

फ. सं./ F. No. 18-06/2021-DD-III
भारत सरकार / Government of India
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

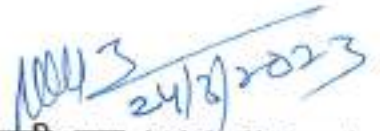
पाँचवा तल, पंडित दीनदयाल अंत्योदय भवन
5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
सी जी ओ कॉम्प्लेक्स, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली -110003
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
दिनांक / Dated: 24th March, 2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Forwarding of Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Body of National Fund for Persons with Disabilities held on 13.03.2023 at 04.00 PM –reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Body of National Fund for Persons with Disabilities held on 13th March, 2023 at 04:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DEPwD cum Chairperson Governing Body, National Fund for Persons with Disabilities for information and necessary action.

Encls: as above


(निठाली राम / Nithali Ram)
उप सचिव, भारत सरकार/ Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India
दूरभाष/Tel: 24369068
E.Mail: nithali.ram@nic.in

1. Chairperson, Board of National Trust, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi
2. Shri Sanjay Pandey, JS&FA, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Meena, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment
4. Shri Deep C. Lakra, Under Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
5. Shri Ajeetsingh Mahavirsingh Shekhawat, Shekhawat Dagra & Associates, B-320, Swagat Rain Forest – II, Kudasan, Gandhinagar – 382421, Gujarat

6. Dr. Sri Govindraj, No. 86, Harvey Paddi, Tirupuramkuntram, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, 625005
7. Shri Vaibhav Chauhan, M/s KBDS & Co. Chartered Accountants

Copy to:

- i. Sr. PPS to Secretary, DEPwD
- ii. PPS to JS (RY)
- iii. PA to US (AS)

1163
24/3/2023

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Body under National Fund for Persons with Disabilities held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, DEPwD – cum – Chairperson, Governing Body on 13th March, 2023 at 04:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Department

List of participants is at **Annexure I**.

2. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD – cum – Chairperson, Governing Body welcomed the participants and requested Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary & CEO to make a presentation on the agenda points for consideration of the Governing Body. Copy of the presentation is at **Annexure II**.

3. Agenda-wise decisions taken by the Governing Body is summarized below:-

3.1 Present Status of Fund

- GB noted the present status of Fund and suggested to transfer FD under National Fund (old) to New National Fund at the earliest, preferably by end of March, 2023.
- GB also directed that the savings bank account of the old National Fund and Trust Fund may be closed and amount may be transferred to the bank account of new National Fund at the earliest, preferably by end of March, 2023.

3.2 Action taken note on the decisions taken in the 6th meeting of the Governing Body held on 25.10.2021

S. No.	Agenda Point	Decisions /Observations of GB
(i)	The proposal of NHFDC for establishing 5 exhibition – cum – marketing outlets on each in Delhi, Mumbai/ Pune, Bangalore/ Hyderabad, Guwahati and Itanagar may be dropped.	Closed. However, NHFDC to be requested to explore possibility of organizing/participating in events similar to Surajkund Mela in different States.
(ii)	GB noted that M/s Centre for Market Research agreed to submit the revised report by 25.10.2021.	Report accepted. Payment of Rs 7,87,766/ to M/s Centre for Market Research approved.
(iii)	The GB accepted the report of the Committee suggesting method of recruitment of staff for Secretariat of National Fund through	GB suggested appointment of two young professionals.

	Deputation basis (SO/ASO) and through GEM on outsource basis in respect of UDC/LDC/DEO.	
(iv)	GB authorised Chairperson-cum-Secretary, DEPwD to consider the draft MoU suggested by RCI and approve with modifications, if any. Subsequently, the funds may be released at the earliest to RCI in two installments as decided in the last (5 th) meeting of the GB held on 14.07.2021.	Approved extension of MoU upto 30 days after examination of second batch. JS&FA suggested that if the course of CBID is good, then the National Fund may sponsor next few batches also. RCI may send such a proposal.
(v)	The GB noted that funds have been released to 85 students with disabilities and 54 escorts for participating in National IT Challenge held in NIT Kurukshetra in July, 2019. In respect of remaining 10 students/escorts, last reminder may be issued seeking bank details by 15.11.2021.	As there are no complaints from the remaining students, the matter is closed.
(vi)	Release of Rs 7,45,500 to Relief Centre, Manipur, for holding State level Exhibition in December, 2021 in two installments. CRC Guwahati to submit the report on the exhibition before release of second installment.	Noted that full payment has been released to Relief Centre
(vii)	GB noted that on 22.10.2021, an amount of Rs 10 lakh has been released to Pingalakshi for holding State level Exhibition in 2020. It also noted that confirmation on revised schedule for holding exhibition by Nagda Zenith, MP and Integrated, Varanasi has been sought.	- Noted that full payment released to Pingalakshi and Nagda Zenith. - The proposal of Integrated Varanasi to be closed.
(viii)	Release of Rs 8,44,500 to NIEPMD, Chennai for conducting State level Exhibition in March, 2022 in two installments	Noted that bills of NIEPMD, Chennai received. File under process.
(ix)	Release of Rs 12,11,530 to NIMHANS, Bangalore for conducting National level Art workshop during 2022-23 in two installments	Reminder to be issued to NIMHANS for submission of report and UCs at the earliest. If NIMHANS does not submit all the papers by 15 th April, then no further payment may be released to them, and they be asked to spend their own funds

		for the purpose.
(x)	Release of Rs 20,00,000 to NHFDC for participation in Suraj Kund Crafts Mela, 2022 in February, 2022 in two installments.	Reminder to be issued to NHFDC for submission of UC and bills at the earliest. If NHFDC does not submit all the papers by 15th April, then no further payment may be released to them, and they be asked to spend their own funds for the purpose. It was also decided that whenever any event to any organization is sanctioned, the organization must produce all the documents within 15 days of the completion of the event. In case of delays, second installment be refused, and the organization debarred from National Fund for a period of two years. Also, it should be ensured that Real-time photos and videos are uploaded by the organization during the event. Ministry's support should be clearly acknowledged in the event website, brochures, standees etc.

3.3 Agenda 1 - Proposed Amendments/ modifications in the existing scheme guidelines.

S.No.	Component	Amendments Suggested
1.	Exhibitions/workshops to showcase the products including paintings, handicraft, etc made by the PwDs	Eligibility – - Any Government organization registered under Societies Act / Companies Act / Trust Act / RPwD Act for 3 years and with experience of 2 years in organizing the proposed event. - The organization must not have obtained for financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source. A certificate will be submitted to this effect alongwith the application. - Organization having received assistance under this category will be ineligible to receive assistance during the same financial year. Note: - Proposals to be submitted only through the online portal. - Presentation to be given by organization, if required, before the GB - Organization to submit the final bills, utilisation certificates, etc within 15 days of the conclusion of the event. Rest of the conditions will remain same.

2.	Support persons with benchmark disabilities who have excelled in sports/fine-arts/music/dance/film/theatre/literature at the State level to participate in the National and International events.	Purpose – • who have obtained top grade on performing arts from the respective accrediting bodies/ certifying institutions or stood among first three ranks in sports event at State level at least once during last 3 years • Youth with benchmark disabilities in the age group of 13-21 (not college/university going) for participation in National IT Challenge which is the main competition at the National level to decide candidates for participation in the Global IT Challenge (GITC). The eligibility of the youth in the age group will be decided in terms of the norms of GITC from time to time. Eligibility – • Any person with benchmark disability (having disability 40% or more) who was among first three ranks in sports event at State level at least once during last 3 years; or • any artist with disability graded as outstanding or promising during the last three years. • To encourage participation of persons with disabilities, there shall be no income limit for participation in the National/ International events till 31st March 2024, subject to review by the Governing Body. • The applicant must not have obtained for financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source during the same financial year. A certificate will be submitted to this effect alongwith the application. • Assistance from the Fund for the similar activity to be granted only once each for National event and International event in a financial year to a PwD. Note: • GB noted that less number of PwDs has been funded for participation in the activities under this clause. Therefore, decision to remove income ceiling as a criteria for both national and international events till March 2024 was taken as an experiment to spur participation of more PwDs in such events. The GB will review extension of the said relaxation beyond March 2024 in the subsequent meeting (s). • The applicant to submit the bills, tickets, boarding pass, receipt of visa fee, proof of participation and registration fee receipt of the event etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.
----	---	---

3.	Support certain exclusive needs of persons with high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Boards on specific recommendation by the States on a case to case basis,	Purpose - To provide financial support to assist the individual person with benchmark disability having high support needs to meet their certain exclusive needs as recommended by the State Assessment Board. Eligibility – • Persons with benchmark disabilities having high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Board constituted by the States/UTs who have approached the States and the States could not provide such assistance from their Fund and has recommended for consideration under the Fund. • The annual family income of the PwD should not be more than Rs 3 lakh or as may be specified by the Governing Body. • The applicant must not have obtained for financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source. A certificate will be submitted to this effect alongwith the application. Extent of Financial Assistance - The financial assistance is limited to actual cost of the customized mobility equipment to improve activity of daily living or Rs 1 lakh whichever is lower. The assistive device/equipment available with the ALIMCO (a CPSE under the DEPwD), will not be allowed for procurement from any other source. Note: In case the GB allows purchase of assistive devices/equipment from a source other than ALIMCO, the applicant will submit final bills, utilisation certificates etc. within 15 days of the purchase of the equipment.
4.	Financial support to persons with benchmark disabilities, who have excelled in academic and technical areas for presenting research papers in International academic conferences/ seminars/ symposia/ workshops.	Purpose – to provide financial assistance to an individual person with benchmark disability for presenting research papers in International academic conferences/ seminars/ symposia/ workshops. Eligibility – (a) Serving faculty in university/research institutes/ institutions of national importance as defined by the MoE/universities/deemed universities /colleges recognized by the UGC having a Ph.D degree or Ph.D in the advanced stage of research, are eligible to apply. (b) Independent scholars having sufficient research experience and demonstrable publication record can also apply. (c) The applicant should have an accepted paper for

		presentation as a single or lead author. (d) The applicant must not have obtained financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source during the same financial year. A certificate will be submitted to this effect along with the application. Extent of Financial Assistance - Economic air fare (shortest route) and Rs 4000/- per day for the entire duration of the event to the participant and one escort (wherever applicable). Note: • The applicant shall give a presentation, if required by the Governing Body, on the proposal before the Governing Body. • Applicant having once received the financial assistance under this category will be ineligible to re-apply. • The applicant to submit the bills, tickets, boarding pass, receipt of visa fee, proof of participation and registration fee receipt of the event etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.
5.	Financial support to institutions/ org. for organizing National level competitive events in sports, literature, skill and IT based on the recommendations of the State/UT	GB decided not to consider the proposed component at this stage.
6.	Financial assistance to the State Governments and UTs	Purpose – To provide financial assistance for organizing National/International level events to promote inclusivity with regard to PwDs on the lines of Purple Fest. Eligibility – Not required as funds will be released to State Governments and Union Territories Extent of Financial Assistance – National level - 50% of the total expenditure subject to a limit of Rs 3 crores International level - 50% of the total expenditure subject to a limit of Rs 5 crores

		Note: - The eligible State/UT may submit the proposal offline or online. - If more than one State/UT proposes to organize the event, preference may be given to the State/UT having wider reach. - The State/UT shall give a presentation, if required by the GB on the proposal before the GB. - The State/UT to submit the final bills, utilisation certificates etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.
7.	Screening Committee	With a view to delay in process of funding, the GB decided the following: - Screening Committee under JS&CEO stands disposed of with immediate effect. - Proposals will be considered by GB in their meetings to be held quarterly. In administrative exigency, meeting to be scheduled early. - The organization/individual, if required shall make presentation before Governing Body. - After approval of Governing Body on the proposals, JS&CEO National Fund to approve for UCs, release of second installment, etc.

3.4 Agenda 2 - Fresh Proposals

The decisions of the GB in respect of the two fresh proposals are as under:

S. No.	Agenda	Decisions /Observations of GB
1.	Gopal Dutt Shikshan Samiti - for organizing State level exhibitions	Not agreed.
2.	Shri Neeraj Agrawal - Participation in 19 th World Congress in Jeju, Korea	GB was of the view that the funding of only participation of the candidates in international conferences may not be agreeable. Therefore, the proposal was not agreed to.

3.5 Agenda 3 – Ex-post facto approval of the Governing Body

(1) Financial Proposals recommended by Screening Committee and in-principle approved by Secretary, DEPwD – cum – Chairperson, GB

S. No.	Name of the organization/ Individual	Approved Amount (in Rupees)	Status	Decision of GB
A. Exhibition				
1.	National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi – 1-day National level exhibition on 'Talent and Scope of Persons with Intellectual & Development' held on 04.03.2023	20,00,000/-	First installment of Rs 10,00,000/- released on 08.02.2023. Reports and UC awaited for 2 nd Installment.	Approved
2.	NIEPMD, Chennai – 1-day National Level Handicraft and Painting Exhibition held on 28.02.2023	14,00,000/-	1st Installment of Rs. 7,00,000/- released on 16.01.2023. Reports and UC awaited for 2 nd Installment.	Approved
3.	National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) - Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2023 during 03.02.2023 to 19.02.2023	20,00,000/-	1st Installment of Rs. 10,00,000/- released on 16.01.2023. Reports and UC awaited for 2 nd Installment.	Approved. NHFDC to submit UCs immediately.
4.	Deaf Leaders Foundation, Coimbatore - State Level Conference cum Exhibition on '7th India Deaf (PwDs) exhibition and Festival, 2023' during 27 to 29 January, 2023	10,00,000/-	1st Installment of Rs. 5,00,000/- released on 02.01.2023. Bills/vouchers received on 24.02.2023 and inspection report from	Approved

			NIEPMD, Chennai received on 09.03.2023.	
5.	Adarsh Rehabilitation Centre for Mentally & Physically Handicapped Children (ARCNPCH), Bhiwani, Haryana - State Level Handicraft Exhibition - 18-19 th March 2023	10,00,000/-	1st Installment of Rs. 5,00,000/- released on 01.02.2023.	Approved Note: Check with AGP Division before release of final amount.
6.	Assam Centre for Rural Development Guwahati, Assam - State Level Handicraft Exhibition - 1-2 February, 2023	10,00,000/-	1st Installment of Rs. 5,00,000/- released on 16.01.2023. CRC Guwahati submitted the inspection report on 22.02.2023. Assam Centre advised to submit the bills on 20.02.2023. Response awaited.	Approved Note: Check with AGP Division before release of final amount.
B. Participation in International Event				
1	Abilympics event: 12 PwDs along with 4 escorts through NAAI & Sarthak - 23 to 26 March 2023 For one PwD - Rs 75,000 towards to & fro air tickets, Rs 20,000 towards DA @ Rs 4000 for five days, Visa fees Rs 10,000 and registration fee Rs 25,000 = 1,30,000 For one escort - Rs 75,000 towards to and fro air tickets, Rs 20,000 towards DA @ Rs 4000	19,80,000/- 12 PwDs 1,30,000 x 12 = 15,60,000 4 Escorts 1,05,000 x 4 = 4,20,000/-	Rs. 14,00,000/- released on 12.01.2023 to 11 PwDs along with 4 escorts as first installment. (1 PwD withdrawn the proposal) Remaining amount will be issued on receipt of documents.	Approved

	for five days, Visa fees Rs 10,000 = 1,05,000			
C.	Assistance for High Support Need			
1.	Shri Vaibhav Bhandari - Automatic Wheelchair	72,000/-		Assistive Devices made by ALIMCO should not be funded for purchase from outside. Not approved.

(2) Engagement of new CA Firm

- GB approved the engagement of new CA Firm – M/s KBDS & Co. at the rate of Rs 95,800 + taxes till March, 2023.
- GB suggested to renew the contract of the CA Firm at the same rates upto March, 2024. CA Firm will confirm the same by 20th March 2023.

(3) Signing of Resolution of old and new Fund

GB approved the signing of resolution of old National Fund, Trust Fund and new National Fund.

(4) Income Tax Challan in respect of National Fund for People with Disabilities and Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

- GB noted that two Challans for financial year 2015-16 amounting to Rs 3,34,650 in respect of National Fund for People with Disabilities and Rs 3,35,22,360 in respect of Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities have been deposited to Income Tax Department on 23.11.2022.
- M/s KBDS & Co. may however take appropriate steps and advise the Department to save challans in future.
- M/s KBDS & Co. to submit statement containing income, expenditure, assets and liability and budget for the upcoming year.

3.6 Agenda No. 4 –Delegation of powers

(i) Reinvestment of Funds in FDs

- An investment committee to decide the issue of reinvestment of funds in bank(s) to get higher percentage
- The composition of the Committee shall be:
JS & CEO, National Fund – Chairperson

Dir/DS, National Fund – Member

Dir/DS(IFD) – Member

- Investment Committee will submit decisions taken regarding investments for information of the Governing Body.
- GB will approve proposals for funding the components included in the National Fund guidelines. Thereafter, JS&CEO National Fund will be the competent authority to approve UCs, release of payments, etc.

3.7 Agenda No. 5 – Other Recommendations

- A link to be created for online submission of proposals for funding under the National Fund and Press Note to be issued at the time of launch of the said online link/portal.
- Bills, utilization certificates, etc to be furnished by the applicant organization/individual within 15 days of conclusion of the event/purchase of equipment, wherever applicable.
- **Proposals for organizing events in inclusive/special schools may be encouraged for increased participation of children with disabilities.**

Annexure I

List of Participants

A Members of Governing Body

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD | Chairperson |
| 2 | Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary, DEPwD | Convener & CEO |
| 3 | Shri Sanjay Pandey, JS&FA, DEPwD | Member |
| 4 | Shri K.R. Vaidheesvaran, JS & CEO National Trust | Member |
| 5 | Shri Vijay Kumar Meena, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment | Member |
| 6 | Shri Deep C. Lakra, Under Secretary, Department of Higher Education | Member |
| 7 | Shri Ajeetsingh Shekhawat, Gujarat | Member |

B Departmental Officials / Others

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Shri Amit Srivastava, Under Secretary |
| 9 | Ms Pooja Malik, Assistant, National Fund |
| 10 | Shri Gulshan Verma, Assistant, National Fund |
| 11 | Shri Vaibhav Chauhan, M/s KBDS & Co. Chartered Accountants |