



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF 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 and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/15449/1141/24

Dated: 22/08/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUO-MOTU

Versus

1. The head of the departments,

(Special Chief Secretary/Addl. Chief Secretary

The Principal Secretary/Secretary),

Department/ Ministry concerned with disability matters

Through: the chief secretary of the states and union

Territories

...Respondent No. 1

2. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,

Through the Joint Secretary

(In Charge of DDRS/DDRC/ADIP/DALM Schemes)

...Respondent No. 2

3. The Additional Secretary

Department of Expenditure,

Ministry of Finance

...Respondent No. 3

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

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(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)

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4. The Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser,

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

...Respondent No. 4

5. The Director General,

National Informatics Centre (NIC)

...Respondent No. 5

6. The secretary,

Department of School Education & Literacy,

Ministry of Education

...Respondent No. 6

7. The Member Secretary,

Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

...Respondent No. 7

1. HEARING (V):

A hearing in hybrid mode (online/offline) was conducted on **25.07.2025**. The following parties/representatives were present during the hearing:

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S. No.	Name and designation of the Party/Representative	For Complainant/Respondent	Mode of attendance
1.	Ms. Debolina Thakur- JS & FA	Representing DEPwD	Offline
2.	Smt. Sunita Dhewal- Dy. Secretary (IFD & Budget)	Representing DEPwD	Offline
3.	Shri Vikas Singh- Director	Representing DEPwD	Offline
4.	Shri Prashant Mittal - Deputy Director General, NIC, Chandigarh, Haryana	Representing the Director General, NIC	Online
5.	Rajesh Kr Verma - Deputy Director, RCI	Representing RCI	Online

2. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS:

2.1 At the outset, the official from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) presented a detailed status update on the state-recommended proposals, building on the previous hearing. He stated the following information:

Sl. No.	For 2023-24	For 2024-25
1.	Out of 67 pending proposals, 28 have been processed.	16 cases have been processed.
2.	19 proposals are with NGOs due to deficiencies in documents; the NGOs have been asked to submit the documents immediately.	
3.	A video conference is scheduled to resolve their doubts.	
4.	12 cases are in various stages of processing.	

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5.	5 cases could not be checklisted due to technical issues; inspections are pending and orders will be issued shortly.	
6.	1 NGO sent a reply two days ago, which will be processed.	
7.	1 case is pending clarification from the NGO.	
8.	8 cases are to be closed due to: NGOs applying under the wrong category ("ongoing" instead of "new"), and a gap of over 2 years in their application history, requiring them to reapply.	

2.1 In total, 40 cases amounting to approximately ₹11 crores have been processed, with IFD concurrence received of about ₹6.8 crores. Regarding the pulled-up cases, the official informed that 146 cases were pulled up as per CCPD instructions. Of these, 123 can be processed immediately without inspection, following approval from the Hon'ble Minister. The remaining 23 cases require due process and may take more time. Of the 123 immediately actionable cases, 23 are from 2023-24 and 100 from 2024-25.

2.2 The Court emphasised that NGOs should not be required to re-apply simply due to errors in selecting "new" or "ongoing" categories. He stated that this issue often arises due to software limitations and should be resolved at the ministry level. He directed that such cases should be verified telephonically, and that NIC should give access to the DEPwD officials to switch or correct the application category to avoid unnecessary delays.

2.3 The DEPwD official informed the Court that 8-10 sanction memos are ready, but the department is facing issues in obtaining their final sanction. They stated that they are working closely with NIC and requested NIC to expedite the process and facilitate the release of these orders.

2.4 The Court raised concern that the conditions listed in the sanction orders are not aligned with those in the EFC note. It advised NIC to use a simplified and consistent template for the sanction order.

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2.5 The Court expressed concern that certain tour programs and field visits were rejected due to summer vacations in schools. He emphasized that, in such situations, files should have been escalated to senior officials. Rejecting the visits outright was in violation of CCPD orders. The Court inquired about the field visits undertaken and their observations.

2.6 A DEPwD official reported visiting Akshya Pratisthan, where 65 students with disabilities are enrolled, out of which 30 were present at the time of the visit. The team met a hearing-impaired student who relied solely on sign language, and significant improvement was observed after providing speech therapy to him. Many students with Intellectual Disability (ID) and Cerebral Palsy (CP) showed positive progress, and parents reported satisfaction. The NGO was also guiding parents on obtaining UDID certificates.

2.7 The DEPwD official reported that separate rooms were designated for occupational and physiotherapy services, with audiology support available. Out of 65 students, 18 were availing physiotherapy. The official highlighted that many parents were unaware of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), and instructions were issued to the NGO to disseminate this information to parents.

2.8 The Court recommended that standardised information boards be installed in all NGOs and schools receiving DEPwD funding to ensure transparency and prevent exploitation of parents. The DEPwD official responded that instructions in this regard had already been issued.

2.9 The Court further recommended that bulk SMS messages be sent to parents informing them that their child is enrolled in a DDRS-funded institution and that feedback can be submitted through a designated phone number.

2.10 The official also informed that parents were made aware of the Arjun portal of ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), through which they can apply for assistive devices.

2.11 The Court noted that while students are supported under schemes such as ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances), the needs of their teachers, such as access to TLM (Teaching Learning Material) kits, are often neglected. He

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recommended that teaching aids be made available based on the nature of disability served by the school (e.g., ID materials for schools catering to intellectually disabled students, Braille materials for visually impaired schools, etc.), to enhance the effectiveness of schemes like ADIP and DDRS.

2.12 Another DEPwD official reported a visit to Mahaveer Bal Shikshan Sansthan in Rajasthan. The infrastructure and equipment were found to be satisfactory. The NGO suggested that a mid-day meal facility be introduced for students.

2.13 The Court recommended that DDRS-funded schools be allowed to benefit from mid-day meal provisions under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), and encouraged DEPwD to issue suitable directions to state governments in this regard. He also recommended rolling out a 200-point questionnaire to assess progress in students with ID or CP.

2.14 Another official reported visiting an NGO in Rishikesh that catered to students with intellectual and hearing impairments. The NGO lacked a psychologist. The school said that they did not find any psychologist despite advertising for the position. Parents, teachers, and school authorities were largely unaware of existing government schemes for persons with disabilities.

2.15 The Court recommended placing posters about DEPwD schemes in such institutions to increase awareness among parents and teachers.

2.16 Another official submitted that one NGO was not receiving DEPwD grants, which led to the discontinuation of van services for students. As a result, some parents had stopped sending their children to school. The school only operated up to Class 5, and students struggled to transition to other schools.

2.17 The Court appreciated the work of Asha Schools and the associated Vishwas Centre, and nudged DePWD to support them through DDRS.

2.18 The Court recommended that all DDRS staff, whether registered under CRR or otherwise, undergo a three-day training at the zonal or divisional level.

2.19 A DEPwD official stated that DDRS-related work is being treated as a top priority and

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assured that the turnaround time would not exceed 3-4 days.

2.20 The Court reiterated that Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) instructions, such as appointing deaf teachers for hearing-impaired students, must be followed unless contrary to law. The DEPwD confirmed that action is being taken in this regard.

2.21 Regarding the previous direction to extend the upper age limit from 18 to 21 or 23 years for hearing-impaired students in DDRC-run institutions, it was submitted that the age limit cannot be changed at present, but may be revised in the next EFC.

2.22 The Court was informed that all previously raised issues have now been addressed.

2.23 The Court expressed concern about delays resulting from inaction by various state departments and urged immediate action to resolve the pending matters.

2.24 The Court advised DEPwD officials to visit the National Trust to understand their funding system and explore the possibility of aligning DDRS processes accordingly.

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

Yours faithfully,

(Praveen Prakash Ambashta)
Dy. Chief Commissioner

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