurcated into Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in May 2012. Consequent upon bifurcation, the Department was provided with 48 existing posts of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Subsequently, Ministry of Finance had given concurrence to 69 posts. However, no post was sanctioned for Media Cell. The matter was pursued with Department of Expenditure which had concurred to the Department's proposal for creation of the post of Deputy Director (Media) on 05.02.2016.

For filling up the post of Deputy Director (Media), the process for framing of Recruitment Rules was initiated in Feb 2016. The Recruitment Rules, duly approved by DoPT, UPSC and vetted by Legislative Department have been sent to Government of India Press Mayapuri on 25.01.2018. The post of Deputy Director (Media) will be filled up after eGazette Notification".

7.7 The Committee observe that due importance to the media activities including awareness generation and dissemination of information of the Schemes and programmes being implemented by the Department for the Welfare and Empowerment of PwDs is not being given. Even the budget allocation under the Information and Mass Education Cell is being reduced at RE stage. The fund allocation was reduced from Rs. 70.00 crore to 40.00 crore in 2016-17, Rs. 50.00 crore to Rs. 25.00 crore in 2017-18 and in 2018-19 the budget allocation is Rs. 35.00 crore at BE stage itself. The actual expenditure upto 18.01.2018 is bare Rs. (media). As on date, the recruitment process has only reached the stage of notification of Recruitment Rules for the post. The Committee fail to understand why the Department needs to have separate Recruitment Rules as it is an independent Department under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment 13.65 crore against the RE of Rs. 25.00 crore in 2017-18 under the Information and Mass Education Cell. All this shows the casual approach of the Department towards the media and awareness generation activities. The Committee feel that awareness about only Scheme is an important aspect for availing the facilities provided under various Schemes of the Department by PwDs. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to iron out the deficiencies/anomalies and work out concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilisation of these funds in 2018-19.

and is, therefore, very much a part of the Ministry. The Department could have easily adopted the Recruitment Rules. The Committee suggest the Department to adopt the Recruitment Rules as soon as possible.

NEW DELHI;

07 March, 2018
16 Phalguna, 1939 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee
on Social Justice
and Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2017-18) HELD ON TUESDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 2018

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1345 hrs. in Committee Room No. 2, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Jhina Hikaka
6. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
7. Smt. K. Maragatham
8. Shri Kariya Munda
9. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
10. Dr. Udit Raj
11. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
12. Smt. Satabdi Roy

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
15. Smt. Chhaya Verma
16. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

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

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

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Ms. Shakuntala Doley Gamlin	Secretary
2.	Ms. Dolly Chakraborty	Joint Secretary
3.	Dr. Prabodh Seth	Joint Secretary
4.	Ms. T.C.A Kalyani	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
5.	Shri Praveen Nandwana	Chief Controller of Accounts
6.	Shri Mukesh Jain	JS & CEO, National Trust
7.	Shri D. R. Sarin	CMD, ALIMCO/NHFDC
8.	Shri S.K. Srivastava	Member Secretary, RCI
9.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Rao	Deputy CCPD

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to the sitting of the Committee convened to have discussion on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to their Department. Impressing upon the witnesses to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', the Chairperson asked the Secretary Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to give an overview of the subject matter.

3. The Secretary accordingly briefed the Committee about overall performance of the Department, detailing the budgetary allocations, actual expenditure incurred/physical targets achieved under various schemes/programmes with the help of

a power point presentation. The broad issues discussed at the meeting relating to Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Department are as follows:-

- (i) Under-utilization of funds under important schemes of the Department during 2017-18.
- (ii) Difficulties in issuing of Disability Certificates to PwDs.
- (iii) Skill Development Training to PwDs under National Action Plan (NAP) and employment opportunities for PwDs after getting training.
- (iv) Merger of six Scholarships into an Umbrella Scheme titled 'Scholarships for Students with Disability'.
- (v) Reasons for delay in transfer of scholarship amount to the beneficiary's account.
- (vi) Involvement of local MPs and MLAs in discussions held with State officials.
- (vii) Revision of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Schemes (DDRS) and impact after implementation of revised scheme.
- (viii) Disabled-friendly State buildings under Accessible India Campaign.

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible. The Chairperson then directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the unanswered queries raised by Members to the Secretariat by 22nd February, 2018 for early finalization of the Report.

5. The Chairperson then thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views on various issues raised by the Members.

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

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7th MARCH, 2018

The Committee met from 1000 hrs. to 1045 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, First Floor, Block-B, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
5. Smt. K. Maragatham
6. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
7. Dr. Udit Raj
8. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
9. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
10. Prof. Sadhu Singh
11. Smt. Mamata Thakur
12. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
14. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
15. Smt. Chhaya Verma
16. Shri Ramkumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

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

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

(i) **** **** ****

(ii) Fifty-first Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

(iii) **** **** ****

(iv) **** **** ****

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

The Committee then adjourned.

**** Not related with the Report.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3
1.	2.12	<p>The Committee note with concern that as in previous years, this year also the Department has not been able to check the trend of inconsistent and uneven expenditure. The pace of expenditure in the first three and half quarter is slow and a large chunk of the funds, i.e. 37 per cent are to be utilized in the last one and a half month in the financial year 2017-18. The Committee find that some important Schemes like Budgetary support to National Trust, Rehabilitation Council of India, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) have 50 per cent unspent balance as on 15.02.2018. The Committee observe that under the Schemes like, Indian Spinal Injury Centre, Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports there is 'nil' expenditure up to 18.01.2018. This reflects poor performance/implementation of important Schemes by the Department. The Committee feel that the Schemes planned by the Department for the Persons with Disabilities are good in concept but they lack proper execution and this is one of the main reasons for the Department not getting desired budgetary support from the Ministry of Finance. Year after year, the Committee find that Department giving same reply viz., non-receipt of UCs, incomplete and deficient proposals from the State Governments, for low utilization of funds under various Schemes but nothing has reversed the trend of inconsistent, uneven and disjointed expenditure. The Committee feel that the Department too has done nothing beyond holding regular review meetings, issuing reminders and pursuing with State Governments. The Committee observe that when there is a large chunk of funds left unused and there is a hurry to spend the money, somehow the quality of scrutiny and proper examination of the documents is compromised. The Committee, therefore, desire that the requirement of various formalities for giving grants to various implementing agencies should be completed well in advance so that the entire allocation for 2018-19 could be utilized fully and timely. The Committee desire that as the same issues keep appearing perennially, the Department should forethink the same and act accordingly.</p>
2.	2.13	<p>As most of the Schemes are now being implemented through online portal, the delay on the part of the State Governments for</p>

		submitting proposals, furnishing Utilization Certificates may be tackled if the State Governments or implementing Agencies are fully aware of various formalities/procedure involved in these portals. The Committee are of the view that the Department should make all out efforts to sensitize all the stakeholders who are involved for implementing various Schemes so that unnecessary delay in completing the formalities could be avoided. The Committee desire that all the websites/portals of the Department should be made accessible to PwDs within a period of six months.
3.	2.20	The Committee note that Disability Certificate is a basic document to avail benefits of various Schemes meant for PwDs. It is a fact that to acquire a Disability Certificate from authority is a very big task for a disabled person particularly in rural areas. The Committee find that out of 2.68 crore only 57 per cent PwDs have disability certificates till August, 2017. The Committee find that there are many lengthy procedures involved in issuing of Disability Certificate viz., medical examination, availability of Specialists/Doctors for examining a disabled persons for particular disability etc. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter regarding issue of Disability Certificate should be taken up with all the State Governments on regular intervals and the status report be taken from them in every three months. The Committee also recommend that the procedure of acquiring Disability Certificate should be further simplified to cover more PwDs at the earliest. The Committee have been informed that an application software has been developed for creation of National Database for PwDs and also to issue Unique ID card to each PwD. This would also provide a web based programme for issuance of Disability Certificate in a more systematic and transparent manner. The Committee were also informed that at present 4 lakh UDID have been issued to PwDs. This project has been implemented in fourteen States/UTs only and will be rolled out to all the States by December, 2018. The Committee, however, desire the Department to ensure that project is rolled out within specified time period without fail so that the entire PwD population could be provided with Unique ID Card and Disability Certificate.
4.	3.11	The Committee note that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 included extra categories of disabilities. Twenty-one disabilities including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Multiple Sclerosis, Acid Attack-victim, Thalassemia, Parkinson's disease, Intellectual Disability, Hemophilia have now been recognized by the new Act. The Department has informed that guidelines for assessment of a person to be included in the category of a

		<p>disabled person under the Act have been formulated to certify the degree of disability in Mental Autism cases and other disabilities. The Committee note that Central Rules under RPwDs Act have been notified on 15.06.2017 and only four States i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya have framed Rules and notified. The Committee desire that the Department should impress upon all the State Governments to frame the Rules under the Act within a definite time frame. As State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities in the States have important role to monitor implementation of provisions of RPwDs Act, Schemes and Programmes meant for PwDs, the Committee also desire the Department to issue instructions to all the State Governments to appoint independent State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the States. The Committee may also be apprised regarding notification of Rules by the State Governments and also appointment of State Commissioners after three months from the date of presentation of the Report.</p>
5.	3.19	<p>The Committee note that the National Action Plan (NAP) for skill training to PwDs was launched by the Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March, 2015 for providing financial assistance for skill development of PwDs. The Committee find that when the Scheme was launched the initial target to skill 5 lakh PwDs in next three years was fixed. The Committee note that till the end of year 2017-18, 1,55,000 PwDs have been provided skill training and the target for 2018-19 is only to cover 90,000 PwDs. It means 2,45,000 beneficiaries, in total, will be covered under NAP by 2018-19. The Department has explained operational difficulties being experienced by them in implementation of skill development programme and steps taken to overcome these difficulties. The Committee are of the firm view that at the time of conceptualization and formulation of any Scheme road map or blue print for its implementation must be well thought of so that the difficulties, if any, can be visualized at initial stage itself. The Committee also desire that target too should be realistic to be achieved. The Committee further desire that the employability aspect, after the training, should also be looked into for success of the National Action Plan.</p>
6.	4.9	<p>The Committee note that all the six Scholarship Schemes which are implementing by the Department for PwDs have been merged into one Umbrella Scheme i.e. Scholarships for Students with</p>

		<p>Disability and now will be effective from 01.04.2018 and Rs. 75.66 crore has been earmarked as BE 2018-19. The justification given behind the merger of all these six Scholarship Schemes is to remove the demand-supply imbalance of budget allocation. The Department conceded that the delay in disbursement of Scholarships to PwDs was due to lengthy process involved in disbursement of Scholarships. The Committee desire that there is an imperative need to streamline the entire procedure involved in grant of Scholarships to obviate any scope of delay, time-schedule be fixed, applicable all over the country and all the State/UTs Governments must adhere to time schedule. As the academic sessions of most of the educational Schemes for which Scholarships have been provided by the Department generally start from April to July all over the country, the Committee desire that the first three months can be given for submitting of applications and next three months for completion of all procedural formalities so that students could get scholarship amount by mid-session and large number of students with disabilities do not face financial difficulties and are not discouraged from dropping out due to financial hardships.</p>
7.	4.10	<p>The Committee note that a Autism Spectrum Disorder, Mental illness and Intellectual disability are also covered by RPwDs Act, 2016. The Committee recommend that the Department should request the Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments to establish more 'special schools' for the children who are suffering from these diseases and need special form of education.</p>
8.	5.14	<p>The Committee observe that grant-in-aid is provided to Non Government Organizations for undertaking various projects of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for the empowerment of PwDs. The Committee note with satisfaction that the Budget allocated during 2015-16, 2016-17 has been utilized fully. The Department informed that for proper implementation/monitoring of the Scheme Grant-in-Aid to NGOs has been provided through e-Anudaan portal only and 740 organizations have received Grant-in-Aid through this Portal. The Committee are constrained to note that the State of Sikkim and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep have not received any Grant-in-Aid through e-Anudaan and only one Organization in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Nagaland received grants through the Portal. The Committee desire to know the poor status of implementation of DDRS Scheme in the above States and the Union Territories The Committee note that the District Management Team find it difficult to run DDRCs on account of low rate of honorarium of</p>

		<p>the staff. As the rate of honorarium has been enhanced by 2.5 times of the existing rate which is effective from 01.04.2018, the Committee are hopeful that by the revision of rate of honorarium one of the difficulties faced by DDRCs will be sorted out.</p>
9.	5.15	<p>The Committee feel that the number of organizations supported under the Scheme in a State must be in consonance with the population of that State because States with large population like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. have large number of PwDs. If the number of supported organization is not commensurate with the disabled population, then there are chances of large number of PwDs being left out of the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to fix the number of NGOs/VOs to be supported according to the State-wise population of persons with Disabilities as per census 2011.</p>
10.	5.16	<p>The Department has adopted monitoring mechanism to avoid misuse of funds and in the event of proven misappropriation of funds by an implementing agency, the Department initiates action to blacklist them. The Committee feel that the matter should not end with blacklisting of the fraudulent agency as the money so misappropriated is public money and must be recovered back. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department besides blacklisting the agencies, must also resort to legal action so that the misappropriated money could also be recovered from them.</p>
11.	6.7	<p>The Committee note that in order to upgrade the National Institutes to the Institutes of National Importance an assessment of manpower was conducted by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU). The SIU on completion of the study has recommended abolition of 294 posts lying vacant and creation of 255 new posts. The Committee find that the number of posts recommended for abolition is more than the number of new posts to be created. The Committee, therefore, would like the Department to ensure that the reduced staff strength should not come in the way of smooth functioning of these Institutes and obstruct the upgradation of NIS to the Institutes of National Importance. The Committee find that 204 vacancies in Group A, B and C are still vacant in 7 National Institutes. The Committee desire that these vacancies should be filled up without further delay.</p>
12.	7.7	<p>The Committee observe that due importance to the media activities including awareness generation and dissemination of information of the Schemes and programmes being implemented</p>

		<p>by the Department for the Welfare and Empowerment of PwDs is not being given. Even the budget allocation under the Information and Mass Education Cell is being reduced at RE stage. The fund allocation was reduced from Rs. 70.00 crore to 40.00 crore in 2016-17, Rs. 50.00 crore to Rs. 25.00 crore in 2017-18 and in 2018-19 the budget allocation is Rs. 35.00 crore at BE stage itself. The actual expenditure upto 18.01.2018 is bare Rs. 13.65 crore against the RE of Rs. 25.00 crore in 2017-18 under the Information and Mass Education Cell. All this shows the casual approach of the Department towards the media and awareness generation activities. The Committee feel that awareness about only Scheme is an important aspect for availing the facilities provided under various Schemes of the Department by PwDs. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to iron out the deficiencies/anomalies and work out concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilisation of these funds in 2018-19.</p>
13.	7.8	<p>The Committee find that Department of Empowerment of PwDs started independent media activities w.e.f. 2015-16 and even after three years of its inception the Department has not been able to fill up the post of Deputy Director (media). As on date, the recruitment process has only reached the stage of notification of Recruitment Rules for the post. The Committee fail to understand why the Department needs to have separate Recruitment Rules as it is an independent Department under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and is, therefore, very much a part of the Ministry. The Department could have easily adopted the Recruitment Rules. The Committee suggest the Department to adopt the Recruitment Rules as soon as possible.</p>