

# Chapter 5

## Central Government Schemes for the Disabled

The disability certificate and/or identity card is the basic document that a person with any disability of more than 40 percent requires in order to avail any facilities, benefits or concessions under the available schemes. However, this is not required for gaining admission in a school for formal education.

Facilities/ concessions are available for the disabled under the following programmes.

- 1 Disability certificate and identity card
- 2 Education programmes for children with special needs
- 3 Children's Education Allowance and Scholarships
- 4 Assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (Adip Scheme)
- 5 Preference in allotment of STD/PCO to handicapped persons
- 6 Custom concessions
- 7 Employment of the handicapped
- 8 National awards for people with disabilities
- 9 Incentives to private sector employers for providing employment to persons with disabilities
- 10 Reservation of jobs and other facilities for disabled persons
- 11 Economic assistance
- 12 Grant-in-aid schemes of the Ministry of Social

- Justice & Empowerment
- 13 Other concession and schemes
  - 14 Concessions for Blind
  - 15 Concessions for Deaf
  - 16 Concessions for Mentally Retarded (MR)
  - 17 Concessions for Orthopedically Handicapped (OH)

The degree of disability should be at least 40% in order to be eligible for any concession/ benefits. All persons with mental retardation are eligible for concessions/benefits. The classification of various concessions being recommended is applicable to the persons with permanent disabilities only.

### 1 Disability Certificate and Identity Card

#### A. Disability Certificate

The respective Medical boards constituted at state or district level are the certifying authority to issue disability certificate. The board consists of a chief medical officer/ sub divisional medical officer in the district and another expert in the specified field for example- an ophthalmic surgeon in case of visual handicaps; either an ENT surgeon or an audiologist in case of speech and hearing handicaps, an orthopaedic surgeon or a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation in case of locomotor handicaps and a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist in case of mental handicaps. Few facts about Disability Certificate are as under:

- a. The certificate is issued to persons with disabilities mentioned in the PWD Act 1995. At present, disabilities like Autism and learning disabilities are not covered under this Act.
  - b. The certificate is valid for a period of five years.
  - c. When there are no chances of variation in the degree of disability, a permanent disability certificate is given.
  - d. In order to get a disability certificate a person requires a birth certificate and proof of residence. If a child is born at home, parents can get the birth certificate from their district magistrate.
- Duration of validity: The card has a life long validity when issued to a disabled person above the age of 18 years. For disabled children below 18 years of age, the card is required to be updated once in every five years. No fresh medical examination is necessary in the case of permanent disability.
  - Cost: A nominal amount can be charged from the disabled person at the time of submission of the application form for IC.

The IC will contain information like identity card number, disability code, district code, state code, etc. A pass book will also be issued along with the IC. This pass book is meant to contain the details of various benefits and concessions provided to that person.

## **B Identity Card**

Presently, various ministries/departments of the central government as well as the state and UT level government provide a number of concessions/ facilities/ benefits to the persons with disabilities. These benefits are provided on the basis of certain documents. The procedural requirements are different in each case. Therefore, the persons with disabilities have to do complex paper work which causes a lot of inconvenience and hindrance in availing various benefits. The Government of India has therefore issued guidelines (August 2000) to states/ UTs for issuing of identity card (IC) to the persons with disabilities so as to enable them to easily avail any applicable benefits/ concessions.

- Eligibility: All those who are certified by the appropriate authority to have disability (as per the definitions given in the PWD Act 1995), will be eligible to obtain the identity card. This card will be issued to all eligible persons with disability irrespective of their age.
- Medical Certificate: Medical certificate obtained from the authorised medical board constituted by the State Government/ Defence authority, is a necessary pre-requisite for obtaining the card.
- Application: Person with disability may apply for issue of the IC to the appropriate authority. In case of persons with mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy or multiple disabilities, application can be made by the legal guardian. Ex-servicemen should apply for IC through the Rajya Sainik Board/ Zila Sainik Board or the Army formation HQs on the basis of disability certificate given by competent medical authority in the defence forces. Two passport size photographs would be required at the time of application.

### **For more details contact**

Field : Doctor at Primary Health Centre  
 Block : Community Health Centre  
 District : District Hospital (Chief Medical Officer)/  
 District Welfare Officer  
 Centre : Joint Secretary/ National Trust

## **2. Education Programmes for Children with Special Needs**

The community at large is often unaware of the potential of children with special needs. In the popular mind, special needs are usually identified with very low expectations. There are different provisions for education of children with disabilities. Inclusive education supports the idea of having all the children with special needs enrolled in mainstream schools with appropriate modifications as far as possible. After the assessment of their disabilities by a team of specialists (a doctor, a psychologist, and a special educator), the child will be placed in appropriate educational setting. Children with mild and moderate disabilities of any kind may be integrated in regular schools, severe in regular/ special schools after a thorough assessment; drop outs who have problems in availing benefits of normal schools can join open schools. Open and special schools also offer vocational courses for children with disabilities.

### **A Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children**

The scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) was a centrally sponsored scheme started in 1974 by Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India and being implemented by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development since 1982. The scheme has been discontinued since March 31, '09.

## **B Inclusive Education for Disabled (IED) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**

Central Government's guidelines issued by the concerned ministry and the SSA. The main focus of SSA is on increasing access, enrolment and retention of all children as well as improving the quality of education. The objective of SSA can only be realized, if Children with Special Needs (CWSN) are also included under the ambit of elementary education. The general guidelines issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development<sup>6</sup> (MHRD), Government of India are as follows –

- a. A zero rejection policy – to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education
- b. Education to CWSN should be provided in an environment most suited to his/her learning needs – to include all forms of education i.e. open school, special schools, EGS & AIE or even home based education
- c. Flexibility in planning – to make it need based and district centric for effective utilisation of resources
- d. Provision for each CWSN in district plan
  - i. Upto ₹ 1200 per child for integration of CWSN per year
  - ii. District plan for CWSN would be formulated within this norm
  - iii. Encourage involvement of resource institutions

These policy guidelines are in line with the prevailing Acts and constitutional provisions which ensures that

- Every child should get free and compulsory education up till the age of 14 years<sup>7</sup>
- Education to CWSN in an appropriate environment till 18 years<sup>8</sup>
- CWSN need to be taught by a trained teacher<sup>9</sup>
- Create an appropriate system for services and support to severely disabled children<sup>10</sup>

## **C Inclusive Education for the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)**

Due to expansion of SSA, the increase in

enrolment at the elementary level is expected in the coming years to lead to a surge in the demand for secondary level education. This will include children with disabilities. As SSA supports inclusion of children with special needs at the early childhood education and elementary education level, it is desirable to introduce a scheme for the disabled children at secondary stage. The scheme for IEDSS is therefore envisaged to enable all children and young persons with disabilities to have access to secondary education and to improve their enrolment, retention and achievement in the general education system. Under the scheme every school is proposed to be made disabled-friendly.

- a. Type of Scheme: This is a centrally sponsored scheme under which the Central Government will assist the States/Union Territories and autonomous bodies of stature in the field of education in its implementation on the basis of the criteria laid down. Assistance for all the items covered in the scheme will be on 100 per cent basis but assistance for the programme would be subject to policy guidelines issued and initiatives to be taken by the appropriate government for implementing the educational provisions of the P.W.D. Act.
- b. Aims and Objectives: The Centrally Sponsored IEDSS Scheme aims to:
  - i. Enable all students with disabilities completing eight years of elementary schooling an opportunity to complete four years of secondary schooling (classes IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment
  - ii. Provide educational opportunities and facilities to students with disabilities in the general education system at the secondary level (classes IX to XII).
  - iii. Support the training of general school teachers to meet the needs of children with disabilities at the secondary level.

The objectives of the scheme will be to ensure that:

- i. Every child with disability will be identified at the secondary level and his educational need assessed.
- ii. Every student in need of aids and appliances, assistive devices, will be provided the same

6 Illustrated from 'Responding to Children with Special Needs – A Manual for Planning and Implementation of Inclusive Education in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' published by the Ministry.

7 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment

8 Sections 26-29 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995

9 Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992

10 National Trust Act, 1999

- iii. All architectural barriers in schools are removed so that students with disability have access to classrooms, laboratories, libraries and toilets in the school.
  - iv. Each student with disability will be supplied learning material as per his/ her requirement
  - v. All general school teachers at the secondary level will be provided basic training to teach students with disabilities within a period of three to five years.
  - vi. Students with disabilities will have access to support services like the appointment of special educators, establishment of resource rooms in every block.
  - vii. Model schools are set up in every state to develop good replicable practices in inclusive education.
- c. Target Group: The scheme will cover all children of age 14+ years passing out of elementary schools and studying in secondary stage in Government, local body and Government-aided schools, with one or more disabilities as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act (1995) and the National Trust Act (1999) in the age group 14+ to 18+ years (classes IX to XII), namely
- Blindness
  - Low vision
  - Leprosy cured
  - Hearing impairment
  - Locomotor disabilities
  - Mental retardation
  - Mental illness
  - Autism
  - Cerebral palsy

And may eventually cover speech impairment and learning disabilities, etc. Girls with disabilities will receive special focus and efforts would be made under the scheme to help them gain access to secondary schools, as also to information and guidance for developing their potential.

**D Components of the Scheme:** The Scheme has following components –

- a. It is proposed to provide for educational facilities under this scheme for all children with disabilities that are included in general schools at the secondary and senior secondary level (classes IX to XII).

- b. The Scheme will include assistance for two kinds of components, viz. (I) Student-oriented components, and (II) Other components (e.g. those relating to infrastructure, teacher training, awareness generation, etc.)
- c. For the first group of components, it is proposed to provide assistance to States/ Union Territories / Autonomous bodies at ₹ 3000 per disabled child per annum for specified items, on the pattern of SSA which provides assistance at ₹ 1200 per disabled child per annum for the elementary level. (This rate was fixed in 2001-2002). This amount of ₹ 3000 per disabled child per annum may be spent on the following components:-
  - i. Identification and assessment of children with disabilities. The assessment team may include an interdisciplinary expert team of special educators, clinical psychologists, therapists, doctors and any other professional support based on the students' needs.
  - ii. Provision of aids and appliances to all students with disabilities needing them, if these are not already being provided for through existing schemes like ADIP, State Schemes, voluntary organizations, Rotary clubs etc.
  - iii. Access to learning material ensuring that each disabled student will have access to learning material as per his/ her requirement like Braille textbooks, audiotapes, talking books etc, textbooks in large prints and any other material needed.
  - iv. Provision of facilities like transport facilities, hostel facilities, scholarships, books, uniforms, assistive devices, support staff (readers, amanuensis).
  - v. Stipend for girl students with disabilities - Since girl students with disabilities face discrimination, they, in addition to availing facilities under all schemes specially targeting girls' education, will be given a stipend at ₹ 200 per month at the secondary level to encourage their participation up to senior secondary level.
  - vi. The use of ICT - Access to technology is especially relevant for the disabled as it increases their access to a vast amount of information not otherwise available. Computers provided to students in secondary schools will also be made accessible to those with disabilities. The scheme will provide for the purchase of appropriate technology by way of special software such as screen reading software like JAWS, SAFA, etc. for the visually impaired and speech recognition software for the hearing impaired to develop

computer vocabulary for the hearing impaired and modified hardware like adapted keyboards.

- vii. Development of teaching learning material: The scheme will cover the expenses incurred on organising the mobilisation of such support as certified by the School Principal/ Educational Administrators. Financial assistance under this scheme will be available for purchase/production of instructional materials for the disabled and also for purchase of equipment required therefore. Wherever necessary, the available material will be translated and produced in regional languages. The scheme will also support workshops for adaptation in the curricular content and development of supplementary material, self-learning material for teachers and students at the secondary level of school education.
  - viii. External support from an interdisciplinary team of experts such as educational psychologists, speech and occupational therapists, physiotherapists, mobility instructors and medical experts has to be coordinated at the local level. Support can be made available at the cluster level and needs of children with disabilities in a cluster of schools may be addressed. The expenses incurred on mobilising such support in the form of TA/DA and consultancy fee will be covered under the scheme for children and young persons with disabilities at the secondary school level. Funds may be drawn from the child specific funds of ₹ 3000 per child.
- d. Costs of non-beneficiary-oriented components like teacher training, construction and equipping of resource rooms, creating model schools, research and monitoring, etc. will be covered separately. These components would be as follows:-
- i. Removal of architectural barriers to ensure that students with disabilities have access to each classroom, laboratory, library and toilet in the school. A detailed manual laying out norms and guidelines for accessibility required by different types of disability will be developed at the central level with the help of the Office Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), and the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). The scheme will support development of the accessible physical environment in existing secondary school buildings.
  - ii. Training of special/ general school teachers: Special teachers to be trained through regular programmes run by the National Institutes/Apex Institutes of RCI or under any other programme of the States. There should be a component of in-service training for resource teachers to equip them with handling of other disability area. All general teachers at the secondary level will be trained in particular strategies like making educationally useful assessments, planning an individualised and need-specific curriculum, teaching styles which include audio-visual aids, appropriate instructional strategies, etc.
  - iii. Orientation of principals, educational administrators: This training will include developing strategies for management of inclusive education. This will include teachers (both special and general), local educational administrators, Principals / Headmasters of Institutions, parents/ guardians of the disabled children.
  - iv. Strengthening of training institutions and assistance to existing organisation/NGOs to develop teacher's training programme in inclusive schooling and for educational interventions for specific disabilities.
  - v. Provision of resource rooms and equipment for the resource rooms in one school per block/urban cluster. Norms in terms of size, accessible features will be developed with the support of relevant agencies at the Central and State level. A suggested list of assistive devices/equipment for the resource room is given in the Appendix-II.
  - vi. Appointment of special educators: Support from special educators will differ at the secondary level from that at the elementary level. Special educators will be appointed in the ratio 1:5. Ideally every school where disabled children are enrolled should have the services of at least one special teacher. If the number of children is less, this teacher could also work for other schools in the cluster.
  - vii. Development of some existing schools as Model Inclusive Schools so as to accelerate the process of education of children and youth with disabilities with initiatives from parents, teachers, community and respective governments. Norms will be developed at the central level with the help

of relevant state and national level agencies, to provide the whole range of support for these schools. Funds for these will be charged towards the research component.

- viii. Administration, Research and Development, and Monitoring and Evaluation. These will form an integral part of the IEDSS Scheme. The State Government/NGOs/ Autonomous bodies will have to formulate proposals for designing and developing new assistive devices, ICT technology, teaching aids, special teaching materials or such other items as are necessary to give a child with disability equal opportunities in education. Every year 5% of the funds available at the Central level will be earmarked for administration, innovative and R&D projects and monitoring and evaluation.
- ix. Environment Building Programmes up to ₹10,000 per programme at local level.

The scheme will provide funds only in cases where there are no other provisions for the items under other schemes operative at State/ Central level.

**E Other support:** At the secondary level, all children with disabilities included under the general education system may not require adaptations in the teaching learning process and evaluation procedures. However there may be some who would require some adaptations. The States/UTs/Autonomous bodies can take the support of special teachers, SCERTs, DIETs, Special Schools, Resource Centres, Non-Governmental Organizations, State Boards and any other community institutions available at the local level for this purpose.

**Adaptations in examination procedures:** Some children with disabilities may require some adaptations in the evaluation procedures according to their special needs. The existing evaluation procedures can be reviewed at the State level and modified accordingly. Provision for alternative modes of examination for children and youth with disabilities should be considered and provided by the Boards of Examination. This is being visualized mainly as a process of issuing appropriate orders and notifications by the Boards concerned. Separate budget as such is not planned under the scheme.

**F Regulations for Relaxation of Rules:** State Governments/UT Administrations/ Autonomous

bodies/ other implementing agencies will make provisions for relaxation of rules relating to admissions, minimum or maximum age limit for admission, promotion, examination procedure so as to facilitate in improving access of children with disabilities to education. At the secondary level, young persons with disabilities beyond 18 years. will be supported for a period up to 4 years to help them complete secondary schooling.

**G Implementing Agencies:** The Scheme will be implemented by the Education Departments of State Governments/UT Administrations directly. The States/UTs may involve Non Governmental Organisations having experience in the field of education of the disabled in the implementation of the scheme. The Scheme could also be implemented by autonomous organisations of stature having experience in the field of education and / or rehabilitation of the disabled. There will be an inbuilt-flexibility in implementation strategies and practices, depending upon the contextual needs. The authority to interpret or reinterpret the provisions of the scheme will lie with the Secretary, School Education & Literacy, Government of India.

**H Monitoring and Evaluation:** Appropriate structures will be established at the Central, State, District, and block and city level to ensure obtaining feedback from functionaries at different levels. The implementing agency should set up an administrative cell to implement, monitor and evaluate the programme. The existing administrative cell set up under the IEDC scheme should serve the purpose. In States/UTs where the Administrative Cell has not been set up, the State Education Department will initiate action to set it up. The cell will consist of Deputy Director (in the scale of pay applicable in the State Government), a co-ordinator (who will be a psychologist) in the scale equable to University Lecturers), a stenographer and an LDC in the pay scale applicable to such posts in the State Government/UT Administration. At the national level, a comprehensive monitoring mechanism would be evolved in MHRD with involvement of national apex level Institutes like the NCERT and/or NIEPA and/or reputed voluntary organizations and /or individual experts and /or autonomous bodies.

**For more details contact:**

**For Secondary Classes:**

District: District Education Officer  
State: Secretary or Director, Secondary & Higher Education  
Centre: Joint Secretary (IEDC)  
Department of Secondary & Higher Education  
Ministry of HRD  
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi –110 001

**For Primary and Upper Primary Classes:**

District: District Education Officer  
 State: Secretary or Director, Elementary Education  
 Centre: Joint Secretary  
 Department of Elementary Education & Literacy  
 Ministry of HRD  
 Shastri Bhawan  
 New Delhi –110 001

**4 Special Schools**

This is a programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Children with severe multiple disabilities who have difficulty in coping with regular schools are referred to such special schools. Most of these special schools are located in urban areas and run by voluntary organizations. A majority of them are residential schools, and boarding- lodging and other services are provided free of cost. At present more than 3000 special schools for the disabled children are functioning across the country. Out of them approximately 900 institutions are specialized for the hearing impaired, 400 for the visually impaired, 1000 for the mentally retarded and the remaining 700 are for the children with physical disabilities. 40 per cent disability of any such particular types is a benchmark for identification and certification for admission in these special schools.

**For more details contact****State:**

Contact persons in the State see Annexure-II.A  
 Voluntary Organizations in the state (See list of NGOs at annexure IV)

**Centre:**

Joint Secretary (Disabilities)  
 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
 Shastri Bhawan,  
 New Delhi-110001

**E National Open School (NOS)**

The NOS was established as an Autonomous Registered Society in 1989 with the mission to provide education through an open learning system at the school stage as an alternative to the formal system. It is specially suited to the needs of certain categories such as school dropouts, girls, mentally or physically disabled, etc. It has also developed educational materials for teaching children with special needs in their own homes. At present there are 1459 NOS study centres in the country.

It offers courses like the foundation course, notionally equivalent to class VIII level, secondary education and higher secondary courses and vocational courses. The NOS also provides the programme of Open Basic Education for Universal Elementary Education (UEE), which includes programme for the disabled children. It offers Open Basic Education courses through the following:

- a. Open Basic Education (OBE): This project is for out of school children in the age group 6-14 and also for adult learners. It has 3 levels: Preparatory, i.e. (A), Primary i.e. (B) and elementary i.e. (C), which are equivalent to a formal school standard of class III, V and VIII respectively.
- b. Special Accredited Institutions for Education of the Disadvantaged (SAIED): To cater to the needs of the people with physical or mental disabilities the NOS has accredited institutions for education of the disadvantaged. Academic courses like open basic education (OBE), secondary and senior secondary courses and vocational courses are offered either independently or in combination with an academic subject(s) through SAIED.

**Special Features of NOS:**

- i. It allows total freedom to learn at one's own speed. One gets a period of 5 years and 9 chances to complete the course
- ii. Flexibility in choice of subjects.
- iii. There is no age limitation for admission in NOS programmers.
- iv. For admission, a person is required to submit the following supporting documents:
- v. Attested copy of birth certificate, obtained in one of the following ways:
  - From the Admission Register of the last school attended or
  - Birth certificate from Registrar of Births and Death or
  - From a recognized Hospital or
  - Affidavit from parents countersigned by first class/ sub division magistrate
  - Certificate or Certificate of class V / Matriculation/Higher Secondary pass.
  - Five recent passport size (3cmx2cm) photographs are also required
- vi. Handicapped are exempted from payment of registration and cost of course material.
- vii. Candidates with disabilities are required to produce a certificate from a Government hospital and not from a private nursing home.

## For more details Contact:

- a **National Open School**  
B-13/B, Kailash Colony  
New Delhi –110 048.  
OR
- b **Regional Centres**

### 3 Children's Education Allowance and Scholarships

#### A Education Allowance

Education allowance to children and reimbursement of the tuition fee for Central Government employees is governed by the Central Civil Services (Education Assistance) Orders, 1988. Under this order, the reimbursement of tuition fee in respect of physically handicapped and mentally retarded children of the Central government employees has been enhanced to ₹ 50 p.m. (from class I to XII) in comparison to the general category where it is only ₹ 20 p.m. The disabled children will, however, get other assistance under this scheme as per rates prescribed for the normal children.

#### B Scheme Of National Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

To ensure that the students with disabilities who have fair access to higher and technical education, 3% seats in educational institutions are reserved for them. Besides, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports 500 scholarships for students for pursuing their studies at post school level. The object of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to disabled students for pursuing higher and technical education. They will also be supported for acquiring special aids and appliances for studies.

#### 2 Awards

500 awards will be available for pursuing higher and technical education and will be given through institutions in which students will undertake the study. Awards will be given to different categories of disabled students in following number:

##### Awards Details for Students with Disabilities

Categories	Males	Females
Orthopaedic Disability	58 awards	58 awards
Visual Disability	58 awards	58 awards
Hearing Disability	58 awards	58 awards
Low Vision, Cerebral Palsy and Disabilities other than above	76 awards	76 awards

The extent of financial assistance will vary among courses and will also depend on availability of hostel/residential facility with the institution. The details are given below:

#### 1 Eligibility

- a. Financial assistance will be available to disabled Indian students.
- b. They will need disabilities certificate as per definition under PWD Act 1995 to avail financial assistance under the scheme.
- c. Financial assistance will be given for the study of recognised post matric/ post secondary courses in recognized institutions.
- d. Scholarship will be awarded for one course to one student.
- e. Financial assistance will also be given for purchase of a computer with editing software for blind and deaf graduate and postgraduate students pursuing professional courses and purchase of support access software for cerebral palsied students.
- f. Students with disabilities, who have passed matriculation/secondary or any higher examination from a recognised board/University, will be eligible for the assistance.
- g. Continuation/ renewal of the award for next year will depend on successfully completing the course in the preceding year with minimum 50 percent marks.
- h. Assistance will not be available for courses having duration of less than one year.
- i. A scholarship holder under this scheme will not hold any other scholarship/ stipend. If awarded any other scholarship/stipend, the student can exercise his/her option for choosing the scholarship and inform awarding authority about the same.
- j. For availing financial assistance under this scheme monthly family income of the beneficiary should not be more than ₹ 15,000 from all sources. Family income will include income of the parent and in their absence income of the guardian.



## Courses of Study and Scholarship Rate

Courses of Study	Rate of Scholarship (₹/month)	
	Hostellers	Day Scholars
PhD/M.Phil and post graduate/graduate level courses in Engineering / Indian and other systems of medicine, Agriculture, Veterinary, IT, Biotechnology, Education, Management, Architecture, Physiotherapy, Music and other professional courses	1000	700
Diploma and certificate level professional courses	700	400

The awardees will also be reimbursed the course fee subject to a ceiling of ₹ 10,000 per year. Besides students living in the hostel/residential facility provided by the institutions, those students will also be considered hostellers who live in an accommodation hired at least by a group of 3 students living together with common mess arrangements. Such students will have to furnish a certificate in this regard countersigned by head of the institution

### 3 Application for Award

Applications for the awards will be made to Secretary of the National Fund in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Application for award of scholarship will be made through head of the institution in which applicant is enrolled for study. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will issue advertisements every year in the month of May in newspapers and through Doordarshan seeking applications for awards.

### 4 Application for Renewal/Continuation of Award

Application for renewal/continuation of award will be sent to the National Fund after successful completion of the academic year through the institution in which the scholarship holder is enrolled.

### 5 List of enclosures (attested copies only):

- Academic records (attested copy of certificates and Mark sheets-metric and above)
- Family Income Certificate/ Proof of annual income, e.g. salary slip, last income tax assessment order,
- Attested copy of Disability certificate
- Course fee receipt (if any) with break up of each item duly paid during the academic session
- Hostel certificate or certificate from the house owner in case of accommodation hired by at least by a group of 3 students living together with common mess arrangements.

Applications for the scholarship may be sent to Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001. A Student should submit

only one application along with all its relevant documents and recommendations of the Institute concerned. Application for award of scholarship will be countersigned and recommended by the head of the institution in which applicant is enrolled for study. Details and forms can also be obtained from the Ministry's Website [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in) or from –

Under Secretary (DD.I),  
Room No. 622 "A" wing,  
Shastri Bhavan,  
New Delhi-1.  
Tel: 23386314

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

India has a very large number of persons with disabilities and many of them belong to low income groups. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to provide aids/appliances at minimum costs to the disabled persons. The requirement for providing of aids/appliances, which are essential for the social, economic and vocational rehabilitation of the disabled persons, has come into sharp focus, particularly after the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 which came into force in 1996. The scheme aims at helping the disabled persons by bringing suitable, durable scientifically manufactured modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach.

#### A Objective

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy disabled persons in procuring durable sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

## B Scope

The agencies will be provided with financial assistance for purchase, fabrication and distribution of such aids and appliances.

## C Eligibility

- a. Implementing Agencies: The scheme is implemented through different government and non government agencies. A large number of governmental and non-governmental agencies are engaged for the implementation of the scheme. Aids and appliances such as wheelchairs, crutches, calipers, hearing aid, braille slates, etc. are given to different categories of disabled persons. The following agencies would be eligible to implement the scheme on behalf of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment subject to the fulfillment of laid down terms and conditions:-
  - i. Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act
  - ii. Centers run by the companies registered under Companies Act
  - iii. Trusts or any other institutions recognized by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the purpose.
- b. Beneficiaries: A person with disabilities fulfilling following conditions would be eligible for assistance under ADIP scheme through authorised agencies:
  - i. He/she should be an Indian citizen.
  - ii. It should be certified by a Registered Medical Practitioner that he/she is disabled and fit to use prescribed aid/appliance.
  - iii. Person who is employed/self-employed or getting pensions and whose monthly income from all sources does not exceed ₹ 8,000 per month.
  - iv. In case of dependents, the income of parents/guardians should not exceed ₹ 8,000 per month.
  - v. Person should not have received assistance from the government, local bodies and non-official organisations during the last 3 years for the same purpose. However, for children below 12 years of age this limit would be 1 year.

## D Financial Assistance

Aids/ appliances which do not cost less than ₹ 50 and more than ₹ 6,000 are covered under

the scheme. However, for visually, mentally, speech and hearing or multiple disabled, the limit should be ₹ 8,000 during their study period up to XII standard. The limits will apply to individual items of aid and where more than one aid is required, the ceiling will apply separately. The amount of assistance will be as follows:

Total Income per Month (₹)	Amount of Assistance
Up to 5,000	Full cost of aid appliance
5,001 to 8,000	50% of the cost of aid / appliance

Further, traveling cost would be admissible and limited to a bus fare in the ordinary class or railway by second class sleeper subject to a limit of ₹ 250 for the beneficiary irrespective of the number of visits to a medical centre. A certificate from the treating doctor or rehabilitation professional would be needed. Travel expenses subject to the same limit would be admissible for an attendant/escort accompanying the beneficiary. The beneficiary should attend the rehabilitation centre nearest to his/her place of residence, except in the north-eastern region, where he may be allowed the cost of travel outside the region up to the closest facility(ies). Boarding and lodging expenses ₹ 30 per day for a maximum duration of 15 days would be admissible only for those patients whose total income is less than ₹ 5,000 per month.

## E Types of Aids / Appliances to be Provided

The following aids and appliances may be allowed for each type of disabled individual. However, any other item as notified from time to time by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the purpose will also be allowed (see the respective categories for details)

- 1 Locomotor disabled
  - a. All types of prosthetic and orthotic devices.
  - b. Mobility aids like tricycles, wheelchairs, crutches/walking sticks and walking frames/rolators.
  - c. All types of surgical footwear and MCR chappals.
  - d. All types of devices for ADL (activity of daily living)
- 2 Visually disabled
  - a. Learning equipments like arithmetic frames, abacus, geometry kits etc. Gaint braille dots system for slow- learning blind children. Dictaphone and other variable speed recording system. Tape recorder for blind students up to XIIth standard.
  - b. Science learning equipments like talking

balance, talking thermometers, measuring equipments like tape measures, micrometers etc.

- c. Braille writing equipments including brailers, braille shorthand machines and typewriters for blind students after the XIth class. Talking calculators, geography learning equipment like raised maps and globes.
  - d. Communication equipment for the deaf-blind. Braille attachments for telephone for deaf-blind persons.
  - e. Low vision aids including hand-held stand, lighted and unlighted magnifiers, speech synthesizers or braille attachments for computers.
  - f. Special mobility aids for visually disabled people with muscular dystrophy or cerebral palsy like adapted walkers.
- 3 Hearing disabled
- a. Various types of hearing aids.
  - b. Educational kits like tape recorders etc.
  - c. Assistive and alarming devices, including devices for hearing of telephone, TV, doorbell, time alarm etc.
  - d. Communication aids, like portable speech synthesizer etc.
- 4 Mentally disabled
- a. All items allowed for locomotor disabled.
  - b. Tricycle and wheel chair including any modification to suit the individual.
  - c. All types of educational kits required for the mentally disabled.
  - d. Any suitable device as advised by the rehabilitation professional or treating physician.
- 5 Multiple disabilities  
Any suitable device as advised by a rehabilitation professional or treating physician.

6 Categories entitled to get Aids and Appliances

Category	Mild	Moderate	Severe / Profound
Locomotor	No (<40%)	Yes (40%>)	Yes
Hearing	No (<40%)	Yes (41-50%)	Yes (51%>)
Visual	Yes (20-40%)	Yes (41-75%)	Yes (76%>)
Mentally retarded	Yes (IQ range: 50-69)	Yes (IQ range: 35-49)	Yes (IQ range: 20-34: severe and <20: profound)

Note:

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage of impairment/IQ range.

Maintenance cost is borne by the beneficiary

- 7 Aids and appliances can be obtained from the following implementing agencies.
- a. Registered societies/voluntary organisations working in the field of disabilities.
  - b. Registered charitable trusts.
  - c. District rural development agencies, India Red Cross societies and other autonomous bodies headed by district collector/chief executive officer/district development officer of zilla parishad.
  - d. National apex institutes including ALIMCO functioning under administrative control of the ministry of social justice and empowerment/ ministry of health and family welfare.
  - e. State handicapped development corporations.
  - f. Local bodies – zilla parishad, municipalities, district autonomous development councils and panchayats.
  - g. Nehru Yuvak Kendras.

Procedure for Application:

Detailed information may be obtained from the:

Project Director, District Rehabilitation Centre, 4, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi – 110 002

**For more details Contact:**

**District Centre** : **District Welfare Officer**  
: **Director (ADIP)**  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Shastri Bhawan  
New Delhi.

**5 Preference in Allotment of STD/PCO to Handicapped Persons**

Educated unemployed persons are eligible for allotment of STD/PCOs. The educational qualification for the applicants is:

- a. 8th or Middle School Pass for rural areas.
- b. At least Matriculation or High School for urban areas.

**6 Custom Concessions**

The Central Government exempts goods specified in the table below, when imported into India by a

handicapped or disabled person for his personal use, from the whole of the duty of customs and any additional duty subject to the condition that the importer produces to the Assistant Collector of Customs, at the time of importation, a certificate (from the Civil Surgeon of the District, Medical Officer or the Administrative Medical Officer or the Director of Health Services of the concerned State or a Specialist in the concerned specialty attached to a Government Hospital or a recognized medical college) to the effect that the importer suffers from the particular handicap or disability and that the imported goods in respect of which the exemption is claimed are essential to overcome the said handicap or disability.

An illustrative list of equipments covered under the scheme:

- a. Braille writers and braille writing equipment.
- b. Hand writing equipment, braille frames, slates, writing guides styli, braille erasers and script writing guides.
- c. Canes, electronic aids like the sonic guide.
- d. Optical, environmental sensors.
- e. Arithmetic aids like Taylor frame (arithmetic and algebra types), speaking or Braille calculator.
- f. Geometrical aids like combined graph and mathematical demonstration board, Braille protractors, scales compasses and spar wheels.
- g. Electronic measuring equipment, such as calipers, micrometers, comparators, gauges, block levels, rules rulers and yard sticks.
- h. Drafting drawing aids, tactile displays.
- i. Specially adapted clocks and watches.
- j. Orthopaedic appliances
- k. Wheel chairs.
- l. Artificial electronic larynx and spares thereof.

## 7 Employment of the Handicapped

Assistance to the disabled persons in getting gainful employment is available either through the special cells in normal employment exchanges or through special employment exchanges for physically handicapped. Up to 100% financial assistance is provided in case of special cells and 80% in case of special employment exchanges of state government and union territory administrations.

## 8 National Awards for People with Disabilities

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been giving National Awards since 1969 On the occasion of the World Disabled Day every year (3rd December). Institution of Awards has created awareness amongst the disabled persons both in public and private sector and brought them in the mainstream. The Awards are given in different categories, namely best employer of disabled, outstanding employee, placement officer, best individual, institution, barrier-free environment, creative disabled person and National Technology Awards for people involved in the rehabilitation and welfare of persons with disabilities. The President of India gives away National Awards to:

- a. The Best Employee
- b. The Best Employer
- c. The Best Individual
- d. The Best Institution
- e. The Best Placement Officer

## 9 Incentives to Private Sector Employers for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities

The scheme of giving incentives to employers for providing employment to persons with disabilities in the private sector as approved by the Government would be as under:-

- a. Total Outlay: ₹1800 crore for the 11th Five Year Plan
- b. Sector covered: Private Sector
- c. Jobs to be created: 1 lakh per annum
- d. Salary limit: Employees with disabilities with monthly wage up to ₹ 25000 per month working in the private sector would be covered.
- e. Incentives: Payment by Government of the employer's contribution to the Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for the first three years. The administrative charges of 1.1% of the wages of the employees covered under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act will continue to be paid by the employer.

## E Conditions

- a. The scheme will be applicable to the employees with disabilities:-
  - i. Covered under the 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 1999.
- ii. In the private sector, all over India, on enrolment of the employees in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Employees State Insurance (ESI), under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 and Employees State Insurance Act 1948 respectively. In the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the employees would be registered in EPF under the J&K Employee Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act 1961.
  - iii. Appointed on or after 1 - 4 - 2008.
- b. The employers would submit a copy of the disability certificate, issued to the disabled employee by the competent authority under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996; first time when such benefit under EPF and ESI is claimed.
  - c. The Government will directly provide employer's contribution for the schemes covered under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 and the employment State Insurance Act 1948. This will be done in respect of employees for a maximum period of 3 years. The Administrative charges of 1.1% of the wages of the employees covered under the EPF Act will continue to be paid by the respective employers.
  - d. The Ministry Social Justice and Empowerment would make available to the employees provident fund organization and employees State Insurance Corporation lump-sum funds by way of advance. These would be used for the purpose of adjustment of individual clients received from the employers under the scheme. The amount with the organisations would be replenished periodically. Initially, both the organizations would be provided Rs. 500 crores each and considering the requirement, the amount would be subsequently enhanced. The advance amount would be subject to quarterly review by the high level Committee to be set up.

- e. To monitor the implementation of the scheme, the High Level Committee co-chaired by the Ministries of Labour and Employment and Social Justice and Empowerment would be constituted. The composition of the Committee will be as follows:
  - i. Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment – Chairman
  - ii. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Co-Chairman
  - iii. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment. Member
  - iv. Chief Provident Fund Commr. Of Employees Provident Fund Organization – Member.
  - v. Commissioner, Employees State Insurance Corporation – Member
  - vi. Joint Secretaries and Financial Advisers, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Labour and Employment - Member
  - vii. Joint Secretary level Officer in Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Member Secretary.

The Committee would meet periodically, as per requirement, with a minimum sitting of once in a quarter and consider various issues necessary for the smooth functioning of the scheme.

## 10 Reservation of Jobs and other Facilities for Disabled Persons

### A 3% Reservation in Grade 'C' and 'D' Posts

As per the order of government of India, reservation of 3% in jobs have been made in Grade 'C' and 'D' posts for the physically handicapped persons. The categories benefited are given below:

Category of handicapped	% age of reservation
The Blind	1%
The Deaf	1%
The O.H.	1%

For effective implementation of the reservation it has been advised to maintain a roster of vacancies arising in Grade 'C' and 'D' posts on a yearly basis. In this way every 34<sup>th</sup> vacancy is earmarked for the blind. Similarly, the 67<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> vacancy of every successive cycle consisting of 100 vacancies is reserved for a deaf and an OH respectively.

## **B Definitions of Disabled for the Purpose of Reservation**

The definitions used here are taken from PWD Act 1995, which are given below –

**1 Blind Person:** A blind person is one who suffers from any one of the following conditions:

- a. Total absence of sight
- b. Visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses
- c. Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degrees or worse.

**2 Deaf Person:** A deaf person is one whose sense of hearing is non- functional for ordinary purposes of life. When clinically tested understanding of even amplified speech is severely impaired. Most of such cases included in this category will have a hearing loss of more than 90 decibels in the better ear (profound impairment), or a total loss of hearing in both ears.

**3 Orthopaedically Handicapped Person:** An orthopaedically handicapped person is one who has a physical defect or deformity which causes an interference with the normal functioning of bones, muscles and/or joints.

## **C Identification of Jobs**

In order to implement these reservations without loss of productivity, some posts are identified disability wise by the office of Chief Commissioner (Persons with Disabilities).

## **D Posting of Handicapped Candidates**

As per the decision of Government of India, disabled persons recruited for regional Grade 'C' and 'D' posts may be given their posting (as far as possible) near their native place in that region subject to the administrative constraints. Physically handicap employees may be given preference in transfer near their native place.

## **E Relaxation of Ban Order on Recruitment to Vacancies Earmarked for Physically Handicap Persons**

As per a government order regarding ban on filling up of non-operational vacant posts, it will not be applicable for reserve vacancies to be filled up by Physically handicap persons.

## **F Carry Forward of Vacant Posts Under Reserve Category**

As per the Government order if a reserve category of person is not available and the nature of vacancy in an office is such, it may be

carried forward for a period of three subsequent years.

## **G Appointment of Visually Handicap Persons as a Caner in Government Department**

As per the decision of Government of India, it has been instructed that recaning of chairs in government offices should be done by blind persons as far as possible. When the volume of work require a full time chair caner then a suitable post may be created in consultation with the finance department. For the purpose of recaning the chairs in government offices, vocational rehabilitation centres and special employment exchange for the Physically Handicap persons may be contacted.

## **H Instruction to the Appointing Authority(ies) for Intimating Vacancies Reserved for Handicapped**

As per the existing instructions of the Government, all the vacancies in Grade 'C' and 'D' posts irrespective of their nature and duration are to be notified to the employment exchange and required to be filled through this agency unless they are filled through UPSC/SSC. It has also been decided that all of the appointees should send their request to Employment Exchange/Special Employment Exchange/nearest Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Physically Handicap for nominating suitably handicapped persons to fulfill specific opportunities.

## **I Grant of Age Concession to Physically Handicap Persons**

As per the government order it has been decided to extend the age concession upwards by 10 years in favour of handicap persons. This applies to posts filled through the SSC and through Employment Exchange in Grade 'C' and 'D' posts.

## **J Relaxations in Typing Qualification**

As per the order, Physically Handicap persons who are otherwise eligible for appointment to posts of LDC but cannot be so appointed due to their inability to satisfy the typing qualifications may be exempted from this requirement.

## **K Exemption of Examination Fee**

As per the order, Physically Handicap persons recruited to Grade 'B' and Grade 'C' posts advertised by the UPSC and SSC will be exempted from the payment of application and examination fee as prescribed by UPSC/SSC.

## **11 Economic Assistance**

### **A Public Sector Banks**

Under the 'Scheme of Public Sector Banks for

Orphanages, Women's Home and Physically Handicapped persons', the benefits of the deferential rate of interest are available to physically handicapped persons.

### Eligibility

Physically handicapped persons are eligible to take loans under this scheme, if they satisfy the following conditions:

- Should be pursuing a gainful occupation
- Family income from all sources should not exceed ₹ 7200 p.a. in urban or semi urban areas or ₹ 6400 p.a. in rural areas
- Should not have a land holding exceeding 1 acre if irrigated and 25 acres if not irrigated
- Should not incur liability to two sources of finance at the same time
- Should work largely on their own and with such help as from another family member or a joint partner(s); and should not employ paid employees on a regular basis.

### B Subsidy to Disabled Under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

This scheme was launched in 1999 with an aim to lift the poor families above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The list of BPL (below poverty line) households, identified through BPL census, duly approved by the Gram Sabha forms the basis for assistance to families under SGSY. This scheme covers all aspects of self-employment, which include organisation of the rural poor in to self-help groups (SHG), training, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology and marketing support. In the case of disabled persons, a SHG may consist of a minimum of 5 persons belonging to the families below poverty line. Three percent quota is earmarked for the disabled persons under the SGSY. The subsidy limit under the scheme is ₹ 7,500 (30% subsidy) for an individual and ₹ 125,000 for a group (50% subsidy). This scheme is being implemented by

the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) along with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the banks, and the non- government organizations.

### C Financial Assistance Available to Persons With Disabilities

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been incorporated by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India on 24th January 1997 under section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 as a company not for profit. It runs several schemes to financially assist the disable persons who are eligible for this purpose.

#### 1 Eligibility

- Any Indian citizen with a 40% or more disability
- Age between 18 and 55 years
- Annual Income below ₹ 60,000 p.a. for urban areas and ₹ 55,000 p.a. for rural areas
- A cooperative society of disabled persons
- A legally constituted association of disabled persons
- A firm promoted by disabled persons
- Each member of society/association/firm applying for loan should fulfill the disability, age and income criteria
- Relevant background of educational / technical / vocational qualification or experience, to ensure an appropriate usage of the assistance

#### 2 NHFDC Schemes

- For setting up small business in service/trading sector: Loan up to ₹ 20.00 lakhs.
- For setting up small industrial unit: Loan up to ₹ 20.00 lakhs.
- For higher studies/professional training to cover tuition fees books, stationery expenses, hostel facilities etc.
- For agricultural activities: Loan up to ₹ 5.00 lakhs.
- For manufacturing /production of assistive devices for disabled persons: Loan up to ₹ 25.00 lakhs.
- For self employment amongst persons with

Promoters contribution for term loan and rate of interest

Project Cost (₹)	NHFDC Share	Ch Agency Share	Promoters' Share	Rate of Interest
Less than 50,000	100%	Nil	Nil	5% pa
Above 50,000 and Less than 100,000	95%	5%	Nil	6% pa
Above 100,000 and Less than 500,000	90%	5%	5%	9% pa
Above 500,000	85%	5%	10%	10% pa

mental retardation, Cerebral Palsy and Autism:  
Loan up to ₹ 2.50 lakhs.

Note:

- All loans are to be repaid within 7 years.
- A rebate of 2% on interest for disabled women is given.
- A rebate of 0.5% on interest for timely and full repayment of loan & interest.

#### **How to apply**

Applications on a prescribed format should be submitted to the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, through a channelising agency.

### **12 Grant-in-aid Schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

#### **A Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Disabled**

The scheme was started with a view to provide assistance to voluntary organisations working in the field of handicapped welfare. It is a comprehensive scheme to cover different areas of rehabilitation - physical, psychological, social and economic. Financial support is given up to the extent of 90 per cent of the total project cost (up to 95 per cent for the rural areas), for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of the building, ₹ 5 lakh. Financial assistance is given for such projects as vocational training centers, special schools, counseling centers, hostels, training centers for personnel, placement services, etc.

#### **B Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Rehabilitation of Leprosy-cured Persons**

India has a large population of leprosy-affected persons, the figure is estimated to be 4.50 lakh. The scheme is designed to provide financial assistance to NGOs in a phased manner for the rehabilitation of leprosy-cured persons both in rural and urban areas.

Assistance is given up to 90 per cent of the project cost. Programs like awareness generation, early intervention, educational and vocational training, economic rehabilitation, social integration, etc. are undertaken under the scheme.

#### **C Assistance to Organisations for Persons with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation**

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs up to the extent of 100 per cent for running training courses for teachers in the area of cerebral palsy and mental retardation. Both recurring and non-recurring items are considered for sanction.

### **D Establishment and Development of Special Schools**

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs up to the extent of 90 per cent for establishment and upgradation of special schools in the four major disability areas - orthopedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given for setting up of schools in districts where there is no special school at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported.

### **13 Other Concession and Schemes**

The Government of India has recently announced the following additional concessions for individual or Hindu Undivided families which have a relative who is physically disabled, blind or mentally retarded.

#### **A Standard Deduction**

An assessee who is resident in India being an individual or Hindu Undivided Family has during the previous year incurred any expenditure for the medical treatment (including nursing), training and rehabilitation of a person who is a relative of the individual or is a member of the Hindu Undivided Family and is suffering from permanent physical disability including blindness or mental retardation shall be allowed a deduction of ₹ 6,000. His deduction will not be allowed where his total income exceeds ₹ 100,000.

#### **B Tax Deduction**

- i. Deduction from the total income of handicapped persons under section 80U of the Income Tax Act has been raised from ₹ 20000 to ₹ 40000.
- ii. A deduction of ₹ 20000 from the taxable income of the parents or guardians of handicapped children has been allowed provided this amount is deposited in any approved scheme of LIC, UTI, etc.

#### **C Professional Tax Exemption**

Handicapped persons are also exempted from payment of professional tax. He/she has to submit the disability certificate to the employer for such exemption

#### **D Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)**

It is a centrally sponsored housing scheme for providing dwelling units free of cost to the rural poor living below the poverty line at a unit cost of ₹ 20,000 in plain areas and ₹ 22,000 in the hilly/difficult areas. Three percent of its funds are reserved for the benefit of disabled persons living below the poverty line in rural areas. For further Information Contact: Rural Development Agency at



the District level.

### **E Poverty Alleviation Programs**

Under the poverty alleviation programme the implementing agencies have a mandate to extend assistance to a minimum of 3% persons with disability of the total number of beneficiaries targeted to be covered by them.

### **F Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY)**

With the coming into effect of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and full participation) Act it has been decided to earmark 3% of the JRY funds for the benefits of the persons with disabilities.

### **J Rural Sanitation Program**

It has been decided with the approval of the Minister for Rural Area and Employment that the provision of the Act should be implemented faithfully and with promptitude. In this context, it has been decided that in the rural sanitation programme, there should be 3% reservation for persons with disability in works relating to sanitary latrines for individuals below the poverty line. In the case of works relating to groups, it should be ensured that there is barrier free environment for the disabled. Para 6.2 of the general guidelines for implementation of CRCP provides that up to 72% of the annual funds can be utilised to construct individual sanitary latrines to household below the poverty line. This percentage may be amended to the extent that out of 72% of the annual funds, 3% of the funds should be earmarked for construction of individual sanitary latrines for the disabled persons.

### **K Sanghas in Rural Areas**

There are provisions under IRDE and TRYSEM that 3% reservation of the total coverage of beneficiaries for physical handicapped persons. This Ministry is also taking action to introduce a scheme for organising groups of persons with disabilities living in rural areas into Sangam/Group and providing ₹ 25000 to each group for taking up viable economic activities suitable to them.

A decision has been taken that under DWCRA, separate groups of disabled women should be organized. If necessary, this may be done by relaxing area norms. It is requested that the state Government/Union territory Administration may issue suitable instructions to all District Rural Development agencies under them to identify suitable disabled rural women who are below poverty line and organize them into DWCRA groups of 10-15 persons and provide them financial assistance of ₹ 25000 for each group. There is a possibility that sufficient number of beneficiaries

may not be available in one village. In that case, groups may be allowed to be formed drawing disabled women from various villages within the same Gram Panchayat.

### **L Science and Technology Development Projects in Mission Mode**

With a view to provide suitable and cost-effective aids and appliances through the application of technology and also to improve the mobility, employment opportunities and integration of the disabled in the mainstream, the scheme of Science and Technology (S&T) - Project in Mission Mode was launched in 1988. Science and Technology Projects in Mission Mode represent a new approach aimed at ensuring that emerging inter-disciplinary efforts to have the potential meet large scale societal/national needs, and can fulfil their potential in a time-targeted manner. The emphasis is on an end-to-end approach covering Research and Development as well as technological, financial, administrative and management aspects. These projects concentrate on new scientific inputs, generation of new technologies and guiding these to large-scale use. The objectives of such projects are to coordinate, fund and direct application of technology for development and utilisation of:

- a. suitable and cost effective aids and appliances
- b. emphasis on education and skill development leading to enhancement of opportunities for employment
- c. easier living and integration in society

## **14 Concessions for Blind**

### **A Communication**

**1 Postage:** Payment of postage, both inland and foreign, for 'Blind Literature' packets is exempted if sent by surface mail. If packets are to be sent by air, then prescribed airmail charges are applicable. The relevant rule from the Post Office Guide is reproduced below -

- a. Exemption from Postal Fees:
  - i. 'Blind Literature' packets are exempted from payment of the following fees besides being exempted from the payment of postage
    - registration fee,
    - fee for acknowledgement and
    - fee for the attested copy of the receipt.
  - ii. Postage free 'Blind Literature' packets will be transmitted by surface route only, and if they are to be sent by air, the airmail charge as prescribed for packets has to be paid.

b. Contents and Conditions of Posting:  
Papers of any kind, periodicals and books printed in Braille or other special type for the use of blind may be transmitted by post as 'Blind Literature' packets, provided that they are posted in accordance with the below mentioned conditions:

- i. The packets shall consist only of articles specially impressed as described above for the use of the blind, and shall not contain any communication either in writing or printed in ordinary type, except the title and table of contents of the book or periodical and any key to, or instructions for, the use of special type, or any enclosure except a label for the return of the packet.
- ii. The packet shall bear on the outside the inscription 'Literature for the Blind' and the written or printed name and address of the sender.
- iii. The packet shall be posted without a cover, or in a cover open at both ends, which can easily be removed for the purpose of examination.
- iv. No 'Blind Literature' packet may weigh more than 7 kg.
- v. 'Blind Literature' packets are subject to the same limits of dimensions as printed papers.
- vi. Plates bearing the characters of writing, sound records for the use of the blind, and discs, films, tapes and wires on which spoken message for the blind have been recorded, when sent by, or addressed to, an officially recognized institution for the blind, shall also be treated as 'Blind Literature'.

c. Penalty for Breach of Conditions:  
Should any of the conditions mentioned above be infringed, the packet (unless it is admissible as an ordinary packet) will be charged on delivery with letter or parcel postage, whichever may be less.

Rules 304,305,306 in regard to definition of 'Blind Literature' Conditions and Exemption from Postal Fees in respect of foreign postage are the same as prescribed in rule 129 and 130 in regard to Inland postage. However, the penalty for breach of conditions in respect of foreign postage is specified under 307-penalty for Breach of conditions.

'Blind Literature' packets which contain any note or document having the character of actual and personal correspondence, or which are not made up in such a manner as to admit of easy examination of the contents, or which contain postage stamps, form of pre payment whether obliterated or not or paper representing any value, or which infringe any of the foregoing conditions

will not be forwarded, but will be returned to the sender and will be charged on delivery with letter or parcel postage at the internal postage rate whichever is applicable. If the sender wishes to report the article after complying with the necessary conditions, he may do so. It is permissible in such cases to use the original wrapper, but the use of a fresh wrapper is preferable and is recommended.

**2 Telecommunication** – Concessional Telephone Connection to Blind: Telephone facilities to blind persons on concessional and priority basis are provided on the following terms:

- a. Rental Rebate – 50% of the normal rental
- b. Advance Rental – 50% of the annual advance rental and bi-monthly rental as applicable to a private subscriber. This facility is available in Non-OYT (Special) category only.

**B Travel Concession for the Blind**

**1 By Rail**

As per an order of Ministry of Railways, Government of India, the following concessions are available to the blind persons -

A blind person traveling alone or with an escort is required to produce a disability certificate from a government doctor or a recognised medical practitioner, so as to get the concession (Refer to the table below for details about concessions). The concession certificate may be issued by the Station Master on collection of a filled up form and a copy of the original certificate which is duly attested by a Gazetted Officer, M.P., M.L.A. etc. may need to be produced while collecting the ticket. The blind person is not required to be present at the station for purchase of a ticket (The form of copy of Certificate is at Annexure).

**The amount of concession for blind**

Class	First	Second	Sleeper	Season Ticket	
				I - Class	II - Class
Concession	75%	75%	75%	50%	50%

The following regulations are also applicable for their travel:

- a. Facility of issue of concessional return ticket will also be available within one month from the date of commencement of outward journey.
- b. All the concessional fares shall be calculated on the basis of the basic railway fare for the journey.
- c. No person/party will be allowed more than one concession at one time.
- d. The holder of a concessional ticket will not be

permitted to change the ticket to a higher class by paying the difference, unless the disabled person has a serious disease such as tuberculosis, cancer or leprosy.

- e. A break-up in the journey shall not be allowed on a concessional ticket which is issued for a specific route. A break in the journey will be allowed only if it is natural event. During a break in the journey, the passenger has to endorse the ticket from the station master containing his initials, date and station code. No refunds are allowed for the unused portion of such tickets.

## 2 By Air

The Indian Airlines Corporation and Jet Airways allow 50% concessional fare to blind persons on a single one-way journey or single fare for round trip journey on all domestic flights. To avail this facility the visually handicapped person has to produce a certificate from a medical practitioner. Air Hostess/Steward will look after the blind persons not accompanied by escort(s) during flight. The Public Relation Officer or the Traffic Officer In charge at the airport will render necessary assistance to inform such passengers at the airport of their departure and arrival. Escorts have to pay full fare. This concession cannot be combined with any other concessional fare allowed by the Indian Airlines.

### B Conveyance Allowance

Blind individuals are granted conveyance allowance at 5% of basic pay subject to a maximum of ₹ 100 p.m. and further subject to the following conditions:

- In the case of a blind employee the allowance will be admissible after a recommendation by the head of ophthalmological department of a Government Civil Hospital.
- The allowance will not be admissible during leave (except casual level), joining time or suspension.

### C Award of Dealerships or Agencies by Oil Companies

Persons with total blindness are eligible to apply for a retail outlet or kerosene-LDO dealership. They are however not eligible for LPG distributorship.

## 15 Concessions For Deaf

### A Travel Concession For The Deaf

**1 By Rail:** As per an order of Ministry of Railways, Government of India, the following concessions are available to deaf persons. A deaf person traveling alone (both afflictions together in the same person) on production of a certificate from a government doctor is eligible for the concession (The form of

copy of Certificate is at Appendix)

### The amount of concession for deaf & mute

Class	First	Second	Sleeper	Season Ticket	
				I - Class	II - Class
Concession	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

The following regulations are also applicable for their travel:

- A deaf person is allowed 50% concession in railway fare both in the first and second class, but it is not allowed for the escort.
- A deaf person is permitted to travel by 2-tier A.C. Sleeper on payment of concessional fare for first class and full surcharge for 2-tier A.C. Sleeper.
- Facility of issue of concessional return ticket will also be available within one month from the date of commencement of outward journey.
- All the concessional fares shall be calculated on the basis of the basic railway fare for the journey.
- No person/party will be allowed more than one concession at one time.
- The holder of a concessional ticket will not be permitted to change the ticket to a higher class by paying the difference, unless the disabled person has a serious disease such as tuberculosis, cancer or leprosy.
- A break-up in the journey shall not be allowed on a concessional ticket which is issued for a specific route. A break in the journey will be allowed only if it is natural event. During a break in the journey, the passenger has to endorse the ticket from the station master containing his initials, date and station code. No refunds are allowed for the unused portion of such tickets.

Procedures to avail Railway Concession: The deaf persons intend to travel by rail at the concessional rate are required to do the following formalities –

- The candidate should obtain the copy of prescribed concession certificate.
- The concession certificate should be filled up by Government Doctor.
- Two photo copies of the concession certificate be submitted to the station master at the time of purchasing tickets.
- The original certificate needs to be kept with the candidate. The same should be produced on demand during purchasing of tickets and journey.

## 16 Concessions For Mentally Retarded (MR)

### A Travel Concession For The Disabled

**1 By Rail:** As per an order of Ministry of Railways, Government of India, the following concessions are available to MR persons. A mentally retarded person, accompanied by an escort, on production of a certificate in the prescribed form from a government doctor, is eligible to get the concession. Refer to the table below for details about concessions (The form of copy of Certificate is at Appendix)

#### The amount of concession for mentally retarded

Class	First	Second	Sleeper	Season Ticket	
				I - Class	II - Class
Concession	75%	75%	75%	50%	50%

The following regulations are also applicable for their travel:

- Mentally Retarded person is permitted to travel by 2-tier A.C. Sleeper on payment of concessional fare for first class and full surcharge for 2-tier A.C. Sleeper.
- Facility of issue of concessional return ticket will also be available within one month from the date of commencement of outward journey. MR person should be given preference in allotment of coupe on reservation in first class, if required. Free ticket for one escort is available for every two persons in the same class of carriage whether they hold adult ticket or half ticket.
- All the concessional fares shall be calculated on the basis of the basic railway fare for the journey.
- No person/party will be allowed more than one concession at one time.
- The holder of a concessional ticket will not be permitted to change the ticket to a higher class by paying the difference, unless the disable person has a serious disease such as tuberculosis, cancer or leprosy.
- A break-up in the journey shall not be allowed on a concessional ticket which is issued for a specific route. A break in the journey will be allowed only if it is natural event. During a break in the journey, the passenger has to endorse the ticket from the station master containing his initials, date and station code. No refunds are allowed for the unused portion of such tickets.

## 17 Concessions For Orthopaedically Handicapped (OH)

### A Travel Concession For The Disabled

**1 By Rail:** As per an order of Ministry of Railways, Government of India, the following concessions are available to the disabled persons. The orthopaedically handicapped person traveling with an escort, on production of a certificate from a Government Doctor to the effect that the person concerned is orthopaedically handicapped and cannot travel without the assistance of an escort, is eligible for getting concession. All categories of Orthopaedically Handicapped persons/patients accompanied by an escort when traveling (for admission or on discharge from a hospital where the OH persons are treated or for consultation with a medical expert) have to produce a certificate from a government doctor/orthopaedic surgeon that the person is a bonafide OH person and requires an escort before being allowed to avail the concession (The form of copy of Certificate is at Appendix)

#### The amount of concession for orthopaedic handicapped

Class	First	Second	Sleeper	Season Ticket	
				I - Class	II - Class
Concession	75%	75%	75%	50%	50%

The following regulations are also applicable for their travel:

- Facility of issue of concessional return ticket will also be available within one month from the date of commencement of outward journey.
- All the concessional fares shall be calculated on the basis of the basic railway fare for the journey.
- No person/party will be allowed more than one concession at one time.
- The holder of a concessional ticket will not be permitted to change the ticket to a higher class by paying the difference, unless the disable person has a serious disease such as tuberculosis, cancer or leprosy.
- A break-up in the journey shall not be allowed on a concessional ticket which is issued for a specific route. A break in the journey will be allowed only if it is natural event. During a break in the journey, the passenger has to endorse the ticket from the station master containing his initials, date and station code. No refunds are allowed for the unused portion of such tickets.

### 2 By Air:

In a recent decision the Supreme Court of India (AIR 1999 S.C.512) has held that the government

should give same concession as for the blind to any passenger traveling by Indian Airlines who has 80% locomotor disability. They are allowed to carry a pair of crutches/braces or any other appropriate prosthetic devices free of charge.

### **B Conveyance Allowance**

Individuals who are orthopaedically handicapped (with disability of upper or lower extremities) are to be granted conveyance allowance at 5% of basic pay subject to a maximum of ₹ 100 p.m., and further subject to the following conditions:

- a. An orthopaedically handicapped employee will be eligible for conveyance allowance only if he/she has a minimum of 40% (permanent/partial) disability of either upper or lower limbs or 50% (permanent/partial) disability of both upper and lower limbs together.
- b. Conveyance allowance will be admissible to the orthopaedically handicapped employee(s) on a recommendation by the head of orthopaedic department of a Government Civil Hospital.
- c. Conveyance allowance is also applicable to the central government employees suffering from a spinal deformity (generally known as hunch back disability) and at the same rate as available to other physically handicapped persons.
- d. The allowance will not be admissible during leave (except casual leave), joining time or suspension.

### **C Award of Dealerships or Agencies by Oil Companies**

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has reserved 7% of all types of dealership agencies of the public sector oil companies for physically handicapped, government personnel (other than defence personnel; disabled on duty) and the widows of government personnel (other than defence personnel who die in the course of duty). The Oil industry selects its dealers or distributors through an advertisement in 1 English daily and 1 regional daily having maximum circulation in the district in which the dealership or distributorship is to be located. The commonly used categories for such purpose include: Award of retail outlet, 2/3 wheeler outlet, kerosene-LDO Dealerships and LPG distributorships.

- a. Eligibility Criteria for such selection include:
  - i. Indian nationality
  - ii. Age between 21-30 years
  - iii. Matriculation or equivalent educationPhysically handicapped persons should produce a certificate from the civil surgeon/CMO or superintendent of a government hospital that he/she is

orthopaedically handicapped to a minimum of 40% (permanent/ partial) disability of either upper or lower limb or both upper and lower limbs together.

Partially physically handicapped candidates are also eligible.

- b. Income clause:  
The candidate's income should not be more than ₹ 50,000 p.a. Income for this purpose would include the income of the candidate, his/her spouse and all of the dependent children put together. In case of a dependent, his/her parent's income would also be taken into consideration.
- c. Application form: Standard formats can be obtained from divisional/regional office of the concerned oil companies.

