



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त दिव्यांगजन

COURT OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय/Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
भारत सरकार/Government of India

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Case No. CCPD/15564/1141/2024

In the matter of —

Suo-motu cognizance regarding the absence of/lack of adequate government recognized Sign Language interpreters in the inclusive as well as special schools across the country

Versus

- (1) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,
Through: The Secretary/Joint Secretary (Policy)
- (2) The Secretary,
Department of School Education & Literacy,
Ministry of Education,
- (3) The Principal Secretaries,
Education Departments of
Through: The Chief Secretaries
All States and Union Territories
- (4) The Director,
National Council of Educational Research and Training [NCERT],
- (5) The Chairman/Member Secretary,
Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI),
- (6) The Secretary,
Central Board of Secondary Education [CBSE]
- (7) The Director,

Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of
Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) [AYJNISHD]
Mumbai

- (8) The Director,
Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre [ISLRTC],
- (9) The Chairperson,
National Council for Teacher Education,
- (10) The Chairperson,
National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS),

Hearing (III):

A 3rd hearing was conducted on **16.01.2025** in hybrid mode (Offline / Online through Video Conferencing). The following parties/representatives were present during the hearing:

Res. No.	Name of the Respondents		Name of the parties/representative appearing in the hearing	Mode of appearance
1.	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment		None appeared	---
2.	Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education		None appeared	---
3.	The Principal Secretaries, Education Departments of all States / Union Territories, Through: The Chief Secretaries			--
	(1)	A & N Islands	Dr. Nitin Shakya, Director, Social Welfare Department, A & N Islands	Online
	(2)	Haryana	Smt. Alka Yadav, Joint Director, Social Justice & Empowerment Department, Haryana	Online
		Kerala	The Joint Director, General Education Department, Kerala	Online
	(3)	Meghalaya	Mr R. Passah,	Online

			Assistant Commission for PwDs	
	(4)	Tripura	Mr Kali Prasad Chakma, School Education Department, Tripura	Online
4.	National Council of Educational Research and Training [NCERT], New Delhi	1. Prof. Rajendra Pal, CIET-NCERT 2. Prof. Bharti, CIET-NCERT		Online
5.	Rehabilitation Council of India	Mr. Manish Kumar, Legal Consultant, RCI		Online
6.	Central Board of Secondary Education [CBSE], New Delhi	Dr. Pragya Verma Dy. Secretary (Academic Unit), CBSE		Online
7.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) [AYJNISHD], Mumbai	None appeared		---
8.	Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre [ISLRTC], New Delhi	Mr Sanjay Kumar, DD(A), ISLRTC		Online
9.	National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi	None appeared		---
10.	National School of Open Schooling, Noida	None appeared		---

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

At the very outset, the Court apprised the respondents that few children with hearing impairment are able to do graduation. It is a matter of concern as to why deaf students are finding it difficult to read and write languages such as Hindi and English. The reason mainly lies in the lack of teachers trained to teach and even communicate with deaf children. So far Indian Sign Language [ISL] teachers and ISL interpreters have played an important role. The NCERT, along with its platforms such as the Diksha & Nishtha are also making significant contributions

supported by their counterparts in the states.

2. The representatives were then asked to brief the Court about the progress made in this area by their respective establishments.

(A) NCERT: The representative from NCERT said that an ISL Channel was launched on 08.12.2024 under PM e-Vidya and fresh content of three hours is going on air. They also submitted that efforts are being made to increase the content population with the help of the ISLRT, NIOS, and other stakeholders.

The NCERT has recently conducted a meeting with all stakeholders on this subject and the stakeholders were requested to submit their content so that it could be scheduled for telecast. The NCERT is in close collaboration with other departments for the development of the ISL curriculum. Currently, recordings for materials in the ISL are being done simultaneously in four studios. Some videos are on the editing table. On PM e-Vidya channel, live sessions on inclusive education are being run every day from 12 to 12.30 pm. Besides, a session on Yoga is being conducted every day between 8 to 8.45 am with sign language interpretation.

(B) ISLRTC: The representative submitted that 100 concept videos of Class-VI, VII, and VIII have been shared with the NCERT for running on the PM e-Vidya Channel. Recording is also going on for 100 videos for class 6, 77 for class 7 and 8 for class 8, i.e. for a total of 185 videos are currently under preparation.

(C) CBSE: The CBSE has constituted a Core Committee on the issues. But, they require guidelines from the NCERT. The course of CBSE is based on the curriculum of NCERT. The representative raised a concern that though the course of 9th and 10th are integrated, the NIOS has been able to make available only a one-year course.

3. After hearing the parties the Court expressed its concerns that the HI students are losing on account of multiplicity of agencies. It was observed that the NCERT has developed a curriculum for ISL from Class I to Class XII as a language. As per the representative of NCERT, it has already been given in its guidelines as to how to teach language in a holistic manner. This could help a lot in preparing the curriculum of ISL from Class-I to XII.

4. The Court recommended to the CBSE to design and organise a two days' workshop in collaboration with the NCERT, the ISLRTC, and the NIOS for the

development of a Curriculum for Indian Sign Language as a language from Class-I to Class-XII within 10 days and submit a report to this Court. They may invite other stakeholders if they deem fit.

5. This is issued with the approval of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

(Praveen Prakash Ambashta)
Dy. Chief Commissioner