



सत्यमेव जयते

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/15204/1141/24

Dated: 15/01/2026

In the matter of-

Complainant

Mr. Zameer Dhale

Versus

Respondent (s)

1. The Secretary,

Department of Justice Ministry of Law and Justice,

Jaiselmer House, New Delhi

Email - secy-jus@gov.in

2. The Joint Secretary,

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),

Email - jsda-msje@nic.in

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Hearing:

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट न०. 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

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य मे पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखे)

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1.1 A hearing in hybrid mode was conducted on **30.12.2025**. The following parties/representatives were present during the hearing:

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of the Attendees	On Behalf of	Mode
1.	Shri Narendra Kumar, Under Secretary, Department of Justice	Respondent No.1	Online
2.	Ms. Shikha Srivastava, Officer on Special Duty, NALSA	Respondent No.1	Online
3.	Shri Kumar Raju, Director, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre	Respondent No.2	Online
4.	Shri Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Director, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre	Respondent No.2	Online
5.	Shri Pradeep A, Director, DEPwD	Respondent No.2	Online
6.	Ms. Debala Bhattacharjee, US, DEPwD	Respondent No.2	Online

2. Proceedings of the hearing:

2.1 None appeared on behalf of the Complainant.

2.2 At the outset, Respondent No.1 submitted that the complaint was forwarded to National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), which has replied and provides free legal aid to persons with disabilities under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, through various schemes.

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2.3 The officer on special duty, NALSA informed that free legal consultation and assistance are provided through panel lawyers and paralegal volunteers, including under schemes for differently abled children and mentally ill/disabled persons, both revamped in 2024.

2.4 It was further stated that DLSAs and Taluka Legal Services Committees maintain Witness/Vulnerable Deposition Centres with panels of translators and sign language interpreters.

2.5 However, it was acknowledged that existing schemes do not adequately address the needs of persons with hearing and speech impairment or deaf-blindness, particularly tactile interpretation, indicating gaps in specialized accessibility support.

2.6 The Under Secretary (Policy), DEPwD, submitted that the Department is dealing with SLP (Criminal) No. 5596 of 2024, Ramnarayan Manhar vs. State of Chhattisgarh, pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which concerns the mandatory provision of sign language interpreters in court proceedings for persons with hearing, speech, and language disabilities.

2.7 In this regard, DEPwD issued an Office Memorandum dated 12 June 2025 to the Department of Law and Justice, seeking formulation of appropriate guidelines in consultation with the Id. Attorney General. However, no response has been received so far, and no specific guidelines are known to have been issued.

2.8 The Court observed that despite the existence of free legal aid schemes, persons with disabilities especially those with deaf-blindness continue to face barriers due to lack of proactive support and specialized services such as tactile interpretation. The complaint highlights a systemic accessibility gap and a clear policy-to-practice, compounded by the absence of a response from the Department of Law and Justice to DEPwD's communications.

2.9 Accordingly, the Court recommended that all respondents submit detailed responses within 15 days on the status of accessibility services and steps taken, and share the same with DEPwD. Progress reports were sought within 30 days.

2.10 The Department of Law and Justice was specifically suggested to initiate

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comprehensive guidelines on court accessibility, including sign language and specialised interpreters for persons with deaf visual impairment.

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

Yours faithfully,

(Praveen Prakash Ambashta)
Dy. Chief Commissioner

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