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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2019-20)**

SECOND REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2019/Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.12.2019

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12.12.2019



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2019/Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
6. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
7. Shri Y. Devendrappa
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
9. Shri Hans Raj Hans
10. Shri Abdul Khaleque
11. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
12. Smt. Geeta Kora
13. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
14. Shri Vijay Kumar
15. Shri Akshaibar Lal
16. Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze
17. Shri V. Srinivas Prasad
- #18. Shri Prince Raj
19. Shri Arjun Singh
20. Smt. Supriya Sule
21. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
24. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
25. Shri Biswajit Daimary
26. Shri Anil Desai
27. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
28. Shri P. L. Punia
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Shri Ramkumar Verma
31. Vacant

Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 9.12.2019.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi Director
3. Smt. Madhu Bhutani Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2019-20) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Second Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2019-20' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

2. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants (2019-20) 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 12th July, 2019. 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 5th November, 2019. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 10th December, 2019.

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 (2019-20).

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;

10 December, 2019
19 Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)

SMT. RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

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 (PwDs), a separate Department was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) with effect from December 08, 2014. The Department formulates policy and programmes; oversees their implementation, monitoring and review. The Department also 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 (which 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 lakh are female. Similarly in Urban areas, there are 82 lakh Persons with Disabilities. Out of which 46 lakh are male and 36 lakh 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 Department of PwDs deal with the following Legislations governing different aspects of disability, welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities:

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

1.4 As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD), 'persons with disability' means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others and a "person with benchmark disability' means a person with not less than forty percent of a specified disability, where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority.

1.5 **Some major Commitments of the Department**

- (i) **Sustainable Development Goals:** The Department has aligned its national law in line with various provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in its latest law, namely 'The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016'.

- (ii) **Inclusion and Barrier Free Environment:** The Department deals with issues relating to Divyangjan at various levels starting from conceptualization to advocacy towards empowerment and inclusion of Divyangjan. For a person with disability- be it physical, developmental or psychological – the environment is the determinant factor in defining the disability. If the environment is improved and made conducive, the disability can be neutralized. Accordingly, with a view to create a barrier-free environment, the Department is continuing its efforts in providing aids and appliances to the persons with disabilities on the one hand, and in making public buildings, transportation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) accessible on the other.
- (iii) **Social Model:** Apart from initial diagnosis and assessment of disability by the medical authorities, a wide range of rehabilitation services catering to various types of disabilities are being provided by the Department to Divyangjan through various National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres functioning under the Department.
- (iv) **Support to NGOs and CSOs:** Through the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Schemes of the department, a number of Civil Society Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations are providing services like early intervention, special education, vocational training, rehabilitation services through grant-in-aid from the Department.
- (v) **Shift from physical disability-centric-approach:** To focus on psycho-social, intellectual and development disabilities, the Department has decided to establish National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh which will work towards developing rehabilitation protocols for persons with mental illness through community based approach, parental counselling, care giver support etc.
- (vi) **Educational and Economic Empowerment:** Creating employment opportunity and promoting education among Divyangjans, Department is providing scholarships to Students with Disabilities (SwDs) at various levels and imparting skill training to enhance their scope of employment. The Government also provides reservation for SwDs in higher education institutions and reservation in Government jobs.

- (vii) Keeping in view the specific needs of Divyangjans, the Department has decided to set up a National University for Divyangjan for higher learning in an inclusive and accessible environment; to design/standarise appropriate curriculum.
- (viii) The Department is also developing an Early Detection and Rehabilitation Programme for Children with Disabilities with a view to bring in synergy in early detection and rehabilitation at an early stage of life of the child to reduce the severity of disability and lessen the burden on the family and society.

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

Budgetary Provisions and Utilization

2.1 The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) for the year 2019-20 are given under Demand No. 92. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Department were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 12th July, 2019.

2.2 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and the Actual Expenditure of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the last three years along with the Budget Estimates for the year 2019-20 and actual expenditure upto 30.09.2019 were furnished to the Committee on 01.11.2019. These are given in the following Table:

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2016-17	783.56	783.56	772.66
2017-18	855.00	955.00	928.32
2018-19	1070.00	1070.00	1017.56
2019-20	1204.90	Yet to be finalized	₹ 373.21 crore (as on 31.10.2019)

2.3 The Department has also furnished the following statement showing BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on all the schemes during the years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and BE for the year 2019-20 along with actual expenditure till 30.09.2019:

(₹ in crore)											
Sl. NO.	Name of the Scheme	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			2019-20
		BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	BE
1	National Institutes	175.74	200.89	200.89	190.02	222.50	222.50	215.00	256.70	256.69	215.00
2	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of Fitting Devices (ADIP)	130.00	170.00	169.95	150.00	200.00	200.01	220.00	223.42	216.19	230.00
3	Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	45.00	45.00	45.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	70.00	70.00	69.98	75.00
4	Rehabilitation Council of India	6.00	6.23	6.23	6.35	6.35	5.71	7.20	5.22	4.72	5.00
5	Schemes Arising out of The Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA)	193.00	193.00	186.82	207.00	257.00	272.23	300.00	258.30	260.82	315.00
6	Incentive to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	Scheme has been merged in SIPDA w.e.f FY 2019-20.
7	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corp. (NHFDC)	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.74	32.74	32.74	38.48	20.75	20.75	41.21
8	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	9.58	9.58	60.00

9	Indian Spinal Injury Centre	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	4.00
10	National Institute For Inclusive And Universal Design	0.37	0.36	0.00	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.01
11	Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.50	5.50	4.50	5.00	5.50	4.85	5.00
12	National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities	19.50	23.62	23.62	24.00	36.41	30.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Post Matric Scholarship to Student with Disabilities	8.00	10.00	9.82	10.00	16.05	14.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Top Class Education for SwDs	1.00	1.20	0.54	5.40	1.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	National Overseas Scholarship for SwDs	1.00	1.00	0.38	2.00	2.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Support for Establishment/ Modernization of Braille Presses	9.10	9.10	9.09	10.00	10.00	9.11	10.00	10.00	4.68	8.00
17	Establishment of College for Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	0.10	0.81	0.81	3.00	0.70	0.69	3.00	3.00	1.50	3.00
18	Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.50	2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	17.00

19	Budgetary Support to National Trust	5.00	7.00	6.48	15.22	17.00	13.42	17.00	20.00	16.23	20.00
20	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.82	5.00
21	Establishment of National Mission, State Missions and District Coordinators	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	14.05	10.00	0.55	20.00
23	Awareness Generation and Publicity	3.00	3.00	2.65	3.00	3.00	1.74	3.00	2.00	1.15	Scheme has been merged in SIPDA Scheme w.e.f 2019-20.
24	Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.66	125.43	108.22	125.00
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	1.74	2.00	2.00	1.67	Scheme has been merged in SIPDA Scheme w.e.f 2019-20.

26	Research on Disability related Technology	0.40	0.40	0.26	1.00	1.00	0.38	1.00	1.00	0.40	Scheme has been merged in SIPDA Scheme w.e.f 2019-20.
27	Pre-matric Scholarship for SwDs	4.00	6.00	5.54	7.00	10.00	9.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Free Coaching for PwDs	1.00	0.01	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	National Programmes for Persons with Disabilities	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Information and Mass Education Cell	70.00	40.00	39.96	50.00	25.00	16.39	35.00	15.00	14.81	28.00
31	Grants -in-aid to National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies	45.00	1.00	0.00	35.00	5.00	0.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
	Grand Total	764.74	764.75	755.04	835.23	930.24	908.11	1044.49	1045.00	995.61	1176.23

2.4 A perusal of the above statement revealed that the Department has achieved the target in most of their vital schemes during the year 2018-19 as the actual expenditure of the Department was ₹ 995.61 crore in the year against the allocated amount of ₹ 1045.00 crore, which is 95.27% of the total expenditure. It has been observed by the Committee that under three flagship schemes of the Department i.e. (i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) (ii) Review/functioning of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) and (iii) Budgetary Support to National Trust, they could not achieve 100 per cent expenditure solely on account of non-receipt of proposals from North-Eastern (NE) States.

2.5 In this context, when the Committee desired to know whether the Department has taken up this issue with the Governments of NE States to identify the reasons for non-receipt of proposals and steps taken by the Department to obviate the recurrence of such a situation in 2019-20, the Department replied as under:

“(a) ADIP: Under the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids & Appliances (ADIP) Scheme, in order to receive sufficient proposals from NE region, the Department issued letters to the concerned State Governments in the beginning of the current financial year for forwarding proposals to the implementing agencies. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur and National Institutes functioning under the administrative control of the Department are the major implementing agencies to implement the ADIP Scheme across the country including the Northern Eastern Region. In this regard, ALIMCO and National Institutes have been directed to furnish proposals for NE Region during the current financial year alongwith detailed action plan. One of the reasons for shortfall in utilization of funds allocated to NE region during 2018-19 was slow pace of implementation of cochlear implant program in the region. To overcome the situation, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai, the Nodal Agency for implementation of cochlear implant program is going to organize a National Level Workshop for the North-East on “Cochlear Implantation and Post Rehabilitation Services” on 14th and 15th November, 2019 to create awareness about the need, importance and provisions of cochlear implant program under the ADIP Scheme.

(b) Rehabilitation Council of India:- Under NER, the Council had an unspent balance of ₹ 10.72 lakh pertaining to the year 2017-18. An amount of ₹ 8.50 lakh (after retaining 10% i.e. ₹ 85,000/-) was sanctioned to NIEPMD, Chennai for conducting a Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Institutes and raising awareness regarding relevant sections of RPwD Act, 2016 in the NE States.

(c) The National Trust implements its schemes and activities through Registered Organisations (ROs) only. Due to paucity of funds, no new sanction of schemes is being done for the past two years. However, in the North Eastern states, in spite of all efforts, the National Trust has not been able to receive proposals for new schemes. The National Trust has been continuously undertaking awareness programmes like Regional Workshops / Seminars to motivate NGOs. In the North East Summit held in Guwahati on 12.07.2019 to 13.07.2019, a presentation was made by the JS & CEO, National Trust about the schemes and activities of the National Trust. All the participants were requested to motivate NGOs for joining with the National Trust. A meeting of all ROs of the North Eastern States was conducted on 08.07.2019 for expansion of coverage of schemes and activities of the National Trust in North Eastern States. The National Trust is also organizing a National Summit on Digital Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Shillong in January/ February 2020 with the core objective of expanding the activities of the National Trust and covering more and more persons with disabilities of the region”.

2.6 The Committee also observed that due to non-receipt of adequate proposals/non-receipt of proposals in time by various State Governments, the actual expenditure under the following Schemes of the Department was either nil or below 60%:

SI. No.	Name of Schemes	Expenditure (in %)
i	Indian Spinal Injury Centre	Nil
ii	Support for Establishment /Modernization of Braille presses	46
iii	Establishment of college for Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	50
iv	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres	56
v	Awareness Generation and Publicity	57
vi	Research on Disability related Technology	40

2.7 When the Committee desired to know the steps taken by the Department to minimize the scope of delays in non-receipt/delayed receipt of adequate proposals from the State Governments, the Department submitted in their Written Reply as follows:

“To achieve the desired target under the schemes implemented by the Department, it is proposed to give wide publicity to the schemes run by this Department through electronic and print media. Further, States/UTs have been regularly advised to expedite their recommendations in respect of proposals of Non Government Organizations (NGOs). Apart from this, Department has been holding regularly Video Conferencing with various States Authorities to sensitize them about the schemes/programmes of the Department to expand outreach and optimize utilization of funds.”

2.8 When the Committee desired to know the details of actual expenditure (scheme-wise and non scheme - wise) incurred by the Department till 30th September, 2019, the Department furnished a statement as follows:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	Scheme/Programmes	BE 2019-20	Exptd. upto 30.09.2019
1	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of Fitting Devices (ADIP)	230.00	74.51
2	Budgetary Support to National Trust	20.00	3.00
3	Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	75.00	18.97
4	Establishment of a College for Deaf in 5 Regions of the Country	3.00	0.00
5	Indian Spinal Injury Centre	4.00	0.00
6	Information and Mass Education Cell (Media)	28.00	1.48
7	Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA)	315.00	40.29
8	Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centre	5.00	0.00
9	Support For Establishment/Modernization/ capacity augmentation of Braille Presses	8.00	0.00
10	Scholarships for Students with Disabilities	125.00	21.65

Sl. No	Scheme/Programmes	BE 2019-20	Exptd. upto 30.09.2019
	Total Scheme	813.00	159.90
	Non Scheme		
11	National Institutes (NIs)	215.00	88.95
12	Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)	5.00	1.15
13	Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation	20.00	1.88
14	Rehabilitation Council Of India (RCI)	5.00	1.66
15	Establishment of National Institute for Inclusive and Universal Design	0.01	0.00
16	Grants -in-aid to National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies	0.01	0.00
17	Establishment of Centre For Disability Sports	17.00	0.00
18	Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)	60.00	30.00
19	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corp. (NHFDC)	41.21	0.00
20	Other contractual service Handling Clearance of Duty Free Consignments	0.01	0.00
21	Secretariat (Est. Exptd.)	25.00	11.55
22	Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Est. Exptd.)	3.66	0.89
	Total Non Scheme	391.90	136.08
	Grand Total	1204.90	295.98

2.9 During the examination of Demands for Grants (2018-19), the Committee observed that uneven and disjointed pattern of expenditure hampers 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 inviting local MPs and MLAs also in such meetings. When the Committee asked about the efforts made by the Department for involvement of local Members of Parliament and MLAs in discussions and meetings held with State officials, the Department replied as under:

“The Central Government has constituted Central Advisory Board (CAB) on disability on 8th November, 2017. The Central Advisory Board (CAB) is the apex policy making body on issues concerning Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Important issues including implementation of various schemes/programmes of the Department are flagged before the board for its consideration. Further, the Department also holds Video Conferencing with various States Authorities to sensitize them about the schemes/programmes of the Department to expand outreach and optimize utilization of funds”.

2.10 Regarding involvement of local MPs and MLAs in the discussions and meetings held with higher State officials, the Department informed that as and when, Senior Officers and Hon’ble Minister meet appropriate State Authorities, these issues are also flagged. There is no definite calendar of meetings with States wherein local MPs/MLAs could be invited. However, during the distribution of Aids and Appliances under ADIP scheme, local representatives of the Parliament/Legislative Assembly are invited.

2.11 The Committee found that at present 23 Schemes/non Schemes are being run by the Department and achievement of financial and physical targets under 14 flagship schemes were negligible. When the Committee desired to know the reasons, the Department in its written replies stated as under:

“Presently the Department is running 23 schemes/non schemes, showing physical/financial targets and achievements for the year 2018-19. One of the reasons for having less achievement in respect of 14 schemes is that most of these schemes/non schemes are demand oriented. Besides, no physical targets were fixed by NHFDC, ALIMCO, RCI, and National Trust- Autonomous Bodies/PSUs functioning under the Administrative control of the Department. However, considerable achievements have been made by these Autonomous Bodies/PSUs during the FY 2018-19. It may also be noted that, some of the schemes were not finalized, therefore, no financial/physical achievements were possible. None the less, the Department would make all possible efforts by writing to the Principal Secretaries of the State Governments for submission of proposals under the schemes for achieving the desired financial/physical targets envisaged”.

2.12 The Committee were informed that most of the flagship schemes of the Department are demand driven and proposals from States/UTs are received in the first two quarters and after examined these proposals funds are released in the subsequent two quarters. When the Committee desired to know the number of proposals received by the Department and how they will ensure to achieve the physical and financial targets under these schemes by the end of March, 2020, the Department in their latest replies have stated as under:

“(i) Under ADIP Scheme, an amount of ₹ 230.00 crore has been allocated under BE 2019-20 and as on 19.11.2019, an amount of ₹ 141.02 crore has been sanctioned, which is 61.31% of BE 2019-20. Proposals for an amount of ₹ 96.63 crore have been received from various implementing agencies under ADIP Scheme viz. National Institutes/Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) including Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), out of which ₹ 66.09 crore has been sanctioned; remaining amount will also be released at the earliest. Besides above, funds will be released to the proposals, complete in all respects, received from District Disability Rehabilitation Centres/Indian Red Cross Societies/ Non Government Organisations etc. with the recommendation of the State Govt.

(ii) Under DDRS Scheme, Out of BE of ₹ 75.00 crore, an amount of ₹ 51.14 crore has been sanctioned, which is 68.19% of BE 2019-20. Further, proposals to the tune of ₹ 20.00 crore are under process. The remaining funds will be released by March, 2020.

(iii) Under Scholarship Schemes, the last date for submission of applications by the students was 15th November 2019. The following is the status of applications received under Pre-matric, Post-Matric and Top Class on NSP Portal:-

Scheme	Total application received (Fresh) during 2019	Total application received (renewal) during 2019	Total (F+R)
Pre-matric	23359	4295	27654
Post-Matric	23179	6542	29721
Top Class	255	54	309

Apart from the above, in National Fellowship, as on 15.11.2019, 1045 students with disabilities {(200 (Fresh) + 845 (renewal))} are being disbursed scholarships through Canara Bank. In National Overseas scheme, scholarship to 7 (Fresh) + 5(renewal) students will be disbursed.

Since the applications received on NSP are more than the slots and regular releases are being done under other components also, hence the total budget under the scheme is likely to be utilized by 31st March 2020.

(iv) Under SIPDA Scheme, out of BE of ₹ 315.00 crore, an amount of ₹ 76.74 crore has been sanctioned, which is 24.36 % of BE 2019-20. Under Accessible India Campaign, proposals for an amount of ₹ 31.41 crore have been received from 3 States (i.e. Uttrakhand, Odisha and Karnataka) to release 1st installment for current F.Y. 2019-20. Further, proposals for an amount of ₹ 52.67 crore (approximate) have also been received to release 2nd installment of previous year i.e. 2018-19.

Under barrier free component other than AIC, fresh proposals for an amount of ₹ 15.33 crore have been received from 2 States (Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh), which are under consideration.”

2.13 The Committee note that during the last three years i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, the actual expenditure remained above 95%. In 2018-19, the allocation was ₹ 1070.00 crore and the actual expenditure was ₹ 1017.56 crore thus showing utilization of 95.10% of the total expenditure. The Committee would urge the Department to strive for 100% achievement under its existing flagship schemes/programmes as apart from benefitting more and more PwDs, it will strengthen the Department's demand for an enhanced budgetary allocation in the next fiscal year. At the same time, the Committee feel concerned about the uneven flow of expenditure in the current fiscal year. They find from the presentation made by the Department of PwDs during the course of oral evidence of their representatives before the Committee that the actual expenditure under all the schemes/programmes as on 31.10.2019 is ₹ 373.21 crore, which is mere 30% of the total BE/RE of ₹ 1204.90 crore. The Department will be required to spend 70% of BE/RE in the next 5 months which could ultimately result in rush of expenditure in the last quarter of 2019-20 fiscal. The Committee opine that if a large portion of RE remains unspent till last quarter then in the haste of achieving expenditure targets, not only the scrutiny and examination of proposals get compromised, but there remains hardly any scope for monitoring the progress too. The Committee feel that the Department had been setup separately in 2014 to focus sole attention on Divyangjans and hence ensuring their welfare through timely and effective utilization of funds has an enhanced humanitarian angle too, apart from a Constitutional duty of the Department. They, therefore, impress upon the Department to continue handholding exercises to guide the State Governments so that better and timely proposals are received and a balanced utilization of funds in all the four quarters of a financial year is ensured.

2.14 The Committee note that during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, the actual expenditure under some major schemes viz (i) Scholarships for Students with Disabilities (ii) Indian Spinal Injury Centre, (iii) Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC), (iv) Support for Establishment/Modernization of Braille Presses, (v) Establishment of College for Deaf in 5 Regions of the country, (vi) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports, (vii) Budgetary Support to National Trust, (viii) Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres and (ix) Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, was very low and the allocated budgetary amount was under utilized. The Committee are anguished that the Department has been citing repeatedly procedural excuses like non receipt of adequate proposals/delayed receipt of proposals, insufficient funds and approval of schemes during the fag end of fiscals etc. for the same, which are not convincing enough. The Committee hence reiterate that the Department must adopt prudent fiscal management system and modify the procedures if required, to reduce multi - agency clearances and speed up submission of proposals.

CHAPTER – III

3.1 Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)

The main objective of the Scheme is to provide grants-in-aid to the various implementing agencies viz. National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, State Handicapped Development Corporation, other Local Bodies and Non Government Organisations so that they are in a position to assist needy persons with disabilities in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances to promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities. Assistive devices are given to persons with disabilities with the aim of improving their independent functioning, and arresting the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability. The aids and appliances supplied under the Scheme must have due certification.

The Department has furnished the following statement showing Budget allocation, Revised allocation and Actual expenditure incurred under ADIP Scheme for the year 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and BE for 2019-20:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2016-17	130.00	170.00	169.95
2017-18	150.00	200.00	200.00
2018-19	220.00	223.42	216.19
2019-20	230.00	Yet to be finalized	74.51 upto (30.09.2019)

3.2 The above table shows that an amount of ₹ 230 crore has been allocated as BE under the Scheme for 2019-20, an increase over ₹ 6.58 crore to RE 2018-19.

When the Committee asked how the Department will utilize the enhanced amount, the Department submitted as under:

“A large number of proposals for holding camps for distribution of aids & assistive devices as sought by Members of Parliament/other dignitaries are pending for which sufficient funds are required. On the request of Hon’ble Members of Parliament and other dignitaries, ALIMCO has so far made assessment in case

of 105 proposals wherein 71073 beneficiaries have been identified for distribution of aids and assistive devices at a cost of ₹ 65.34 crore. Further, assessment is being carried out in respect of 169 such proposals which would necessitate a substantial expenditure to distribute aids and assistive devices at such places. In addition, there is an identified requirement of 300 cochlear implant surgeries @ ₹ 5.50 Lakh per beneficiary which comes to ₹ 16.50 crores. The requirement of funds under ADIP Scheme for distribution of aids & assistive devices under ADIP-Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), as per confirmation received from concerned State Governments would be ₹ 30.00 to 35.00 crore. Besides, similar proposals from other implementing agencies including National Institutes/State Corporations/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 by ALIMCO/NIs/CRCs for distribution of aids/appliances through their Headquarter activities. In view of the foregoing, the entire allocation of funds under the Scheme will be utilized by 31.03.2020”.

3.3 The Committee were informed that Department are in the process of conducting Impact Evaluation of Study of ADIP Scheme, appraisal of the proposal for revision in cost norms etc. by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA), The Department also informed that:

“As per instructions of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance the Impact Evaluation of all the Schemes/Programmes is to be carried out for appraisal and continuation of the Schemes/Programmes during the 15th Finance Commission period. Accordingly, the Department is in the process for conducting third party impact evaluation study of all the Schemes/Programmes including the ADIP Scheme during 2019-20. The process to award contract to a Consultant/Organization by the Department for conducting the study is in progress”.

3.4 Further when the Committee desired to know the expenditure incurred on aid and assistive devices for new disabilities included in RPwD Act, 2016, the Department in its written replies furnished as under:

“The Department has constituted an Expert Committee for inclusion of aids & assistive devices for distribution under ADIP Scheme. The Expert Committee has already formed 6 Core Groups to recommend the aids & assistive devices required for all the 21 types of disabilities included in the RPwD Act, 2016. The Core Groups submitted an initial report which was examined in the Expert Committee meeting. The Committee suggested for further modifications in the list of aids & assistive devices by the Core Groups. The modified lists are being obtained and would be submitted before the ensuing Expert Committee Meeting for finalizing aids & assistive devices for various types of disabilities including the new disabilities covered in the RPwD Act 2016”.

3.5 The Committee were informed that the cost of Motorized Tricycle being provided under the ADIP Scheme to the beneficiary is ₹ 37,000/- out of which an amount of ₹ 25,000/- is provided by the Department and the remaining amount of ₹ 12,000/- is borne by the beneficiary either from its own sources or by convergence of MPs/MLAs fund/CSR funding. Therefore, to mitigate the plight of poor Divyangjans and their dependency on MPs/MLAs/CSR funds, the Committee repeatedly recommended in their earlier reports that the entire cost of motorized tricycle must be borne by the Department. When asked about the initiative taken by the Department to revise the existing cost norms to meet the entire cost of motorized tricycle for Divyangjans, the Department in their written replies have submitted as under:

“In this context, it is submitted that making revision in the existing cost norms involves financial implications and major policy changes, which require appraisal and approval of the Scheme by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC/Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA)). The recommendation of the Committee that the entire cost of motorized tricycle be borne by the Department has been noted and will be taken up during the forthcoming appraisal/revision of the Scheme”.

3.6 When the Committee desired to know by what time the forthcoming appraisal/revision of cost norms is likely to be held, the Department informed that the scheme has been approved upto 2019-20. Therefore, appraisal for revision of ADIP Scheme is likely to be held during the next financial year.

3.7 The Committee were informed that various activities are lined up under ADIP Scheme during the financial year 2019-20 and the Department are optimistic to achieve the expenditure targets so as to spend the entire budgetary allocation. On being asked whether the Department has made any strong proposal to get enhanced funds at RE stage to serve more and more PwDs under the Scheme, the Department in their latest replies have given updated figures as under:

“Under the Scheme, ₹ 230.00 crore has been allocated under BE for the current financial year 2019-20. Due to imposition of Model Code of Conduct as a result of General Elections, the pace of expenditure on distribution of aids and assistive devices was slow during the initial period of the current financial year. Actual expenditure till 31.10.2019 is ₹ 74.61 crore. Hence, no increase in RE 2019-20 has been proposed. However, on the request of Hon’ble Members of Parliament and other dignitaries, ALIMCO has so far made assessment in case of 113 proposals wherein 75169 beneficiaries have been identified for distribution of aids and assistive devices at a cost of ₹ 67.67 crore. Further, assessment is being carried out in respect of 174 such proposals which would necessitate a substantial expenditure to distribute aids and assistive devices at such places. In addition, there is an identified requirement of 300 cochlear implant surgeries @ ₹ 5.50 Lakh per beneficiary which comes to ₹ 16.50 crore. It is further stated that as per confirmation received from concerned State Governments for distribution of aids & assistive devices under ADIP-Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), the requirement of funds would be ₹ 30.00 to 35.00 crore. Besides, proposals from other implementing agencies including National Institutes/State Corporations/Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres(DDRCs)/ Indian Red Cross Societies (IRCS)/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) etc. are also to be funded under the scheme. Funds are also required by ALIMCO/NIs/CRCs for distribution of aids/appliances through their Headquarter activities. In view of the foregoing, more PwDs will be served from the allocation of funds which is likely to be utilized by 31.03.2020, under the Scheme”. (SLOP pg. 6)

3.8 The Committee were further informed that the Department is in the process of conducting third party impact evaluation study of all the Scheme/programmes including ADIP Scheme during 2019-20 and are in the process of awarding contract.

3.9 When the Committee desired to know whether the Department would be able to award the contract within this fiscal year and by what time the study is likely to be completed, the Department replied as under:

“Department has already issued advertisement for Impact Evaluation Studies in respect of all the Schemes/programmes including ADIP Scheme. The contract is expected to be awarded within the Financial Year and depending upon the timeline provided by the firms/institutes who will be awarded the assignment, the study is expected to be completed by the next financial year”.

3.10 As a vast majority of PwDs come from the economically and socially backward sections of the society, they neither have the resources to meet the cost difference of motorized tricycle nor the access to MPs/MLAs/CSR funds. The issue of the Department bearing full cost of motorized tricycle has been commented upon many times in the past, particularly in this Committee's 48th and 55th Reports, 16th Lok Sabha. It seems that the Department has hitherto remained evasive on the matter. Now, the Department have statedly decided to consider the issue of revision of cost norms during the forthcoming appraisal for revision of ADIP scheme, which is likely to be held during next financial year. As the next financial year is approaching now, the Committee are optimistic that the Department would sincerely take up this issue and bring it to the desired conclusion to mitigate the plight of PwDs in need of motorized tricycle.

3.11 From the deposition of the Department, the Committee find that they are confident on being able to achieve the expenditure target fully under ADIP scheme by 31st March, 2020 and have listed the activities to be undertaken during the remaining part of the financial year. However, the Committee have observed that the progress of expenditure has remained almost static between 30th September, 2019 and 31st October, 2019 as the actual expenditure in September, 2019 was shown as ₹ 74.51 crore and in October, 2019 it was ₹ 74.61 crore against the Budget allocation of ₹ 230.00 crore. The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to submit their phased actual expenditure performance to the Committee in the last 4 months, to substantiate their claim on achieving 100 per cent expenditure target.

3.12 The Committee find that the Department is in the process of awarding contract for conducting third party Impact Evaluation Study of all their schemes including ADIP scheme. The contract is expected to be awarded within this financial year and depending upon timeline provided by the awardee firm/institute, the study is expected to be completed by next financial year. The Committee is of the firm opinion that the phrase “depending upon the timeline” makes the entire process open-ended with hardly any fixed targets. Hence the Committee recommend that the study needs to be completed in a time bound manner and therefore, urge the Department to carry out the study within a stipulated time schedule and avoid undue extension of time-line. They would like to be apprised of the progress on the matter at action taken stage.

CHAPTER – IV

Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA)

4.1 The grants-in-aid are 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 Right of PwD Act, 2016).

The Budget allocation, Revised allocation and actual expenditure incurred under SIPDA Scheme for the year 2016-17 to 2018-19 and BE for 2019-20 is as under:-

(₹ in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2016-17	193.00	193.00	186.82
2017-18	207.00	257.00	272.23
2018-19	300.00	258.30	260.82
2019-20	315.00	-	40.29 (upto 30.09.2019)

4.2 The main activities under SIPDA Scheme for which financial assistance is provided are:

- (i) to provide barrier free environment for the PwDs.
- (ii) to make Government websites accessible to PwDs at Centre/State and District levels.
- (iii) Skill Development programme for PwDs.
- (iv) to enhance the accessibility of built environment, transport system and information and communication eco-system.

- (v) to support composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs).
- (vi) To assist State Government to organize camps of issuance of disability certificates. Identification and survey/universal ID of PwDs.

4.3 (A) Accessible India Campaign

The Committee note that the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016 (RPWD Act) has come into force on 19.04.2017 and the Government have also notified rules under the Act on 15.06.2017. When the Committee desired to know how the Department ensure that the accessibility standards specified in the harmonized guidelines are being complied with all States/UTs for proper implementation of rules notified under RPWD Act, 2016 and the progress report of States/UTs regarding implementation of rules for accessibility standards of public buildings so as to make them fully accessible for persons with different kind disability, the Department in their written replies stated as under:

“The Central Government has specified the accessibility standards for public buildings under RPwD Rules, 2017 on 15.6.2017. These Rules have been sent to all States/UTs for compliance. Moreover, all the States/UTs are also being advised from time to time to implement the provisions of RPwD Act, 2016 and Rules made there under including implementation of accessibility standards. As per Rule 15(2) of the RPwD Rules, 2017, the respective Ministry/Department are mandated to ensure compliance of the standards of accessibility through the concerned domain regulators. Under Accessible India Campaign (AIC), States/UTs have identified buildings for retrofitting as per harmonised guidelines. Over the past year all States/UTs have been brought on-board to submit cost estimates. At present, all 34 States have submitted cost estimates and funds amounting to ₹ 354.45 Crores have been disbursed in respect of 1058 buildings in 31 States”.

4.4 The Committee were informed that the Department have a physical target of making 200 buildings of State Government/UTs and 200 Central buildings accessible for PwDs in the Financial Year 2018-19. Asked about the number of Central

Government/State Government/UT buildings made accessible through accessible India campaign in Financial Year 2018-19 under each category, the Department in their written reply have submitted as under:

“Approximately 300 Central Government Buildings have been made accessible by CPWD in the FY 2018-19 and approximately 180 buildings have been made accessible by State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Odisha and Maharashtra under Accessible India Campaign (AIC).

4.5 They have further informed that execution at State/UT level is slow due to delay in submission of cost estimates and subsequent implementation of retrofitting projects of buildings, by concerned PWDs.

4.6 The Committee note that under the Scheme of Accessible India Campaign, Completion of Access Audit of 1662 Public buildings in 50 cities, 50 % funds have been disbursed. But some of the states like Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Manipur are irresponsible. Similarly, previous UCs are pending from Karnataka and Assam for release of further funds. Due to these reasons, Central Advisory Board (CAB) has revised the timeline to August, 2019.

4.7 When the Committee desired to know whether the objective of extending the timeline has been achieved, the Department in their written reply submitted as under

“Over the past year, all States/UTs have been brought on-board to submit cost estimates, thus now all 34 States have submitted cost estimates and funds amounting to Rs.354.45 Crores have been disbursed to 1058 buildings in 31 States”.

4.8 The Department further informed that the process of retrofitting buildings to make them fully accessible, is a continuous process with progress being affected by technical and environmental challenges. Shortfall in achieving the timelines set by CAB is due to the delays on the part of State Governments in submission of cost estimates and utilization certificates as well as due to delay of execution of projects by concerned State PWDs.

4.9 Regarding the further extension of timeline, the Department stated that under AIC, the timeline to complete the work of retrofitting of all identified buildings have been extended to March, 2020 by CAB during the recent meeting held on 19 September 2019.

4.10 When the Committee desired to know the status of accessibility of Government buildings and overall progress of the States/UTs and targets achieved under Phase 1 of AIC, the Department replied as under:

“Total no of buildings audited – 1662,

Total cost estimates received from States – 1353

Fresh Cost Estimates awaited – 309

Total no of buildings funded for retrofitting – 1058

Under Process in Department – 90

Revised Cost Estimate sought - 205

Amount of funds released – ₹ 354.45 Crores

Total no of buildings completed as per report given by State/UT Govt. of Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh – 251”.

4.11 Further the Department furnished the State specific status of progress made under AIC in a statement as under:

S.No.	State	Cities	No of Buildings Audited	No of Cost Estimates Received	No of Buildings for which Funds have been released	Amount Released (Lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	41	40	38	1436.33
2	Arunachal	Itanagar	24	24	Under Process	

	Pradesh					
3	Assam	Guawahati	25	24	24	697.8355
4	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	22	19	8	368.62
5	Karnataka	Bengaluru	50	35	20	1104.11
6	Manipur	Imphal	47	28	Pending UC	
7	Nagaland	Kohima	29	22	16	510.6
8	Sikkim	Gangtok	36	35	35	578.14
9	Tripura	Agartala	14	14	14	2625.04968
10	West Bengal	Kolkata	37	36	26	1394.73

City-wise details of buildings completed are as follows:

S.No.	State	Cities	No of Buildings Completed
1	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	39
2	Haryana	Faridabad	3
		Gurgaon	-
3	Maharashtra	Mumbai	46
		Nagpur	24
		Nashik	25
		Pune	31
4	Odisha	Bhuvaneshwar	21
5	Punjab	Ludhiana	3
6	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	13
		Jhansi	9
		Kanpur	12
		Lucknow	9

	Varanasi	3
	NOIDA	13
Total		251

B) Disability Pension amount for PwDs

4.12 On the issue of Disability Pension amount being given by the Central Government and various State/UT Governments to PwDs, the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of PwDs deposed before the Committee that Disability Pension is a State subject and the State Governments are giving Disability Pension ranging from ₹300 pm to ₹3500 pm. But Central Government through Ministry of Rural Development is contributing a fixed amount of ₹300 pm to Persons with Disabilities having disability of 80% or above in the age group of 18-79 years.

4.13 When the Committee desired to know how it is possible for Central Government to make a provision of mandatory minimum amount of ₹ 1000/- to be paid by the State Government to disabled persons and whether Department is considering any proposal to raise the central contribution, the Department in their latest replies have stated as under:

“Union Ministry of Rural Development is concerned with providing financial assistance to State Governments for disbursing pension to PwDs in their respective States. The DEPwD has been requesting this Ministry from time to time to increase the amount of pension as well as the coverage. It is understood that the M/o Rural development is examining the matter, specially from the point of view of its financial implications. This proposal requires approval of the Cabinet”.

4.14 Asked to specifically furnish information on States/UTs wise disability pension being given by various State/UT Governments, the Department submitted the following statement:

Details of State/ UTs Governments Paying more than ₹ 300/- P.M. as Disability Pension

S. No	State/UT	Amount
	Central Government	₹ 300
1.	Goa	₹ 3500
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	₹ 2000
3.	Andhra Pradesh	₹ 1500
4.	Puducherry	₹ 1100- ₹ 1750
5.	Manipur	₹ 1000
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	₹1000
7.	Tamil Nadu	₹ 1000
8.	Daman & Diu	₹ 1000
9.	West Bengal	₹ 750
10.	Uttarakhand	₹ 700
11.	Sikkim	₹ 600
12.	Haryana	₹ 500
13.	Karnataka	₹ 500
14.	Maharashtra	₹ 500
15.	Madhya Pradesh	₹ 300
16.	Meghalaya	₹ 500
17.	Rajasthan	₹ 500
18.	Chandigarh	40% to 70% Disability - ₹ 1000 + Central Govt. Contribution
		Above 70% Disability - ₹ 2000 + Central Govt. Contribution

19.	Lakshadweep	₹ 500
20.	Tripura	₹ 400
21.	Himachal Pradesh	< 75% disability - ₹ 650 (inclusive of Central Government Contribution) ≥ 75% disability - ₹ 1200 (inclusive of Central Government Contribution)
22.	Jharkhand	₹ 600+ Central Govt. Contribution
23.	NCT of Delhi	₹ 1500 + Central Govt. Contribution

C. Establishment of Composite Regional Centres (CRCS) and New District Disability Centres (DDRCs)

4.15 The Committee note that to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services for all PwDs and impart training under one roof, the Department has established 19 Composite Regional Centres. The Department also provides assistance for setting up and running District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in unserved and under-served districts of the country for providing training rehabilitation professionals, awareness generation to PwDs.

4.16 When the Committee desired to know the involvement of Members of Parliament and MLAs in the process of setting up of CRCs and DDRCs as they are well aware about the problems and needs of PwDs in their respective constituencies, the Department in their updated replies have submitted as under:

“For setting up of Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), the concerned State Government/UTs are requested to provide land (free of cost) for construction of

building and also temporary accommodation till the completion of construction of the building. On allotment of land and provision of temporary accommodation by State Government/UT, CRCs are set up as extended arms of National Institutes (NIs) to cater to the rehabilitation requirements of persons with disabilities. At present there are 19 CRCs set up in various States/UTs. Efforts are on to set up CRCs in all States/UTs. The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) aims at providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The broad range of activities include early identification and intervention, awareness generation, providing therapeutic services, facilitation in issuing disability certificates and UDID Cards etc to PwDs. 325 Districts are identified for setting up of DDRCs across the country and 264 DDRCs have already been setup. DDRCs are to be run under the supervision of a District Management Team (DMT) headed by the District Collector/Magistrate. The DMT also includes officer of the State Government representing various Departments”.

Accessible India Campaign

4.17 The Committee observe with concern that even though the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) project under the Rights of persons with Disability Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) came into force on 19.04.2017, the execution at State/UT level is slow due to delay in submission of cost estimates and subsequent implementation of retrofitting projects of buildings by the concerned States/UTs/Public works Department. So far only a total of 480 buildings all over India have been completed under AIC while the number of buildings audited is 1662 and number of buildings funded for retrofitting is 1058. In view of thousands of Government buildings all over the country which are to be made accessible for PwDs, the work so far done is minuscule. The Committee also find that initially many States like West Bengal, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh etc. did not embark upon the work of retrofitting of buildings. The Committee are disappointed that at this pace, only a small fraction of the work under AIC can be accomplished by the year 2022 after which central assistance will no longer be available. The Committee, were later informed that 34 States/UTs are on board now to start work on 1058 buildings. They, therefore, urge upon the Department to take up the work of converting all the Government buildings into accessible structures for PwDs all over the country at Mission mode and make every possible effort to persuade the States/UTs to accomplish the project with right earnestness, as it aims to make life easy and comfortable for PwDs and bring them into the mainstream.

Disability Pension

4.18 The Committee is pained to find that some of the State Governments are giving less than ₹ 500/- per month as Disability Pension to PwDs. They fail to understand as to how can a person survive with this paltry amount which is not even sufficient to meet bare minimum basic needs of an individual. The Committee firmly believe that lack of any skill to earn and a meager amount as pension forces many PwDs to take up begging outside religious places, at traffic signals etc. in order to survive. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Central Government must increase its contribution from ₹ 300/- to PwDs pensioners to a reasonable amount and also explore the possibility of making it mandatory for every State/UT Government to give some amount with a provision for revision periodically to help PwDs to cope up with inflation, as Disability Pension. If need be, Central Government should have a relook at the existing policies too in this direction.

Setting up of CRCs and New DDRCs

4.19 The Committee note that the Department provides assistance for setting up and running District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in unserved and under-served districts of the country for providing specific training to rehabilitation professionals and for sensitizing PwDs about different welfare schemes implementing for them. The Committee further note that there is a huge shortage of nearly 20 lakh trained professionals today to provide rehabilitation services to the PwDs for which the Department has strived to develop curriculum in collaboration with Melbourne University, which is laudable. They would urge the Department to continue their efforts. The Committee also feel that MPs and MLAs should be involved in the process of setting up of CRCs and DDRCs as they are well aware about the problems and needs of PwDs in their respective constituencies. The Department have seemingly evaded a reply on the issue of involvement of MPs/MLAs in this process. The Committee still feel that the input provided by the local MPs/MLAs could be of immense use as they are well aware of the local conditions and special needs of the PwDs in their areas. The specific inputs provided by the public representatives about their area can be of vital importance in planning and setting up of such centers. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to seek inputs from all the MPs/MLAs and ensure that these inputs are utilised during Departmental meetings for practical decisions. The Committee further desire to be apprised about the progress in this regard.

CHAPTER – V

Scholarship Schemes for Students with Disabilities

5.1 The Committee were informed that the Department have merged its six Scholarship Schemes into an Umbrella Scheme of 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities' w.e.f. financial year 2018-19.

(₹ in crore)

Year	Budget allocation
2016-17	42.27
2017-18	67.46
2018-19	125.43
2019-20	125.00

However, before merger, some of the scholarship schemes namely (i) Top Class Education for SwDs, (ii) National Overseas Scholarship for SwDs, (iii) Free Coaching for PwDs and (iv) Pre-Matric Scholarship for SwDs were performing poorly.

5.2 When the Committee desired to know the current status of the performance of all the six scholarship schemes, the Department furnished the following statement on the performance of scholarship schemes:

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Current status
1.	Pre-Matric	(i) Scholarship amount of ₹7.69 crore has been released to 7063 left out students with disabilities for the year 2018-19 as on 30.9.2019. (ii) For 2019-20, the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) was opened on 15.7.2019 and will close on 31.10.2019 for submission of applications by the students. 17979 applications have been received as on 25.10.2019.

2.	Post-Matric	<p>(i) Scholarship amount of ₹13.16 crore has been released to 4169 left out students with disabilities for the year 2018-19 as on 30.9.2019.</p> <p>(ii) For the year 2019-20, the NSP was opened on 15.7.2019 and will close on 31.10.2019 for submission of applications by the students. 17262 applications have been received as on 25.10.2019.</p>
3.	Top Class Education	<p>(i.) Scholarship amount of ₹ 0.13 crore has been released to 05 left out students with disabilities for the year 2018-19 as on 30.9.2019.</p> <p>(ii.) For the year 2019-20, the NSP was opened on 15.7.2019 and will close on 31.10.2019 for submission of applications by the students. 185 applications have been received as on 25.10.2019.</p>
4.	National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities(NFPD)	<p>(i) The list of selected students for NFPD for the year 2017-18 was released by University Grant Commission (UGC) on 14.8.2019. In consultation with UGC, award letters to the selected students was issued by the Department on 21.10.2019 for submitting the requisite documents in Canara Bank for disbursement of Fellowship. UGC has been requested to expedite the lists of selected students for 2018-19 & 2019-20 also.</p>
5.	National Overseas Scholarship	<p>(i) An amount of ₹ 66.02 Lakh towards tuition fee and maintenance allowances has been</p>

		<p>released to 05 students who are already studying abroad.</p> <p>(ii) 02 students, selected during the previous years, have submitted the requisite documents for release of scholarships, which is under process.</p> <p>(iii) Under umbrella scholarship scheme, submission of applications by the students is open throughout the year. During 2018-19 total 06 applications were received, out of which 05 students were found eligible and selected. Provisional award letters have already been issued to all the selected students.</p>
6.	Free Coaching	<p>During 2018-19, two coaching institutes were empanelled by the Department. Both the institutes started free coaching during 2018-19. Proposal of one of the institutes for free coaching to 150 students during 2019-20 is under process. Another institute has also completed the free coaching started during 2018-19 and submitted the requisite documents which are being examined.</p> <p>(ii) Proposals from 04 coaching institutes with the required documents have been received for empanelment which is being examined by the Department.</p> <p>(iii) For imparting free coaching to students with disabilities, the institutes are required to register themselves under Section-50 of RPwD Act, 2016. They are also required to make the coaching institute's premises</p>

		accessible for PwDs. Hence there is less response from the coaching institutes.
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The Revised Estimate 2018-19 under the Scheme was ₹ 125.43 crores and the actual expenditure was ₹ 108.22 crores. Reasons given by the Department are number of applications received from SC, ST and NE students were less than expected”.

5.3 On being asked about the actual number of scholarships sanctioned under each category of scholarship for SWDs and budget allocation for the year 2019-20 under the Umbrella Scheme till end of September, 2019 and details of scholarships provided to girl students in the same category, the Department in their written reply have submitted as under :

“As stated above, the submission and verifications of applications for 2019-20 is under process on the National Scholarship Portal. During 2019-20, funds have been released to the pending applications for 2018-19. The details of actual number of scholarships sanctioned under each category of scholarship for SWDs under the Umbrella Scheme till end of September, 2019 are as under:-

Category	No. of scholarships sanctioned Upto 30.09.2019	Budget Allocation (2019-20) (₹ In crore)
General Category	7771	74.48
SC Category	2794	25.31
ST Category	616	12.71
NE Region	61	12.50
Total	11242	125.00

Since no separate budgetary allocation has been made for girl students, the payment files received on National Scholarship Portal for disbursement of scholarship amount by the Department does not contain gender-wise data. As such, the number of scholarships provided to girl students in each category is not available. However, observations of the Committee have been noted for compliance and National Informatics Centre (NIC), which is maintaining the National Scholarship Portal, will be asked to provide the gender-wise data in future”.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

5.4 The Committee observe that under the three scholarship schemes for students with Disabilities viz. pre-matric Scholarship, Post-matric Scholarship and Top Class Education, the Department have released funds for the left out students of the previous financial year i.e. 2018-19 which is impinging upon the budget allocation of current year i.e. 2019-20. On the other hand funds earmarked for SC, ST Category and North East region remained unutilized for want of sufficient demand. The Committee are unable to understand why the Department is not reappropriating the surplus funds to the general category after the closing date of application. The Committee feel it is undesirable on one hand to allow surplus funds of one category to lapse and on the other, allow the left out of other category under the same scheme to spill over to the next financial year. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised of the specific decisions of the Department on this matter and recommend the Department to make necessary modifications in the scheme to correct this undesirable scenario.

National Fellowship Scholarship Scheme

5.5 The Committee observe with concern that under the Scheme of National fellowship for PwDs (NFPD), the University Grant Commission (UGC) released the first list of selected students for the year 2017-18 on 14.08.2019 and award letters were issued to the selected students on 21.10.2019. The UGC is still in the process of selecting students for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 even though the third quarter of the current fiscal is about to close. The Committee deprecate this kind of inordinate delay on the part of UGC as the delay has been depriving deserving PwDs to the benefits of the scheme. The Committee, therefore, strongly urge upon the Department to convey their concern to the selection authority i.e. UGC and get the selection process completed for 2018-19 and 2019-20 without further delay and stipulate a time-frame to complete the selection process for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

CHAPTER – VI

National Trust

6.1 The National Trust is a statutory body constituted by an Act of Parliament namely 'The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999'. The Committee are informed that National Trust has been receiving less grants against actual requirement and due to this, the trust had to reduce the funding pattern under the Scheme. The National Trust had to meet much of its requirement from the interest of one time corpus Fund available with them.

6.2 On being enquired about the reasons why Department is not providing sufficient budgetary support to National Trust, the Department in their latest replies have stated as under:

“The National Trust has a corpus fund of ₹100.00 crore and interest of this fund is also used for meeting the expenditure of National Trust. In addition, the Department has also provided/allocated the grants as per projected budgetary requirement of National Trust. Moreover, Revised Estimate (RE) of ₹ 34.93 crore has been sought by the National Trust for meeting the expenditure during FY 2019-20, which requires additional Budgetary Support of ₹14.93 crore in addition to the allocated budget of ₹ 20.00 crore for the FY 2019-20. Budgetary requirement and allocation during the last two years is as under:

₹ in crores

Financial year	Requirement by National Trust	Allocation
2018-19	17.00	17.00
2019-20	20.00	20.00

6.3 When the Committee desired to know how National Trust is managing its financial requirements as its interest income must have reduced with falling rate of interest now-a-days, the Department stated that National Trust continued to implement the already sanctioned schemes in reduced funding pattern and no new project could be

sanctioned.

6.4 The National Trust has been set up to discharge two basic duties – Legal and Welfare. Legal duties are discharged through Local Level Committees for providing Legal Guardianship. Welfare duty is discharged through the Schemes. Gharaunda is one of the welfare scheme under National Trust to provide housing and care services throughout the life of the person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

6.5 The Committee, during oral evidence, pointed out that Autism Spectrum Disorder is a huge spectrum and only the certification and facilities are not enough to cure this serious disability. When the Committee asked whether the Department have any plan for its treatment, any free helpline or any audio-visual campaign being run by the Government to make parents aware that on noticing what kind of initial symptoms or behavior disorder in their child, they should immediately contact AIIMS helpline to get detailed information, the Department informed in their updated replies that AIIMS is providing a free Helpline for parents to understand and identify the symptoms of Autistic Disorder in their child.

6.6 They further stated that Disability & Rehabilitation is a State subject. The State Govts./UTs are requested from time to time to give wide publicity regarding awareness about various disabilities & also for early intervention for rehabilitation. Various medical and rehabilitation institutions also undertake such awareness exercise. In Delhi, Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS has started 24x7 toll free helpline (1800-11-7776) as telephone based consultation. This helpline was launched on 12th April, 2018. The toll free number has been displayed on AIIMS website & this information is being disseminated to public from time to time. The helpline is manned by nurses and doctors. The exact number of calls will have to be retrieved. On AIIMS website www.pedneuroaiims.org there is a parent's corner on which information about Autism alongwith other neuro disorder is available in both Hindi and English.

6.7 The Committee are further informed that there are components of the toll free

services which are as follows:

a. "Telehelpline

- For all who are residing in India
- Will cater to all and on which the counsellors will answer all queries

b. Teleconsultation

- For all patients having stable Neurodevelopmental Disorders under our follow up in Child Neurology OPD/Clinic:
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Epilepsy, Febrile Seizure, Neurocysticercosis , Refractory Epilepsy patients on Dietary therapy
- Cerebral palsy
- Neuromuscular disorders
- ADHD and other neurobehavioral disorders
- Other Miscellaneous neurological conditions such as Migraine, Headache, Stroke"

6.8 When the Committee desired to know whether Department have any scheme for Autistic Children, the Department in their updated replies have stated that the following major Schemes are being implemented by the National Trust with a view to provide rehabilitation services for autistic children:

- (i) **DISHA (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme):** This is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children upto 10 years with the disabilities covered under the National Trust Act.
- (ii) **VIKAAS (Day Care):** A day care scheme for persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities, above 10 years for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills.
- (iii) **SAMARTH (Respite Care):** A scheme to provide respite home for orphans, families in crisis, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) from BPL, LIG families with at least one of the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act.
- (iv) **GHARAUNDA (Group Home for Adults):** This scheme provides housing and care services throughout the life of the person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
- (v) **NIRAMAYA (Health Insurance Scheme):** This scheme is to provide affordable

Health Insurance to persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

- (vi) **GYAN PRABHA (Educational support):** A scheme to encourage people with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for pursuing educational/ vocational courses”.

National Trust

6.9 The Committee are sad to note that the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, a statutory body under the Department of Empowerment of PwDs, has been receiving less grants against their actual requirement. As per the Department, since the interest income from its corpus fund was also falling due to fall in interest rates, the Trust has to reduce the funding pattern under its scheme and no new project could also be sanctioned because of the paucity of funds. However now the Committee note that during the financial year 2019-20, the Trust is restoring the initial funding pattern and has asked for an additional budgetary support of ₹ 14.93 crore at RE stage. Considering these facts, the Committee would like to impress upon the Department to provide the Trust with requisite funds as it has been dealing with diseases like autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation etc. which are long term and need sophisticated treatments and to ensure sufficient budgetary support in future also so that the Trust could carry out its mandate effectively.

Autistic Disorder Spectrum

6.10 The Committee are happy to note that AIIMS has been operating a toll-free helpline (No. 1800-11-7776) for the parents to understand and identify the symptoms of autistic disorder in their child. The helpline provide telephone based consultation and can be accessed by any one from any part of India. The Committee feel even though this helpline is operational for the last one and a half year, in the absence of a regular awareness generation activity, most of the parents may not be aware of its existence. The Committee would, therefore, desire the Department to undertake concerted awareness generation programme at national level through audio-visual, print and if found suitable, the social media. In Committee's view, through this programme the parents could also be made aware of the specific indicative symptoms and behavioral disorder in their ward well in time so that they are able to immediately identify the type of disability and consult the helpline for further course of action. This will prove helpful in early identification, intervention and treatment of their autistic child.

**NEW DELHI;
10 December, 2019
19 Agrahayana, 1941 (Saka)**

**SMT. RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing
Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment**

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-20) HELD ON TUESDAY, 5TH November, 2019

The Committee met from 1430 hrs. to 1645 hrs. in Committee Room No. 139, First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
3. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj'
4. Shri Y. Devendrappa
5. Shri Abdul Khaleque
6. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
7. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri. Biswajit Daimary
9. Shri Ramkumar Verma

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi - 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, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2.	Dr. Prabodh Seth	Joint Secretary
3.	Ms. Tarika Roy	Joint Secretary
4.	Shri Sanjay Pandey	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
5.	Shri Kishor B. Surwade	Deputy Director General (DDG)
6.	Shri Nikunj K Sundaray	JS &CEO, National Trust
7.	Shri D. R. Sarin	CMD, ALIMCO
8.	Shri Rajan Sehgal	CMD, NHFDC
9.	Shri Subodh Kumar	Member Secretary, RCI
10.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Rao	Deputy CCPD
11.	Shri Sanjay Kant Prasad	Deputy CCPD
12.	Shri Nachiketa Rout	Director, NIEPVD
13.	Smt. Samita Jayavant	Director, PDUNIPPD

2. At the outset, Hon'ble 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 2019-20 pertaining to their Department. Referring to the Directions by the Speaker to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential', till a Report on the subject is presented to the House, the Chairperson asked the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) to introduce his team and 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 etc. through a power point presentation. The major issues discussed at the sitting relating to Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Department are as follows:-

- (i) Physical and Financial Performance of the flagship schemes of the Department;
- (ii) To provide sufficient budgetary support to National Trust ;
- (iii) Forthcoming appraisal/revision of the ADIP Scheme;
- (iv) Progress and issues related to Disabled – friendly State buildings under Accessible India Campaign (AIC);
- (v) Issue relating to National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD);
- (vi) Pre-matric Scholarship Schemes for Students with Disabilities ;
- (vii) Availing all facilities meant for PwDs after obtaining Disability Certificate;
- (viii) Establishment of Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) and New District Disability Centres (DDRCs);
- (ix) Wide publicity for Autistic Disorder so as to make parents aware of this disease;
- (x) Campaign to create awareness regarding the Thalasemia disorder/disease;

4. The Secretary also responded to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson then directed the Department to furnish written replies to all the queries raised by the Members to the Secretariat by 8th November, 2019 for early finalization of the Report.

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 SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 2019.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1550 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Durga Prasad Rao Balli
4. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq
5. Shri Bholanath (B.P. Saroj)
6. Shri Y. Devendrappa
7. Shri Abdul Khaleque
8. Smt. Geeta Kora
9. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
10. Shri Lorho S. Pfoze
11. Smt. Supriya Sule
12. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
14. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
15. Smt. Sarojini Hembram
16. Shri P.L. Punia
17. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
18. Shri Ram Kumar Verma

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda Joint Secretary
2. Dr. Vatsala Joshi 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) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).
- (iii) **** **** **** ****
- (iv) **** **** **** ****
- (v) **** **** **** ****

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	2.13	<p>The Committee note that during the last three years i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, the actual expenditure remained above 95%. In 2018-19, the allocation was ₹ 1070.00 crore and the actual expenditure was ₹ 1017.56 crore thus showing utilization of 95.10% of the total expenditure. The Committee would urge the Department to strive for 100% achievement under its existing flagship schemes/programmes as apart from benefitting more and more PwDs, it will strengthen the Department's demand for an enhanced budgetary allocation in the next fiscal year. At the same time, the Committee feel concerned about the uneven flow of expenditure in the current fiscal year. They find from the presentation made by the Department of PwDs during the course of oral evidence of their representatives before the Committee that the actual expenditure under all the schemes/programmes as on 31.10.2019 is ₹ 373.21 crore, which is mere 30% of the total BE/RE of ₹ 1204.90 crore. The Department will be required to spend 70% of BE/RE in the next 5 months which could ultimately result in rush of expenditure in the last quarter of 2019-20 fiscal. The Committee opine that if a large portion of RE remains unspent till last quarter then in the haste of achieving expenditure targets, not only the scrutiny and examination of proposals get compromised, but there remains hardly any scope for monitoring the progress too. The Committee feel that the Department had been setup separately in 2014 to focus sole attention on Divyangjans and hence ensuring their welfare through timely and effective utilization of funds has an enhanced humanitarian angle too, apart from a Constitutional duty of the Department. They, therefore, impress upon the Department to continue handholding exercises to guide the State Governments so that better and timely proposals are received and a balanced utilization of funds in all the four quarters of a financial year is ensured.</p>
2	2.14	<p>The Committee note that during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, the actual expenditure under some major schemes viz (i) Scholarships for Students with Disabilities (ii) Indian Spinal Injury Centre, (iii) Establishment of Institute of Sign Language, Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC), (iv) Support for</p>

Establishment/Modernization of Braille Presses, (v) Establishment of College for Deaf in 5 Regions of the country, (vi) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports, (vii) Budgetary Support to National Trust, (viii) Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres and (ix) Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, was very low and the allocated budgetary amount was under utilized. The Committee are anguished that the Department has been citing repeatedly procedural excuses like non receipt of adequate proposals/delayed receipt of proposals, insufficient funds and approval of schemes during the fag end of fiscals etc. for the same, which are not convincing enough. The Committee hence reiterate that the Department must adopt prudent fiscal management system and modify the procedures if required, to reduce multi - agency clearances and speed up submission of proposals.

3. 3.10 As a vast majority of PwDs come from the economically and socially backward sections of the society, they neither have the resources to meet the cost difference of motorized tricycle nor the access to MPs/MLAs/CSR funds. The issue of the Department bearing full cost of motorized tricycle has been commented upon many times in the past, particularly in this Committee's 48th and 55th Reports, 16th Lok Sabha. It seems that the Department has hitherto remained evasive on the matter. Now, the Department have statedly decided to consider the issue of revision of cost norms during the forthcoming appraisal for revision of ADIP scheme, which is likely to be held during next financial year. As the next financial year is approaching now, the Committee are optimistic that the Department would sincerely take up this issue and bring it to the desired conclusion to mitigate the plight of PwDs in need of motorized tricycle.
4. 3.11 From the deposition of the Department, the Committee find that they are confident on being able to achieve the expenditure target fully under ADIP scheme by 31st March, 2020 and have listed the activities to be undertaken during the remaining part of the financial year. However, the Committee have observed that the progress of expenditure has remained almost static between 30th September, 2019 and 31st October, 2019 as the actual expenditure in September, 2019 was shown as ₹ 74.51 crore and in October, 2019 it was ₹ 74.61 crore against the Budget allocation of ₹ 230.00 crore. The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to submit their phased actual expenditure performance to the Committee in the last 4 months, to substantiate their claim on achieving 100 per cent expenditure target.

- 5 3.12 **The Committee find that the Department is in the process of awarding contract for conducting third party Impact Evaluation Study of all their schemes including ADIP scheme. The contract is expected to be awarded within this financial year and depending upon timeline provided by the awardee firm/institute, the study is expected to be completed by next financial year. The Committee is of the firm opinion that the phrase “depending upon the timeline” makes the entire process open-ended with hardly any fixed targets. Hence the Committee recommend that the study needs to be completed in a time bound manner and therefore, urge the Department to carry out the study within a stipulated time schedule and avoid undue extension of time-line. They would like to be apprised of the progress on the matter at action taken stage.**
- 6 4.17 **The Committee observe with concern that even though the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) project under the Rights of persons with Disability Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) came into force on 19.04.2017, the execution at State/UT level is slow due to delay in submission of cost estimates and subsequent implementation of retrofitting projects of buildings by the concerned States/UTs/Public works Department. So far only a total of 480 buildings all over India have been completed under AIC while the number of buildings audited is 1662 and number of buildings funded for retrofitting is 1058. In view of thousands of Government buildings all over the country which are to be made accessible for PwDs, the work so far done is minuscule. The Committee also find that initially many States like West Bengal, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh etc. did not embark upon the work of retrofitting of buildings. The Committee are disappointed that at this pace, only a small fraction of the work under AIC can be accomplished by the year 2022 after which central assistance will no longer be available. The Committee, were later informed that 34 States/UTs are on board now to start work on 1058 buildings. They, therefore, urge upon the Department to take up the work of converting all the Government buildings into accessible structures for PwDs all over the country at Mission mode and make every possible effort to persuade the States/UTs to accomplish the project with right earnestness, as it aims to make life easy and comfortable for PwDs and bring them into the mainstream.**
- 7 4.18 **The Committee is pained to find that some of the State Governments are giving less than ₹ 500/- per month as Disability Pension to PwDs. They fail to understand as to how can a person survive with this paltry amount which is not even sufficient to meet bare minimum basic needs of an**

individual. The Committee firmly believe that lack of any skill to earn and a meager amount as pension forces many PwDs to take up begging outside religious places, at traffic signals etc. in order to survive. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Central Government must increase its contribution from ₹ 300/- to PwDs pensioners to a reasonable amount and also explore the possibility of making it mandatory for every State/UT Government to give some amount with a provision for revision periodically to help PwDs to cope up with inflation, as Disability Pension. If need be, Central Government should have a relook at the existing policies too in this direction.

- 8 4.19 The Committee note that the Department provides assistance for setting up and running District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in unserved and under- served districts of the country for providing specific training to rehabilitation professionals and for sensitizing PwDs about different welfare schemes implementing for them. The Committee further note that there is a huge shortage of nearly 20 lakh trained professionals today to provide rehabilitation services to the PwDs for which the Department has strived to develop curriculum in collaboration with Melbourne University, which is laudable. They would urge the Department to continue their efforts. The Committee also feel that MPs and MLAs should be involved in the process of setting up of CRCs and DDRCs as they are well aware about the problems and needs of PwDs in their respective constituencies. The Department have seemingly evaded a reply on the issue of involvement of MPs/MLAs in this process. The Committee still feel that the input provided by the local MPs/MLAs could be of immense use as they are well aware of the local conditions and special needs of the PwDs in their areas. The specific inputs provided by the public representatives about their area can be of vital importance in planning and setting up of such centers. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to seek inputs from all the MPs/MLAs and ensure that these inputs are utilised during Departmental meetings for practical decisions. The Committee further desire to be apprised about the progress in this regard.
- 9 5.4 The Committee observe that under the three scholarship schemes for students with Disabilities viz. pre-matric Scholarship, Post-matric Scholarship and Top Class Education, the Department have released funds for the left out students of the previous financial year i.e. 2018-19 which is impinging upon the budget allocation of current year i.e. 2019-20. On the other hand funds earmarked for SC, ST Category and North East region remained unutilized

for want of sufficient demand. The Committee are unable to understand why the Department is not reappropriating the surplus funds to the general category after the closing date of application. The Committee feel it is undesirable on one hand to allow surplus funds of one category to lapse and on the other, allow the left out of other category under the same scheme to spill over to the next financial year. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised of the specific decisions of the Department on this matter and recommend the Department to make necessary modifications in the scheme to correct this undesirable scenario.

10 5.5 The Committee observe with concern that under the Scheme of National fellowship for PwDs (NFPD), the University Grant Commission (UGC) released the first list of selected students for the year 2017-18 on 14.08.2019 and award letters were issued to the selected students on 21.10.2019. The UGC is still in the process of selecting students for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 even though the third quarter of the current fiscal is about to close. The Committee deprecate this kind of inordinate delay on the part of UGC as the delay has been depriving deserving PwDs to the benefits of the scheme. The Committee, therefore, strongly urge upon the Department to convey their concern to the selection authority i.e. UGC and get the selection process completed for 2018-19 and 2019-20 without further delay and stipulate a time-frame to complete the selection process for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

11 6.9 The Committee are sad to note that the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, a statutory body under the Department of Empowerment of PwDs, has been receiving less grants against their actual requirement. As per the Department, since the interest income from its corpus fund was also falling due to fall in interest rates, the Trust has to reduce the funding pattern under its scheme and no new project could also be sanctioned because of the paucity of funds. However now the Committee note that during the financial year 2019-20, the Trust is restoring the initial funding pattern and has asked for an additional budgetary support of ₹ 14.93 crore at RE stage. Considering these facts, the Committee would like to impress upon the Department to provide the Trust with requisite funds as it has been dealing with diseases like autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation etc. which are long term and need sophisticated treatments and to ensure sufficient budgetary support in future also so that the Trust

could carry out its mandate effectively.

The Committee are happy to note that AIIMS has been operating a toll-free helpline (No. 1800-11-7776) for the parents to understand and identify the symptoms of autistic disorder in their child. The helpline provide telephone based consultation and can be accessed by any one from any part of India. The Committee feel even though this helpline is operational for the last one and a half year, in the absence of a regular awareness generation activity, most of the parents may not be aware of its existence. The Committee would, therefore, desire the Department to undertake concerted awareness generation programme at national level through audio-visual, print and if found suitable, the social media. In Committee's view, through this programme the parents could also be made aware of the specific indicative symptoms and behavioral disorder in their ward well in time so that they are able to immediately identify the type of disability and consult the helpline for further course of action. This will prove helpful in early identification, intervention and treatment of their autistic child.