



Sl.	STATES	Sec.43 Land Allotment	Sec. 45-46 Barrier Free	Sec. 48-49 Res. & Manpower Dev.	Sec. 50 Compet. Auth.	Sec. 60 DIS-COM
			construction rules to ensure barrier free access, providing it in the existing buildings, access audit for public buildings, barrier-free conveyance facilities, providing auditory signals at zebra crossings etc.			
16.	MANIPUR	50% concession on land allotment	Pending	Reported earlier that POA was being finalized. No fresh report.	27.7.96 Dir. SW Addl. Charge	Secretary, SW
17.	MIZORAM	-	Requests made to State PW Deptt.	No ATR	Dir SW	Secy. SW/D Commissioner
18.	MEGHALAYA	The matter has been taken up with the District Council authorities	The Public Works Deptt. is taking up the matter. Transport deptt. has taken steps in the matter.	Proposal pending with GOI	Dir. SW	Secretary, SW with Addl. Charge
19.	NAGALAND	No ATR	Bld. Byelaws are getting amended. Almost all Govt. buildings, rest rooms are barrier free. Installing ramps widening doors and dividers, accessible public telephones, signage etc.	No ATR	Dir SW	Full time Commissioner Appointed
20.	ORISSA	No ATR	Ramps constructed in collectorates, State Secretariats etc. 288 Ramps and 33 hand-rails constructed in primary schools. Bldg. guidelines are being issued.	NO ATR	Dir SW	Additional Charge Commissioner



Sl.	STATES	Sec.43 Land Allotment	Sec. 45-46 Barrier Free	Sec. 48-49 Res. & Manpower Dev.	Sec. 50 Compet. Auth.	Sec. 60 DIS-COM
21.	PUNJAB	2% in housing by PUDA. 3% in houses/	Auditory signals are provided in 25 places. plots/ flats by Deptt. of Local Govt. land available at concessional rate through PUDA	Research & Medical Education conducting research. Curve cuts is provided in 20 places. Ramps are provided in all public places.	Director, SS & WCD 2 districts under NPRD, CRC & RRC are being set up.	Additional Charge Commissioner
22.	RAJASTHAN	600 kiosks have been allotted to disabled persons absolutely free of cost. Private telephone companies have been motivated to allot mobile STD/PCOs to PWDs. 30 have been allotted. 70 more to be allotted at Jaipur and Jodhpur.	All upcoming public buildings will have barrier free structures. Town Planning Deptt. will look into it. Govt. ordered to construct ramps in all the schools from the student welfare fund. 58 schools of Jaipur now have ramps in their buildings. Steps taken to make Cinema Halls of the State Barrier Free. 100 disabled persons are being trained to manufacture vermin compost so as to set up such manufacturing units.	No ATR	29.7.99 Jt. Director, Soc-Security	Commissioner Appointed
23.	SIKKIM	Under Process	No Action Taken.	No Action	Comm. cum Secretary (19.10.98)	Commissioner Appointed
24.	TAMIL NADU	Steps are being taken for implementation. construction of special ramp at all	This year Rs. 65 lacs have been allocated for	No report.	Commissioner for Rehabilitation of Disabled is acting as competent authority for recognition of institutions.	Full Time Commissioner



Sl.	STATES	Sec.43 Land Allotment	Sec.45-46 Barrier Free	Sec. 48-49 Res. & Manpower Dev.	Sec. 50 Compet. Auth.	Sec. 60 DIS-COM
		collectorates at 29 districts. 32 places have been allotted to park the tricycles, wheel chairs etc. of the PWDs. Bus Stands at various places like Thirunelveli etc. have been made barrier free. A disabled friendly toilet was installed at DRC premises. The upcoming Regional Counselling Centre will have barrier free access structures.				
25	TRIPURA	Instructions issued. No inf. on complianc.	Efforts are on	No ATR	25.1.99 Director, SW	Secretary, DW Addl. Charge.
26	UTTARA- NCHAL	No ATR	Deptt. of Social Welfare is regularly monitoring	No ATR	1.8.96 Director, SW	Secretary, DW Addl. Charge.
27	UTTAR PRADESH	Orders issued by the Govt.	Working under a Pilot Project on Barrier Free Environment.	No ATR	Dir (W)	Full Time Commissioner Appointed.
28	WEST BENGAL	Not reported	No Action Taken	NGOs are being sponsored under grant in aid in areas of prevention of disability, CBR, assistive devices etc.	Commissioner	Full Time Commissioner Appointed.



Sl.	STATES	Sec.43 Land Allotment	Sec. 45-46 Barrier Free	Sec. 48-49 Res. & Manpower Dev.	Sec. 50 Compet. Auth.	Sec. 60 DIS-COM
1.	A & N ISLANDS	No ATR	No ATR	Not reported.	Dir (SW)	Dir (SW) as Commissioner
2.	CHANDI- GARH	No ATR	Engg. Deptt. has been advised to take steps.	The required scheme under these sections is being prepared by DPI Colleges.	Dir (SW)	Secy. SW with additional charge.
3.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	Revenue Auth. Planned to allocate surplus	Efforts are on.	Action not taken.	Collector	Collector is designated as Commissioner.
4.	DAMAN & DIU	Under process	PWD & Transp. Deptts. have been instructed.	No Research Instt. and Univ. in the UT.	14.5.98 Dir, MHS	Addl. District Magistrate of Daman is Commissioner.
5.	LAKSHA- DWEEP	Land area is very small.	Ramps etc. in Hospitals, PHCs are provided. No major roads, no public road tpt. Rly. Station etc. in the UT. Suitable adaptation in ships are taken up.	No Res. Institutions.	No ATR	Secy. Welf. Addl. Charge.
6.	PONDI- CHERRY	3% res. in allotment of flats/ plots.	Transport Deptt. has been asked to work on it.	No scope for this activity.	8.1.99 Dir, SW	8.1.99 Secy, SW Addl. Charge as Commissioner.



Sl.	STATES	Sec.67 Insurance	Sec. 68 Unemployment Allowance	Sec.73 Rules
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	Not reported only State Govt. employees benefited.	Exists arranged by AD Disabled Welfare.	Notified on 12.10.1997
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	ATR NOT RECEIVED DESPITE REMINDERS	-	-
3.	ASSAM	Pending with Fianance Deptt.	Pending with Labour/Empl. Deptt.	Rules framed.
4.	BIHAR	Exists for State Government Employees.	No Unempl. Allowance pension Exists.	Not Notified.
5.	CHHATTISGARH	-	-	-
6.	DELHI	Exists for State Government Employees.	No Action	Notified.
7.	GOA	Exists for State Govt. Employees.	Approved by GG Govt. details not provided.	Notified on 12.03.1998
8.	GUJARAT	NO ATR	NO ATR	Done
9.	HARYANA	Only for State Govt. Employees. No separate scheme exists.	Scheme is in force in the state (Vide No. 1344-SW(I)-81 dated 07.12.1981.	Under consideration.
10.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	Exists for State Govt. employees.	Govt. of HP has rejected Unempl. Allowance to PWD.	Under consideration.
11.	JHARKHAND	No	No	Under process.
12.	KARNATAKA	Covered by Karnataka Govt. Insurance Scheme. Insurance cover parents mentally retarded children exists.	Action pending.	Nil
13.	KERALA	No separate scheme for Disabled.	Special pension shcme for Persons with Disabilities having an annual family income of Rs.12,000 or less. Upto Rs.5,000 from Distress Relief Fund to unemployed Persons with Disabilities.	Rules framed.

Sl.	STATES	Sec.67 Insurance	Sec. 68 Unempl. All.	Sec.73 Rules
14.	MADHYA PRADESH	Exists for State Govt. Employees.	NO ATR	Notified on 07.11.98
15.	MAHARASHTRA	Exists for State Govt. Employees.	NO ATR	Not notified.
16.	MANIPUR	Exists for State Govt. Employees.	Reported that not implemented due to Economic Constraints. 25 disabled persons were given @ Rs.100/- per month.	Notified on 14.11.96
17.	MIZORAM	Not yet done	Implementing the scheme of unemployment @ Rs.50/- per month for PWDs.	Draft Rule prepared.
18.	MEGHALAYA	No separate scheme for Persons with Disabilities	NO ATR	Draft Rule prepared.
19.	NAGALAND	NO ATR	NO ATR	Not notified.
20.	ORISSA	NO ATR	Exists	Under Process.
21.	PUNJAB	Pending		Sec. 34-38 have been notified by Deptt. of Labour & Employment Rules for other sections are pending the with Legal Remembrance
22.	RAJASTHAN	Exists for all State Govt. Employees. No separate scheme exists.	Not implemented	Under Process.
23.	SIKKIM	Exists for persons in State Government.	Subsistence Allowance given.	Not notified.
24.	TAMIL NADU	LIC turned the down proposal.	For visually impaired, allowance is given ranging from Rs.200/- to Rs.300/- per month till they get employment or they reach 40 years (45 years in the case of SC, ST) whichever is earlier. For those who are not placed in any gainful employment are given maintenance allowance of Rs.150/- per month.	Action pending





Sl.	STATES	Sec.67 Insurance	Sec. 68 Unempl. All.	Sec.73 Rules
25.	TRIPURA	Not implemented due to financial constraints.	Pension exists	Notified
26.	UTTARANCHAL	-	-	-
27.	UTTAR PRADESH	Finance Ministry has not approved the proposal.	No action has been taken.	Partly notified.
28.	WEST BENGAL	Exists for persons in State Government.	No action reported.	Notified.
Sl.	UTs	Sec.67 Insurance	Sec. 68 Unempl. All.	Sec.73 Rules
1.	A & N ISLANDS	NO ATR	Rs.100/- p.m. as Unemp. Allowance.	NO ATR
2.	CHANDIGARH	No separate scheme.	Not Reported	NO ATR
3.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	NO ATR	NO ATR	Notified.
4.	DAMAN & DIU	Pending	Scheme formulated.	Rules Framed on 07.03,2001
5.	LAKSHADWEEP	Dweep Suraksha open to all persons. State Govt. Employees covered by CGEGIS.	Under process.	Rules of GOI being followed.
6.	PONDICHERY	Implemented	Unemployment allowance @ Rs. 200/300/500 per month is being given to unemployed educated disabled persons.	Notified on 07.01.99.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT BY CENTRAL MINISTRIES/ DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The yardstick for measuring the success of the good intention of the Act is that benefits actually percolate to the people at the grass root level. The Act emphasizes a multi-sectoral collaborative approach to rehabilitation involving all concerned Ministries of the Central Government, State Governments/UTs and local authorities by making necessary institutional arrangements for implementing various programmes for the benefit of people with disabilities.

Institutional Provisions for Implementation of the Act

Realizing that merely framing an Act and Rules will not be sufficient to address the wide spectrum of discrimination that is being faced by the persons with disabilities, the Act provides a strong mechanism to monitor its implementation, which is enshrined in the Act itself.

The Act stipulates a two-tier institutional mechanism for formulation of policies and effective implementation and monitoring of various provisions of the Act. Central Coordination Committee (CCC), at the centre serves as the national focal point on disability matters and facilitates the continuous evolution of a comprehensive policy towards solving the problems faced by persons with disabilities. Its function of monitoring the impact of various policies and programmes for the benefit of persons with disabilities at the national level and coordination among different ministries of Govt. of India helps the Central Government to review its policies and programmes so that these are more comprehensive and focused, and have positive impact on the lives of the persons with disabilities.

The Central Executive Committee

(CEC) is the executive body of the Central Coordination Committee and is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the CCC.

To ensure that the policies are framed as envisaged in the Act and also implemented, the Act has made provision for Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the Centre and Commissioners (Disabilities) in the States and UTs.

The CCPD coordinates the work of the Commissioners, monitors the utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government and takes steps to safeguard the rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities. The CCPD has also been conferred with quasi-judicial powers with respect to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities, non-implementation of rules, policies, etc. framed for their welfare. This power can be used by CCPD either on complaints filed by aggrieved persons themselves or on their behalf by any person/organization. CCPD can also on his/her own motion take action against violation of any provision of the Act or Rules, Regulations, etc.

The Commissioners in the States/UTs perform similar functions and enjoy same powers as the CCPD. Their role is very crucial since they need to coordinate the work of the concerned Departments of the State Government in relation to work concerning welfare of the persons with disabilities. Moreover, most of the issues such as prevention, education, employment are state subjects and the Commissioners are the nodal officers for ensuring framing of policies and getting them implemented.

State Coordination Committees (excluding Union Territories) and State Execu-

tive Committees function in the States/UTs. The role of each Ministry/ Department is extremely important for ensuring that the schemes under the concerned Ministries/ Departments benefit the Persons with Disabilities.

A synopsis of the action taken by the various Ministries/Departments on implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is given as under:

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions:

It was in November, 1977, much before the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 that reservation for persons with disabilities was introduced in case of direct recruitment to Groups 'C' and 'D' posts. It was extended to Group 'C' and 'D' posts filled by promotion in 1989. With the enactment of the Act, reservation for persons with disabilities in direct recruitment is now available in Group A & B posts also. The Act provides for reservation for persons with disabilities suffering from (i) blindness or low vision, (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, each category being entitled to reservation of 1% vacancies.

As per the Supreme Court judgement in the Indra Sawhney Case (W.P. No. 930 of 1990), reservation for persons with disabilities is "horizontal".

A special examination was held by Staff Selection Commission for recruitment of Steno Gr. 'D' & LDC, for Visually Handicapped in Central Government Offices, Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies of Central Govt.



The final result was declared on 11.6.2002. Twelve persons qualified for appointment to the post of Stenographer and twenty five candidates were selected for the post of LDC.

Ministry of Labour

(a) Employment Exchanges

The Employment exchanges in the country continued making efforts to cater to the special needs of disabled job-seekers. Performance of Employment Exchanges in respect of job-seekers with disabilities can be assessed from the table given below:

<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Year	Registration	Placement	Live Register
1993	49.3	4.5	337.6
1994	43.7	4.5	340.3
1995	48.3	3.7	352.7
1996	52.1	3.9	359.1
1997	51.6	4.5	392.6
1998	54.9	3.6	415.3
1999	62.7	4.2	455.9
2000	64.7	3.3	485.2

- 1 There has been consistent increase in the number of persons with disabilities on the Live Register. However, number of placements has not kept pace.
- 1 Placement of disabled job-seekers during 2000 was 3.3 thousand which was the lowest since 1983.

(b) Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped:

Although Employment Exchanges under the National Employment Service are generally responsible for the placement of Physically Handicapped, Special Employment Exchanges were also set up over three decades ago for their selective placement.

- 1 These exchanges attempt at securing for persons with disabilities, the

most satisfying form of employment suitable to their residual physical and mental potentialities;

- 1 At present, 42 Special Employment Exchanges (as on Aug.2002) are functioning in the country;
- 1 In pursuance to the recommendations of the Working Group on Employment Service and the Task Force on the reorganization of Special Employment Exchanges, it was decided to set up Special Cells in the Employment Exchanges for promoting employment of the persons with disabilities;
- 1 Forty one Special Cells for the physically handicapped with a Special Placement Officer attached to the normal Employment Exchanges and funded by the Central Government have so far been set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;
- 1 These are in addition to the Special Cells/Units opened for the handicapped applicants at the Employment Exchanges by various State Governments.

(c) Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for the Handicapped:

- 1 Ministry of Labour had been fully responsive and committed to the implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. The Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T) has been regularly co-ordinating and supporting Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of persons with disabilities;
- 1 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) for handicapped have been functioning in the country one each at Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jabalpur,

Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Mumbai, New Delhi, Patna, Thiruvananthapuram, and Vadodara. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre at Vadodara has been set up exclusively for the women with disabilities;

- 1 These centers evaluate the residual capacities of persons with disabilities and provide them adjustment training, facilitating them with early economic rehabilitation. Efforts are also made to assist them in obtaining other suitable rehabilitation services such as job placement, training for self employment and in plant training.
- 1 Rehabilitation services are also extended to the disabled living in rural areas through mobile camps and Rural Rehabilitation Extension Centres (RRECs) set up in 11 Blocks under 5 VRCs viz: VRC Chennai, Kanpur, Kolkata, Ludhiana and Mumbai;

Proposal to establish at least one VRC in each State/UT has been formulated.

Performance of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Physically Handicapped For the Year 2000 & 2001

	Year	
	2000	2001
No. of clients at the beginning of	158	210
No. of clients admitted	35162	33078
No. of clients evaluated	34274	32812
No. of clients who left the centre without completing evaluation	341	288
No. of clients still under evaluation at the end of	210	188
No. of clients rehabilitated	9502	9112



(d) Assistance to Disabled Ex Servicemen and Dependents:

In order to provide placement services to the disabled ex-servicemen/Border Security Force Personnel and the dependents of defence service personnel/Border Security Force Personnel killed or severely disabled in action, against the vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen and earmarked for priority categories, an Ex-Servicemen Cell was set up in the Directorate General of Employment & Training in July, 1972. Subsequently, the scope of the special services was also extended for the benefit of ex-servicemen disabled during peace time as well as dependants of the defence services personnel killed or severely disabled in peace time with death or disability attributable to military service with effect from February, 1991.

At the end of October, 2002, there were 192 disabled soldiers and 2191 dependents awaiting employment assistance through the ex-servicemen cell. While at the end of October, 2001 the corresponding figures were 183 and 2138 respectively.

Ministry of Health And Family Welfare:

The Ministry in its National Health Policy 2002 had expressed concern for infectious disease like TB and Leprosy and non-communicable diseases like blindness and mental disorder etc. The basic objective of the policy was to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population. The policy has been widely circulated both at the Centre and in the States upto the district level.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP):

Leprosy is a chronic bacterial disease with long incubation period between 9 months to 20 years. With efficient

implementation of well planned efforts since 1953-54 India has also very substantially controlled leprosy. During 1981 our country recorded a prevalence of 51 cases per 10,000. In March 2002, it had come down to only 4.2 per 10,000 with 12 States/UTs having achieved the status of leprosy elimination. The elimination level has prevalence rate being less than one per 10,000 been achieved in the twelve States of Nagaland, Haryana, Punjab, Mizoram, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Manipur, Assam, Kerala, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Daman & Diu are very close to leprosy elimination with PR between 1-2/10,000 population. NLEP is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The 1st phase of the World Bank supported project from 1993-94 was completed on 31.3.2000 with further extension of six months. The project involved a cost of Rs.550 Crores.

The 2nd phase of World Bank Project on NLEP started for a period of 3 years from 2001-02, involving project of Rs.249.8 crores WHO is providing MDT drugs free of cost worth Rs.48.00 crores. This phase also aims to detect 11 lakh new leprosy cases and cure 11.5 lakh leprosy cases with MDT while reducing the disability rate to 2% among new leprosy cases.

National Programme for Eradication of Blindness:

This programme was launched in the year 1976 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the goal to reduce the prevalence of blindness from 1.4 %to 0.3 %. The objectives of the programme are:

- 1 To reduce the backlog of blindness through identification and treatment of blind;
- 1 To develop Eye Care facilities in every district;

- 1 To develop human resources for providing Eye Care Services;
- 1 To secure participation of Voluntary Organisations in eye care.

Allocation of budget and expenditure under this programme since 1997-98 is as follows:

Rs. in crore

Year	Budget	Expenditure	Allocated
1997-98	70	58.34	
1998-99	75	72.74	
99-00	84	83.83	
2000-01	110	109.70	
IXth Plan (97-02)	466	451.38	
02-03	86	41.04*	

* Provisional upto December 2002

With the closure of the World Bank Project, the programme is being sustained through domestic budget for which an allocation of Rs.445 crore has been made in the Xth Plan.

Table indicating performance of Cataract Surgery is as follows:

Year	Target	Achievement	IOL (%)
97-98	3017952	3033303	20
98-99	3320330	3320305	34
99-00	3500000	3500065	46
00-01	3690120	3626311	58
01-02	4000000	3725579	65
IXth Plan (97-02)	17528402	17205563	45#
02-03	4000000	1771757*	

Average Percentage

* Provisional; reported upto Oct./Nov.02

School Eye Screening Programme:

6% to 7% of children aged 10-14 years have problems with their eye sight affecting their learning at school. Children



are being screened by trained teachers.

Currently, nearly 22 thousand donated eyes are collected per annum in India. Eye donation fortnight is organized from 25th August to 8th September every year to promote eye donation/eye banking.

External Aided Projects:

(a) World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project:

The project was under implementation since 1994-95 in the States of A.P., M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and U.P. Major inputs of the project were upgrading the ophthalmic service, expanding the coverage in rural and tribal areas, establishment and functioning of DBCS, training of ophthalmic manpower, improving the management information system. The Project ended in June, 2002.

(b) Danish Assistance to NPEB:

During Phase III of Danish Assistance (98-02) NPCB was provided for Training, Management Information Systems, Supply of equipments, Preparation of Health Education material and support in Karnataka.

(c) WHO Assistance For Prevention of Blindness:

Important Activities:

- 1 Pilot survey on childhood blindness in Delhi;
- 1 High quality workshops in eye care for faculty of medical colleges;
- 1 Development of Plan of Action for "Vision 2020: The right to sight" initiative.

Prevalence of blindness in 50+ population was 8.5 % and estimated prevalence in general population was estimated to be 1.1%;

Cataract continued to be the main cause

of blindness(62.6%);

Uncorrected refractive errors were responsible for 19.7% of blindness;

Other important causes of blindness include glaucoma(5.8%), posterior segment pathology(4.7%), corneal opacities(0.9%) and others (6.2%);

Surgical coverage of cataract affected population was 65.7%;

With best correction, successful visual outcome after cataract surgery was 93.5%(post operative vision >3/60).

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight

This global initiative has been initiated to reduce avoidable (preventive and curable) blindness by the year 2020. Target diseases are cataract, refractive errors, childhood blindness, corneal blindness glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy.

Iodine is an essential micronutrient with an average daily requirement of 100-150 micrograms for normal human growth and development. Survey results show that out of 310 districts in 28 States and 5 UTs, 253 districts are endemic i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorder is more than 10%. It is also estimated that more than 71 million persons are suffering from goiter and other IDD which include abortions, stillbirth, mental retardation, deaf, mutism, squint, goiter and neuromotor defects.

Yaws Eradication Programme (YEP) In India:

Yaws is a disfiguring, debilitating non-veneral treponemal infection. It is a contagious disease transmitted by direct (person to person) contact with the infectious yaws lesion.

Large number of children in developing countries suffer from malnutrition

due to poor economic condition. Government has planned nutritional policies to ensure that all new born children are provided vitamin supplements to complement the food intake of an individual.

Vitamin A supplement is given under the current nutritional policy to children between 9-36 months of age at 6 monthly intervals for the next five years to prevent diseases like night blindness etc.

Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme:

Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme was launched in the country in 1995. Under the programme, every child under the age of five years is given oral polio drops during National Immunization Days/Sub-National Immunisation Day every year on fixed days.

During 2001, out of the 268 cases of wild polio reported from the country, Bihar(27) and Uttar Pradesh (216), accounted for 90.67% of cases, while all other States reported a decline in the number of cases. During 2002 (upto 30.11.2002), 1211 positive cases for wild polio have been reported and of these 1071 are from the 2 States of Bihar(81) and U.P.(990).

Ministry of Rural Development

Under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY-II), 3% of the annual allocation would be utilized for creation of barrier free infrastructure for the disabled, as per the guidelines of the Scheme.

The guidelines of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) stipulate that at least 3% of the Swarozgaris will be disabled.

Under Indira Awaas Yojana(IAY), 3%



of the funds are reserved for the benefit of disabled below the poverty line in rural areas.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment:

As per the survey conducted by NSSO during 1990-91, the estimated population of persons with disabilities was 16.15 million which is about 1.9 per cent of the total population of the country. As per NSSO, the population of persons with disabilities is currently estimated at 5 crore. A definite picture about the quantum of population of persons with disabilities will emerge only after the results of Census 2001 and a separate survey done by the NSSO are published by the end of 2003.

The commitment of the Govt. of India towards upliftment of Persons with Disabilities reflects itself in the enactment of Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 2001.

The statutory set up has been complemented by institutional arrangements as an instrument for effective realization of the vision of the Acts through development of well-trained rehabilitation professionals in six National Institutes dealing in different areas of disabilities under the Ministry.

An expenditure of Rupees 742.41 crore was incurred during the 9th plan in the Disability Division. The budget allocation under 10th plan is Rs.1446 crore which is nearly twice the budgetary allocation under the previous plan. An expenditure to the tune of Rs. 144.57 crore has been made till 31.1.03 against the budget allocation of Rs.144.57 crore for the first year under the 10th plan.

A team led by Shri C. Gopal Reddy, Secretary SJ&E, attended a high-level inter-Governmental meeting from 25th to 28th October at Otsu, Japan, and presented the Country Report on the development made in the country during the last decade of 1993-2002 in the disability sector. The deliberations led to adoption of the Biwako Millennium Framework of Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier Free and Rights Based Society for all.

The Ministry constituted a committee comprising experts and activists from the voluntary organizations to moot proposal for extending additional facilities and exemptions to persons with disabilities in Central Excise and Customs duties and also to further streamline the procedures for availing them. The report of the committee has been referred to Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for action.

National Fund for persons with disabilities has been created to award scholarships to students with disabilities pursuing professional and technical courses at post matric levels.

National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (NPRPD) was launched with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities especially those living in rural areas. A four-tier structure for service delivery at Gram Panchayat, Block, District and State levels is proposed. The focused area is identification, early detection and intervention at the grassroots level and referral services at district and state level.

The scheme was launched in the year 1999-2000. An amount of Rs.104.13 crore has been released under the scheme to States/UTs in phases over the last three years. The scheme continues in the 10th five year plan as a state sector scheme. Community Based

Rehabilitation (CBR) and Multi-purpose Rehabilitation Workers (MRW) under 74 selected districts have been identified and their training is in different levels of implementation. State Resource Centres have been established in seven States i.e. Karnataka, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Punjab, Chandigarh and Assam. District Resource Centres have been identified and are functional in six States i.e. Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

Science and Technology Projects in Mission Mode:

The Ministry of SJ&E also implements a scheme entitled Science & Technology Project in Mission Mode for developing appropriate and innovative technological appliances for the benefit of persons with disabilities. Full funding is provided under the project to the scientific institutions, autonomous bodies, research laboratories and R&D engineers for research and development of suitable assistive devices. The project proposals are appraised by the Technical Advisory Groups and finally cleared by the Apex Level Committee headed by Secretary, SJ&E.

Some instances of successes of the programme are the development of modular B.K. Prosthesis, plastic aspheric lenses for persons with low vision, myoelectric hand system etc. In the year 2002-2003, five new projects have been approved and prototype of low velocity wheel chair has been successfully designed along with innovative training module for fighting childhood disability and teaching and learning software for M.R. children.

UNDP funded project-support to children with disabilities

It is a UNDP funded project for support to children with disabilities (CWDs) for 2 years extended upto Dec. 2003



with a corpus of Rs.4.37 crore. The objective of the project is to sensitize, mobilize and empower the community to participate in the local school management and ensure that every child with disability in the project area has access to education in an appropriate environment. The improvement of the infrastructure of schools and making them accessible to the disabled children is one of the thrust areas of the project. The project also covers training of teachers and achieving convergence of existing development programmes for inclusion of children with disabilities in the regular school system. The project is presently underway on pilot basis in 10 blocks of UP (Lucknow district) and 10 blocks in 6 districts of Karnataka (Tumkur, Chitradurga, Hassan, Chickmagalur, Devangiri and Uttar Kannada). In addition NIMH, Secunderabad is undertaking some research/case studies under the project. Due to initiatives under the project, 5059 and 4688 children with disabilities have been admitted in regular schools in U.P. and Karnataka respectively. In all 249 schools are planned to be made barrier free through improvement of infrastructure. Sensitisation and training programmes were conducted through which, over 3000 teachers, all village level workers, CDPOs, Block Development Officers and over 1500 parents have been sensitized. Efforts are also being made to arrange for home based training for severely handicapped children.

Indo-US Agreement - NIDRR

An Indo-US agreement was signed between the Ministry of SJ&E and NIDRR, Department of Education, USA in January 1999 for promotion of activities relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and to focus on modernization of processes at ALIMCO, Kanpur through replacement of traditional materials for the aids by lighter and more durable mate-

rial for orthotic and prosthetic devices. The agreement has encouraged exchange of professionals between the countries for upgradation of technology for all categories of disabilities. ALIMCO has also undertaken technological upgradation and improvement in the products meant for the persons with disabilities through inputs received from the visiting experts.

The project is also supporting studies on subjects such as "Early intervention to infants and toddlers with disabilities in rural areas" and "Educational programming of children with severe and profound Mental Retardation." Proposals for holding international workshops on autism, genetic aspects of disability and social security issues are under active consideration.

Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities

The objective of this scheme is to encourage persons with disabilities and their parents/guardians to form their own organizations to provide rehabilitation services. The Ministry facilitates delivery of various rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities through public institutions and voluntary organizations by affording financial assistance and technical and administrative support under the scheme to enlarge the scope of vocational and professional opportunities, income generation and gainful occupations and promotes formal as well as non-formal employment and placement opportunities.

The voluntary organizations are running rehabilitation centers for leprosy cured persons, for manpower development in the field of mental retardation and cerebral palsy and the establishment and development of special schools for the major areas of orthopaedic, speech, hearing, visual and mental disability. Assistance is also extended to non-Gov-

ernmental organizations for setting up projects of vocational training to facilitate the disabled to be as independent as possible by acquiring basic skills. Under this Scheme, the Ministry supports both recurring and non-recurring expenditure. In 2001-2002, 644 organisations were released grant-in-aid assistance of Rs. 60.82 crore. During this year upto 31.12.2002, 546 organisations have been assisted with Rs.50.76 crore to benefit over one lakh persons.

A detailed exercise to rationalize cost norms has been completed and the Ministry is in the process of notifying the revised cost norms to be made effective from 1.4.2003. Broadly, the new norms define illustrative project profiles, expectations from these projects, and a desirable cost profile based on a set of parameters. An effort has also been made to compile the scheme, norms, revised application forms and circulars issued etc. at one place.

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

Known as ADIP in popular parlance, this has a direct visible impact on the lives of the disabled persons through supply of durable, standard sophisticated aids and appliances. These reduce the debilitating impact of disability and enhance the possibility of learning and economic potential of the disabled persons. Voluntary organizations, Red Cross Societies, National Institutes under the Ministry, ALIMCO are provided grant-in-aid for purchase, fabrication and distribution of aids and appliances. The scheme also covers under its ambit, surgical and medical correction. The usual method of implementation is through camps in district and taluk headquarters that are preceded by intensive surveys for screen-



ing and assessment. The camps are organized with the active assistance of the local administration. They also undertake ancillary activities such as issuance of disability certificates, concessional bus passes and the like.

Implementing agencies are provided 100% non-recurring financial assistance. Only those aids and appliances that do not cost less than Rs.50 and more than Rs.6000 are covered. The aids and appliances are provided free of cost if the income of the beneficiary or his guardian is upto Rs.5000 per month and at 50% of the cost if monthly income is between Rs.5000 and Rs.8000.

The popularity of the scheme can be measured from the fact that against the Ninth Plan expenditure of Rs. 133.80 crores, allocation in the Tenth Plan was increased to Rs. 345.50 crores. In 2002-2003, the entire budgetary allocation is expected to be spent.

Employment of the Handicapped

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective to help the persons with disabilities in getting gainful employment either through Special Cells in regular Employment Exchanges or Special Employment Exchanges for the persons with disabilities. The scheme is implemented through the Labour Department of State Governments/UT Administrations. Central assistance is given on 80:20, Centre and State share basis, in respect of special employment exchanges. 10% assistance is given in running special cells. An amount of Rs.1.54 crore was released to the States /UTs during 2001-2002.

Scheme for National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities

Under this scheme which has been introduced in the year 2002-03, 250 female students and equal number of male students experiencing different types of disabilities will be given scholarship for

pursuing higher and technical education. Amount of award will vary among courses and will depend on availability of hostel/residential facility with the institution as detailed below:

The awardees will also be reimbursed the course fee subject to a ceiling of Rs.10,000/- per annum. Financial assistance may also be given for purchase of a computer with editing software for blind or deaf graduate and postgraduate students pursuing professional courses and for purchase of support access software for cerebral palsied students. Students with 40% or more disability having monthly family income not more than Rs.15,000/- and who have passed matriculation/ secondary or any higher examination with minimum 50% marks from a recognized Board/University will be eligible for scholarship. Assistance will not be available for courses having duration of less than one year. For the year 2002-2003, 181 students have been selected for award of the scholarships.

National Awards for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

The national award was instituted in 1969 to recognize the achievements of persons with disabilities and also the individuals and organizations that are working for their welfare. Since 1995 in compliance with the United Nation's resolution of 1992, the award is given

on 3rd December every year in celebration of International Day of Disabled Persons.

Cash award of Rs.50,000/- is given to the best employer and Rs.15,000/- each to additional 17 awardees under the employer category. Rs.25,000/- in cash is awarded to best placement officer and three additional awards of Rs.15,000/- each under the same category. Cash award of Rs.25,000/- each is given to best employees from five categories of disability along with additional awards of Rs.15,000/- each under the same category.

On this day, the President of India, apart from honouring the awardees, dedicated to the human kind the "Below Knee Endo Skeletal Prosthesis" developed by National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training & Research, Cuttack and mass produced by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation, Kanpur. The prosthesis, using mechanism made Aluminium alloy, provides for required adjustments in antero-posterior and medio-lateral directions as also angular adjustments. The cosmetic cover facilitates natural look and feel for the user. The cost of this below knee Endo-Skeletal Prosthesis including fitting, works out to Rs.1500/- approximately which is less than 1/10th the cost of similar imported devices.

Recognising the importance of creating

Sl. No.	Courses of study	Rate of Scholarship (Rs. per month)	
		Hostelers	Day Scholars
1.	Ph.D/M.Phil and Post Graduate Level courses in Engineering/Indian and Other Systems of Medicine/Agriculture/ Veterinary/IT/ Bio-technology, Education Management, Architecture, Physiotherapy, Music and other professional courses.	1,000/-	700/-
2.	Diploma and Certificate level professional courses	700/-	400/-



mass awareness through aggressive dissemination of information to ensure that the benefits and concessions and institutional facilities available to persons with disabilities percolate down to the large rural population, awareness campaign on prevention of causes of disability and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities has been launched in 12 districts in the year 2001-02 eventually to cover 81 more selected districts during 2002-03.

The website of the ministry contains following information for the benefit of persons with disabilities: i) Persons with Disabilities Act, ii) Central list of the posts identified suitable for persons with disabilities under Section 32 of the Act, iii.) Guidelines on issue of disability certificate and iv) Guidelines for issue of Identity Card to persons with disabilities.

The State Governments and U.T. administrations have been requested to ensure that disability certificates are issued as per the revised guidelines for evaluation of disabilities and procedure for certification notified by the Ministry in June, 2001.

The National Institutes have been asked to conduct orientation training programmes for the doctors participating in the medical boards issuing disability certificates.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been urged to act in the areas of prevention and early detection of disabilities through measures such as the training of doctors working in Public Health Centres and paramedical and community-level functionaries, immunization against rubella and expansion of peri and neo natal care facilities etc.

Department of Personnel and Training (DOP&T) has been asked to undertake a detailed service-wise review with the involvement of this Ministry to identify those services where direct recruitment of the persons with disabilities is feasible so as to ensure inclusion of provision of 3% reservation when requisitions are sent to the UPSC for filling of posts.

The DOP&T has been also asked to train staff with visual disability in information technology and provide them with necessary equipments such as computers with voice software, Dictaphone etc. with new posts being identified for persons with visual impairment.

A list of the National Institutes and other institutions like VRCs, special employment exchange with their addresses is given as Appendix 5 to 7.