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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2017-2018)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

**(Department of Empowerment of Persons with
Disabilities)**

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August, 2018/Shravana, 1940 (Saka)**

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 09.08.2018
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 09.08.2018



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August, 2018/Shravana, 1940 (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 Bharatendra Singh
15. Prof. Sadhu Singh
16. Smt. Mamata Thakur
17. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
18. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
- *19. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
- # 23. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
24. Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
26. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
- **27. Smt. Kanta Kardam
28. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Smt. Chhaya Verma
31. Shri Ramkumar Verma

* Nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 14.03.2018

** Nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 02.06.2018

Nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 23.06.2018 in place of Shri Ahamed Hassan.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Fifty-eighth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on 'Demands for Grants - 2018-19' relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Fifty-first Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 8th March, 2018. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 2nd July, 2018. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 7th August, 2018.

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

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

NEW DELHI;

7 August, 2018
16 Shravana, 1940 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2018-19)" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

1.2 The Fifty-first Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 8th March, 2018. It contained 13 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observation/recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.12, 2.13, 3.19, 4.9, 4.10, 5.14, 5.15, 5.16 and 7.8

(Total: 9, Chapter II)

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

Nil.

(Chapter-III)

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

Paragraph No. 6.7

(Total: 1, Chapter -IV)

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

Paragraph Nos. 2.20, 3.11 and 7.7

(Total: 3, Chapter -V)

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

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

A. Budgetary Provisions and Utilization

Recommendation (Para No. 2.12)

1.5 The Committee noted 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 was slow and a large chunk of the funds, i.e. 37 per cent was utilized in the last one and a half month in the financial year 2017-18. The Committee found 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) had 50 per cent unspent balance as on 15.02.2018. The Committee observed that under the Schemes, Indian Spinal Injury Centre and Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports, there was 'nil' expenditure up to 18.01.2018. This reflects poor performance/implementation of important Schemes by the Department. The Committee felt 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 found 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 felt that the Department too had done nothing beyond holding regular review meetings, issuing reminders and pursuing with State Governments. The Committee observed 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, desired 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 desired that as the same issues keep appearing perennially, the Department should forethink the same and act accordingly.

Reply of the Government

1.6 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their reply have stated:

"On the findings of the Committee 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 percent unspent balance as on 15.02.2018, the factual position with regard to these Schemes are as under:

(i) ALIMCO

As per the scheme of Modernization of ALIMCO, apart from the grants-in-aid from the Government, the expenditure towards modernization is also partly to be met by ALIMCO out of the internal resources of the Corporation. Accordingly, after release of the 1st installment, release of next installment was possible only after the share of Corporation's liability was met out of its internal resources. Also funds could not be released fully as on 15.02.2018, due to the fact that the proposal for continuation of Modernization Scheme of ALIMCO for the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. up to 2019-20 was under consideration by Standing Finance Committee (SFC) at that point of time as stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. However, it is submitted that entire amount of Rs.5.00 crore earmarked for the Modernization Scheme of ALIMCO was fully released by the end of Financial Year 2017-18.

(ii) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports:

The scheme is still in the formulation stage. This involves various pre-investment activities, like allotment of appropriate and suitable land by the concerned States, preparation of Detailed Project Report etc. As regards consultation with technical experts about the feasibility of land and design, the same has been completed. Only after completing various

pre-investment activities, the Department may be in a position to formulate and implement the scheme. Hence, no funds could be released during 2017-18.

However, the observations and directions of the Committee contained in para 2.12 have been noted for compliance.

(iii) Indian Spinal Injury Centre

As per instructions of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, all the Schemes/Projects were to be appraised and approved by the Competent Authority for continuation during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. up to 2019-20. As some outstanding issues were remaining unresolved by the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, the Indian Spinal Injury Centre Scheme could not be appraised and approved for continuation during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. up to 2019-20.

2. In view of the position explained above, no funds could be released to Indian Spinal Injuries Centre during 2017-18.

(iv) Budgetary Support to National Trust

Under the Scheme of Budgetary Support to National Trust an amount of Rs. 17.00 crore was allocated during the FY 2017-18, out of which Rs. 4.00 crore was earmarked for the North-East. Due to insufficient number of registered organizations present in North Eastern Region to implement the schemes, National Trust was not able to spend entire amount of NE allocation.

(v) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

During the FY 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 32.74 Crore was allocated to NHFDC. Out of the same, the entire allocation has been utilized in the financial year 2017-18. Reasons for releasing 50% of budgetary support in the last quarter of F/Y 2017-18 are as under:

a. As per the trend in past few years, the demands from the implementing agencies have been comparatively higher in the last quarter as compared to the initial three quarters of the year which has led to release of major part of the loan in the last Quarter (especially in last 1½ month) during financial year 2017-18.

b. The issue was taken up with NHFDC in this regard and NHFDC has informed that it has taken note of observations of the committee about imbalanced release of funds. In order to address this issue (imbalanced release of funds), NHFDC has notionally allocated annual off-take of loans for its implementing agencies at the very beginning of the financial year 2018-19. Till date, NHFDC has been able to release Rs.18.25 Crores during the financial year 2018-19.

(vi) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

During the financial year 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 635.00 lakhs was allocated to RCI. The major allocation is for salary & General Head, which was 86.45% of total allocation. Only 13.51% was allocated toward special component plan for SC, ST & NE Region. RCI could not submit the proposal timely due to non receipt of proposals for utilizing the funds for financial assistance to the candidates pursuing RCI approved course recognized by RCI. However, the observations and directions of the Committee contained in para 2.12 have been noted for compliance."

1.7 As there was nil expenditure upto January, 2018 under the Schemes of Indian Spinal Injury Centre and Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports and 50 per cent unspent expenditure as on February, 2018 under the Schemes of Budgetary Support to National Trust Rehabilitation Council of India, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), the Committee had desired in their original report that the Department should complete formalities for giving grants to various implementing agencies well in advance for fully and timely utilization of entire budget allocation. The Department, however, in its reply has justified the reasons for nil/low expenditure under these Schemes. The Committee accept the explanation given by the Department. As regards Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) and National Trust, the Ministry has submitted that low utilization of funds by RCI is due to non-receipt of proposals for financial assistance to the candidates pursuing RCI approved courses. Similarly, under the Scheme of Budgetary Support to National Trust, the entire amount of Rs. 4.00 crore earmarked for N.E. Region could not be utilized due to insufficient number of registered organizations present in the region for implementation of Schemes. The Committee desire that the Department should take the matter of timely submission of proposals with RCI for full utilization of funds. The Committee find that various important Schemes like Disha, Vikas, Samarth, Gharaunda, Sambhav, Nirmaya and Badhte Kadam for welfare of PWDs are being implemented by the National Trust. The Committee recommend that the Department should instruct the National Trust to identify/select sufficient number of organizations for implementing its Schemes in North Eastern part of the country so that the allocated funds for this purpose could be used in this region and more number of PWDs could be covered.

B. Accessibility of websites/portals of the Department to PwDs

Recommendation (Para No. 2.13)

1.8 The Committee found that as most of the Schemes of the Department are 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 were 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 desired that all the websites/portals of the Department should be made accessible to PwDs within a period of six months.

Reply of the Government

1.9 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their reply have stated:

"The DDRS and ADIP Schems are being implemented through e-anudan portal for considering the proposals of Non Government Organisations(NGOs).

2. Three Scholarship Schemes are being implemented online i.e. Pre & Post Matric Scholarship and Top Class Education on National Scholarship Portal (NsP). National Fellowship is implemented through UGC online Portal.

3. The website/portal of the Department is accessible to PwDs."

1.10 The Committee are happy to note that the Department has made its websites/portals accessible to PwDs. However, the Department is silent on the aspect of sensitizing the various stakeholders involved in implementation of Schemes to obviate delays in completing the formalities through online. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to make all out efforts to sensitize all the stakeholders for speedy implementation of various Schemes of the Department.

C. Unique Disability ID Project

Recommendation (Para No. 2.20)

1.11 The Committee noted 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 found that out of 2.68 crore PwDs only 57 per cent PwDs had disability certificates till August, 2017. The Committee also found 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, recommended 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 recommended that the procedure of acquiring Disability Certificate should be further simplified to cover more PwDs at the earliest. The Committee had 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 informed that at present 4 lakh UDID have been issued to PwDs. This project had been implemented in fourteen States/UTs only and will be rolled out to all the States by December, 2018. The Committee desired 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.

Reply of the Government

1.12 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their reply have stated:

"The Government has notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 on 15.06.2017. These Rules provide simplified mechanism of obtaining certificate of disability and also mandate the certifying authority to issue certificate of disability within a period of 30 days from the receipt of application. Further, the UDID project being implemented in the country, provides for a web based online platform for issuance of certificate of disability. SO far the project has been implemented in 22 States/UTs namely, Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal

Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. The progress of implementation of UDID project is being continuously administered through regular video conferencing with the State authorities. Majority of the States have now simplified their procedure and have a dedicated specific day in every week, in the District/other hospitals, so that all relevant specialists are available on that day for grant of certificate of disability to the PwDs. Moreover Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also been requested to take steps so that requisite specialists are available at the District level centres for issuance of certificate of disability. "

1.13 Considering the fact that out of 2.68 crore PwDs, only 4 lakh PwDs have been issued UDID under the project, the Committee in their original Report, had desired the Department to ensure the project is rolled out to all the States/UTs by the time period as specified by the Department i.e., December, 2018 without fail. Now, the Department has submitted in the Action Taken Reply that the project has been implemented in 22 States/ UTs till date without mentioning the latest number of UDID issued to PwDs. The Committee feel that at this pace it will take years to cover the entire PwD population under the UDID project. Keeping in view the importance of UDID for PwDs, the Committee urge upon the Department to take up the project on war-footing so that UDID is issued to all the PwDs by December, 2018 positively.

D. Appointment of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Recommendation (Para No. 3.11)

1.14 The Committee noted 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 been recognized by the new Act. The Department had 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 noted that Central Rules under RPwDs Act had been notified on 15.06.2017 and only four States i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya had framed Rules and notified. The Committee desired 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 desired the Department to issue instructions to all the State Governments to appoint independent State Commissioner for persons with disabilities in the States. The Committee might 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.

Reply of the Government

1.15 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their reply have stated:

"The Department is continuously monitoring implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016 by the States/UTs including framing of rules by them through regular correspondence and video conferencing. As per the latest information, the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Telangana and Meghalaya have

notified their rules. Majority of the remaining States have already prepared the draft rules and it is at an advanced stage of finalisation.

As regards, appointment of independent commissioners, it is stated that keeping in view the mandate of the RPwD Act, 2016, the States/UTs have been advised to consider appointing independent State Commissioner for persons with disabilities vide letter from Secretary, DEPwD dated 20.03.2018. The office of CCPD has also been requested to continuously monitor the issue of appointment of independent State Commissioners."

1.16 The Committee observe that about 10 States have notified their rules under Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 and remaining States are at various stages of doing so. The Committee are disappointed to note that in spite of the mandate of RPWD Act, 2016 and the instructions of Central Government, many States/UTs have still not appointed independent State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities. Considering the fact that appointment of independent State Commissioners for PwDs is essential for implementation of RPWD Act in States/UTs, the Committee desire the Department to take coercive steps and give fresh directions to States/ UTs to appoint independent State Commissioners and notification of Rules under the Act without any delay. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this matter.

E. Filling up of vacant posts in National Institutes

Recommendation (Para No. 6.7)

1.17 The Committee noted 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 had recommended abolition of 294 posts lying vacant and creation of 255 new posts. The Committee found that the number of posts recommended for abolition is more than the number of new posts to be created. The Committee, therefore, desired 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 found that 204 vacancies in Group A, B and C are still vacant in 7 National Institutes. The Committee desired that these vacancies should be filled up without further delay.

Reply of the Government

1.18 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their reply have stated:

"Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) has assessed the requirement of manpower National Institutes (NIs) after detailed deliberation with Director, of NIs. SIU recommended abolishment of posts, which were laying vacant for a long time in the Institute as well as not essential as per their present requirement. The posts abolished were group C & D post and SIU recommended to fill such types posts through outsourcing only. It has also recommended for creation of new posts like professor, Associate Professor and other technical posts, which is essentially required in the Institutes. Hence, it will not effect on the functioning of the Institute. The recommendations of SIU will be helpful to strengthen the NIs became Institutes of National Importance. It will facilitate introduction of new courses in the Institutes as these posts are essential requirement of concerned universities. As far as filing up of vacant posts is concerned, all efforts is being made to fill up the vacant posts in the NIs after following due recruitment process."

1.19 The Committee observe that while the Department has tried to justify the reduced staff strength in National Institutes in the light of study conducted by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) but has evaded the issue of filling up the vacant posts in National Institutes without delay. The Department has simply informed that the efforts are being made to fill up the vacant posts. The Committee are of the firm view that complete staff strength is essential for optimum performance and smooth functioning of the National Institutes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department must prepare a comprehensive road-map and time schedule to fill up vacant posts at various levels in all the National Institutes. The Committee may also be apprised of the progress made in the matter.

F. Media and Awareness Generation Activities

Recommendation (Para No. 7.7)

1.20 The Committee observed that due importance to the media activities including awareness generation and dissemination of information of the Schemes and programmes implemented by the Department for the Welfare and Empowerment of PwDs was not given. Even the budget allocation under the Information and Mass Education Cell was also 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. The actual expenditure upto 18.01.2018 was 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 felt 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, urged upon the Department to iron out the deficiencies/anomalies and work out concrete measures so as to ensure optimal utilisation of funds in 2018-19.

Reply of the Government

1.21 The Department of Empowerment of PwDs in their reply have stated:

"The Budget allocation for media activities during 2017-18 was Rs.50.00 crore, which was reduced to Rs.25.00 crore due to requirements of funds in some other schemes of the Department. Out of Rs.25.00 crore, the Department released funds to the tune of Rs.16.39 crore for media activities by the end of Financial Year 2017-18 and fund of Rs.8.25crore was utilized through re-appropriation for other schemes where there was urgent requirement of funds. During 2017-18, the Department issued 31 advertisements relating to various ADIP Camps throughout the country highlighting the initiatives taken by the Department for the welfare of Divyangjan as well as the achievements of the Department. Besides, 12 events/programmes/participation of the Department in exhibitions were undertaken. The Department also released advertisements relating to enactment and implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, Scholarship Schemes, National Awards etc.

2. However, direction of the Committee to work out concrete measures to ensure optimal utilization of media funds in 2018-19 has been noted for compliance.

3. During the financial year 2018-19, the budget allocation under the scheme is Rs.35.00 crore. The Department has already formulated the Media Plan for proper and timely utilization of funds during the current financial year."

1.22 The Committee observe that in 2017-18 BE of Rs. 50 crore allocated to the Department for media activities which was reduced to Rs. 25 crore at RE stage and actual expenditure was only Rs. 16.39 crore. The amount of Rs. 8.25 crore was utilized through re-appropriation for other Schemes where there was urgent requirement of funds. It clearly shows non-serious attitude of the Department towards media activities. The Department has, however, given assurance that they are taking concrete measures to ensure optimal utilization of funds under media activities for the year 2018-19 but going by the past record of the Department under the Scheme, the Committee would like to accept the assurance with a pinch of salt. The Committee feel that until and unless the PwD population is made aware of their rights and welfare schemes being undertaken for their empowerment, they will not come forward to avail the benefits of the Schemes. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to take media and awareness generation activities seriously and ensure optimal utilization of funds in 2018-19.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.12)

2.1 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.

Reply of the Government

2.2 On the findings of the Committee 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 (NHFD) have 50 percent unspent balance as on 15.02.2018, the factual position with regard to these Schemes are as under:

(i) ALIMCO

As per the scheme of Modernization of ALIMCO, apart from the grants-in-aid from the Government, the expenditure towards modernization is also partly to be met by ALIMCO out of the internal resources of the Corporation. Accordingly, after release of the 1st installment, release of next installment was possible only after the share of Corporation's liability was met out of its internal resources. Also funds could not be released fully as on 15.02.2018, due to the fact that the proposal for continuation of Modernization Scheme of ALIMCO for the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. up to 2019-20 was under consideration by Standing Finance Committee (SFC) at that point of time as stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. However, it is submitted that entire amount of Rs.5.00 crore earmarked for the Modernization Scheme of ALIMCO was fully released by the end of Financial Year 2017-18.

(ii) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports:

The scheme is still in the formulation stage. This involves various pre-investment activities, like allotment of appropriate and suitable land by the concerned States, preparation of Detailed Project Report etc. As regards consultation with technical experts about the feasibility of land and design, the same has been completed. Only after completing various pre-investment activities, the Department may be in a position to formulate and implement the scheme. Hence, no funds could be released during 2017-18.

However, the observations and directions of the Committee contained in para 2.12 have been noted for compliance.

(iii) Indian Spinal Injury Centre

As per instructions of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, all the Schemes/Projects were to be appraised and approved by the Competent Authority for continuation during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. up to 2019-20. As some outstanding issues were remaining unresolved by the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, the Indian Spinal Injury Centre Scheme could not be appraised and approved for continuation during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. up to 2019-20.

2. In view of the position explained above, no funds could be released to Indian Spinal Injuries Centre during 2017-18.

(iv) Budgetary Support to National Trust

Under the Scheme of Budgetary Support to National Trust an amount of Rs. 17.00 crore was allocated during the FY 2017-18, out of which Rs. 4.00 crore was earmarked for the North-East. Due to insufficient number of registered organizations present in North Eastern Region to implement the schemes, National Trust was not able to spend entire amount of NE allocation.

(v) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

During the FY 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 32.74 Crore was allocated to NHFDC. Out of the same, the entire allocation has been utilized in the FY 2017-18.

Reasons for releasing 50% of budgetary support in the last quarter of F/Y 2017-18 are as under:

(a) As per the trend in past few years, the demands from the implementing agencies have been comparatively higher in the last quarter as compared to the initial three quarters of the year which has led to release of major part of the loan in the last Quarter (especially in last 1½ month) during financial year 2017-18.

(b) The issue was taken up with NHFDC in this regard and NHFDC has informed that it has taken note of observations of the committee about imbalanced release of funds. In order to address this issue (imbalanced release of funds), NHFDC has notionally allocated annual off-take of loans for its implementing agencies at the very beginning of the financial year 2018-19. Till date, NHFDC has been able to release Rs.18.25 Crores during the financial year 2018-19.

(vi) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

During the financial year 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 635.00 lakhs was allocated to RCI. The major allocation is for salary & General Head, which was 86.45% of total allocation. Only 13.51% was allocated toward special component plan for SC, ST & NE Region. RCI could not submit the proposal timely due to non receipt of proposals for utilizing the funds for financial assistance to the candidates pursuing RCI approved course recognized by RCI. However, the observations and directions of the Committee contained in para 2.12 have been noted for compliance.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Comments of the Committee

(Please Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.13)

2.3 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.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The DDRS and ADIP Schemes are being implemented through e-anudan portal for considering the proposals of Non Government Organisations (NGOs).

Three Scholarship Schemes are being implemented online i.e. Pre & Post Matric Scholarship and Top Class Education on National Scholarship Portal (NsP). National Fellowship is implemented through UGC online Portal.

The website/portal of the Department is accessible to PwDs.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Comments of the Committee

(Please Para No. 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.19)

2.5 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, 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.

Reply of the Government

2.6 National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs was launched in collaboration with MSDE. Scheme guidelines are formulated in conformity with applicable MSDE guidelines related to Skill Development. All the trades awarded to training partners are NSQF compliant having Model Curriculum and latest amendments of Common Norms are being followed. In

order to implement Skill Development Training in more effective manner, a Project Monitoring Unit has been set up in the Department. An advisory committee has also been formulated to look into the varied aspects of skill training including job roll mapping for PwDs. In addition to that, Five Sub Committees have been formulated to customize existing job roles and suggest new courses suitable for PwDs. In order to have a realistic view, the target for skill development has been revisited. For the year 2017-18, a target of 60,000 PwDs was fixed. In the same period, Department provided grant for skill training of 58210 PwDs. For the period 2018-19, target of training to 90,000 PwDs has been fixed.

For the employability aspect, an exercise of job mapping is being carried out by various sub committees. Region-wise mapping of trades is also being considered with a view to maximize employment opportunities in a particular region. In addition to this, the Department has also requested for relaxation in provisions related to placement in Common Norms, keeping in view the fact that self-employment is more suitable for PwDs. The Department also disburses loans for self-employment and entrepreneurial ventures through the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by State Government(s). Additionally, Department also has a job portal dedicated to employability for PwDs.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPWD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.9)

2.7 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.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Department appreciates concern of the Committee to streamline the process involved in disbursement of scholarship of SwDs. The Department is making concerted efforts to curtail delay in payment of scholarship amount. Three scholarships i.e. Pre-Matric, Post- Matric and Top Class Education are being implemented on the National Scholarship Portal (NsP). In most of the states, the educational institutes open after summer holidays in July. The process of enrolment of students in NSP starts in June. The date for opening and closing of scholarship applications on NSP is decided by the DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat in consultation with various stakeholders. DBT mission is also making all out efforts to disburse the scholarship by December every year. But as the disbursal of scholarships through NSP has started from 2016-17 only, there are many issues reported by various stakeholders, due to which the timeline needs to be extended. However, it is expected to stabilize the position from this year and scholarships will be disbursed by December. The institute/colleges/universities and State Nodal Officers are required to verify the scholarship applications online in the NSP. After verification of the applications, the PFMS sends the applications to banks for validation. After validation of bank account, these are sent to NSP for calculation of scholarship amount. On receipt of bank validation NSP generates payment files and these payment files are sent to state nodal officer who digitally signed these payment files. Then, these files are reflected in PFMS portal for creation of sanction by the Programme Division. The Programme Division creates sanction and obtains concurrence of IFD for payment of scholarship amount. The Programme Division issues sanction and digitally signs payment files for remitting scholarship into the bank account of the students. Since, multiple activities are undertaken in this process, considerable time is consumed. Sometimes, the State Nodal Officer is changed or digital signature certificate expired and needs renewal. However, this system is transparent and has to be followed for genuine disbursement of amount.

In case of other Scholarships i.e. National Overseas and National Fellowship timely payment of scholarship amount is made to the students in their bank account.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.10)

2.9 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.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Act focuses on inclusive education i.e. a system where both children with and without disability can learn together and the system of teaching and learning is suitably adopted to meet the learning needs of different types of students with disabilities. Ministry of Human Resource Development is the nodal Ministry responsible for implementation of the provisions relating to promoting education among children with disabilities including children with autism, mental illness and intellectual disability.

The Act however, mandates the appropriate Government to ensure that every child with benchmark disability between the age of 6-18 years shall have the right to free education in a neighborhood school or in a special school of his choice. The children with autism and intellectual disabilities do require special schools to make them prepare for inclusion into an inclusive school setup at certain stage. It is for the appropriate State Government to identify the nature of educational needs of various categories of children with disabilities and take appropriate steps. Opening of more special schools may not be feasible for all the States/UTs. It has to be assessed on the basis of the requirement and need based analysis. However, the State Governments have been advised to take steps accordingly to meet the educational needs of children with benchmark disabilities within an inclusive school or a special school. Ministry of HRD has also been requested on similar lines.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.14)

2.11 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.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The Department has fully utilized allocated budget under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) during the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. During these years, the Grant-in-aid could not be released to many organizations due to lack of funds. The cost norms of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) have since been enhanced which is effective from 01.04.2018. The Department has also advertised revised Scheme in all the Newspapers including regional also. It is also stated that a DO letter has also been sent to all the State Govt./UTs every year for applying/forwarding the proposal for Grant-in-aid under DDRS. The projects proposals from those States in which there is no project running are given preference.

It is also stated that the rate of honorarium has been enhanced by 2.5 times of the existing rate which is effective from 01.04.2018.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.15)

2.13 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.

Reply of the Government

2.14 Under the Scheme, the notional allocation of the fund is kept on the basis of 3 factors, i.e., first, Disabled Population as per census of 2011, second, pending proposals of the previous year and thirdly, GIA released during the previous year.

As per revised Scheme, the notional allocation is done disability-wise.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPWD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.16)

2.15 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.

Reply of the Government

2.16 No blacklisted NGOs has been funded under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS).

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Recommendation (Para No. 7.8)

2.17 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.

Reply of the Government

2.18 The Recruitment Rules have already been notified and the Department has invited applications for the post of the Deputy Director (Media) vide this Department's circular dated 20.03.2018.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

CHAPTER-III

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE
DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

- Nil -

CHAPTER - IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

Recommendation (Para No. 6.7)

4.1 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.

Reply of the Government

4.2 Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) has assessed the requirement of manpower National Institutes (NIs) after detailed deliberation with Director, of NIs. SIU recommended abolishment of posts, which were laying vacant for a long time in the Institute as well as not essential as per their present requirement. The posts abolished were group C & D post and SIU recommended to fill such types posts through outsourcing only. It has also recommended for creation of new posts like professor, Associate Professor and other technical posts, which is essentially required in the Institutes. Hence, it will not effect on the functioning of the Institute. The recommendations of SIU will be helpful to strengthen the NIs became Institutes of National Importance. It will facilitate introduction of new courses in the Institutes as these posts are essential requirement of concerned universities. As far as filing up of vacant posts is concerned, all efforts is being made to fill up the vacant posts in the NIs after following due recruitment process.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Comments of the Committee

(Please Para No. 1.19 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER - V

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

Recommendation (Para No. 2.20)

5.1 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.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The Government has notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 on 15.06.2017. These Rules provide simplified mechanism of obtaining certificate of disability and also mandate the certifying authority to issue certificate of disability within a period of 30 days from the receipt of application. Further, the UDID project being implemented in the country, provides for a web based online platform for issuance of certificate of disability. SO far the project has been implemented in 22 States/UTs namely, Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra

Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. The progress of implementation of UDID project is being continuously administered through regular video conferencing with the State authorities. Majority of the States have now simplified their procedure and have a dedicated specific day in every week, in the District/other hospitals, so that all relevant specialists are available on that day for grant of certificate of disability to the PwDs. Moreover Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also been requested to take steps so that requisite specialists are available at the District level centres for issuance of certificate of disability.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Comments of the Committee

(Please Para No. 1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.11)

5.3 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.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The Department is continuously monitoring implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016 by the States/UTs including framing of rules by them through regular correspondence and video conferencing. As per the latest information, the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Telangana and Meghalaya have notified their rules. Majority of the remaining States have already prepared the draft rules and it is at an advanced stage of finalisation.

As regards, appointment of independent commissioners, it is stated that keeping in view the mandate of the RPwD Act, 2016, the States/UTs have been advised to consider appointing independent State Commissioner for persons with disabilities vide letter from Secretary, DEPwD dated 20.03.2018. The office of CCPD has also been requested to continuously monitor the issue of appointment of independent State Commissioners.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Comments of the Committee

(Please Para No. 1.16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 7.7)

5.5 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. 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.

Reply of the Government

5.6 The Budget allocation for media activities during 2017-18 was Rs.50.00 crore, which was reduced to Rs.25.00 crore due to requirements of funds in some other schemes of the Department. Out of Rs.25.00 crore, the Department released funds to the tune of Rs.16.39 crore for media activities by the end of Financial Year 2017-18 and fund of Rs.8.25crore was utilized through re-appropriation for other schemes where there was urgent requirement of funds. During 2017-18, the Department issued 31 advertisements relating to various ADIP Camps throughout the country highlighting the initiatives taken by the Department for the welfare of Divyangjan as well as the achievements of the Department. Besides, 12 events/programmes/participation of the Department in exhibitions were undertaken. The Department also released advertisements relating to enactment and implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, Scholarship Schemes, National Awards etc.

However, direction of the Committee to work out concrete measures to ensure optimal utilization of media funds in 2018-19 has been noted for compliance.

During the financial year 2018-19, the budget allocation under the scheme is Rs.35.00 crore. The Department has already formulated the Media Plan for proper and timely utilization of funds during the current financial year.

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) O.M. No.1/4/2018-2019/Budget/DEPwD dated 2nd July, 2018)

Comments of the Committee

(Please Para No. 1.22 of Chapter-I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;

7th August, 2018

16 Sravana, 1940 (Saka)

RAMESH BAIS
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 7th AUGUST, 2018

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, PHA Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI RAMESH BAIS - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
3. Shri Sadashiv Lokhande
4. Smt. K. Maragatham
5. Dr. Udit Raj
6. Shri Ch. Malla Reddy
7. Smt. Satabdi Roy
8. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh
9. Prof. Sadhu Singh
10. Smt. Mamata Thakur
11. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
12. Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav
13. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

14. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
15. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
16. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
17. Dr. Narendra Jadhav
18. Smt. Vijila Sathyananth
19. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
20. Smt. Chhaya Verma
21. Shri Ramkumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|------|
| (i) | **** | **** | **** |
| (ii) | **** | **** | **** |
| (iii) | **** | **** | **** |
| (iv) | **** | **** | **** |
| (v) | 58 th Report on Action Taken on 51 st Report on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities). | | |

- | | | | |
|--------|------|------|------|
| (vi) | **** | **** | **** |
| (vii) | **** | **** | **** |
| (viii) | **** | **** | **** |
| (ix) | **** | **** | **** |

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 amendments. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize these draft Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

* *Matter not related to this Report.*

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2018-19)' OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	13	
II. Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 2.12, 2.13, 3.19, 4.9, 4.10, 5.14, 5.15, 5.16 and 7.8)	9	69.23
III. Observations/Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government (Nil)	0	0
IV. Observations/Recommendations, in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration (Paragraph No. 6.7)	1	7.69
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos. 2.20, 3.11 and 7.7)	3	23.08