

File No. 05-16/2019-DD-III
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Dated: 17th October, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Third Meeting of Central Advisory Board on Disability constituted under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 held on 19.09.2019 – forwarding of minutes

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The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the minutes of the third meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister (SJE) on 19.09.2019 for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above



(K.V.S. Rao)

Director

Tel: 24369054

All the members of the Central Advisory Board on Disability

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister, SJ&E
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (KP), SJ&E
3. PPS to Secretary, DEPwD
4. PPS to JS(PS)

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on
Disability held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister SJE on 19th
September, 2019, Hall No. 5, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

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

Secretary, DEPwD welcomed Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister SJ&E & Chairperson of the Central Advisory Board, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Vice-Chairman of the Board, representatives from various Central Ministries/Departments, Hon'ble Ministers dealing with disability affairs of Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Odisha, representatives from other States/UTs, representatives of UGC and other central Government organisations, nominated members representing organisations of persons with disabilities and experts in the disability sector.

2. Secretary, DEPwD stated that as per the mandate of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the Central Advisory Board is the apex policy recommending body on disability matters. The first and second meetings of the Board were held on 13.02.2018 and 05.10.2018 respectively. Furthermore, she stated that the Central Advisory Board will review the decisions taken in these two meetings. Giving a brief on the first two meetings, she stated that the Board had deliberated upon the issues of inclusive education and early identification and intervention in its last two meetings and recommended measures to be taken for promoting these activities. The Board will, in its third meeting, deliberate on the provisions related to social security programmes for persons with disabilities as an agenda item. She expressed serious concern over the growing incidence of intellectual/developmental and psycho-social disabilities. She stressed on the need for early identification to prevent incidence/severity of disabilities. She requested the Board to take stock of the situation relating to implementation of Accessible India Campaign for making built-in

environment, transport and ICT accessible and the UDID project for providing Unique Disability Identity Cards to every person with disability.

3. Hon'ble Minister SJ&E, being the Chairman of the Central Advisory Board, in his keynote address pointed out that even though the RPwD Act has been enacted more than two years ago, only about 20 States/UTs have so far notified the Rules under the Act. He further stated that in a number of States, no separate Department and independent State Commissioners dealing exclusively with disability specific issues have been constituted/appointed. He urged the remaining States/UTs to finalise their Rules and appoint independent Commissioners and create separate Department for PwDs immediately.

4. Hon'ble Minister, SJ&E further stated that ensuring accessibility in public buildings, transportation system and ICT ecosystem is key to social inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. He stressed on the need to adhere to the time lines especially in respect of the Government buildings identified by the States/UTs to make them accessible. He urged the States/UTs as well as Central Ministries/Departments to designate nodal officers on accessibility and to monitor the situation at least on a quarterly basis at the highest level.

5. Hon'ble Minister expressed displeasure regarding the pace of implementation of the UDID project. He urged Nagaland and Lakshadweep to immediately start implementing the project and also requested other States/UTs to take up the project on campaign mode to upscale the pace of implementation in all their Districts. He urged the States/UTs to make a separate committee to monitor progress and fix the responsibility in case of delay. He informed that the Government of India is in the process of establishing National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh which will work towards developing community based rehabilitation protocols for mainstreaming of persons with mental illness besides taking steps for capacity development and research in the area.

Similarly, the Government is in the process of establishing a Centre for Disability Sports for Persons with Disabilities at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

6. Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Hon'ble MoS, MSJE and Vice-Chairman, Central Advisory Board stated that the Government of India, through Swachha Bharat Abhiyan has put in a lot of efforts in making the country Open Defecation Free. He emphasised the need to ensure that toilets in rural areas are accessible to persons with disabilities. He further stated that in the last 5 years, the Ministry has created 7 Guinness World records in distribution of aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan. During the last five years, the budget of the Department has gone up substantially for the welfare and development of the Divyangjan. He urged the Department and the States/UTs to take specific measures to expedite the issue of the UDID cards. He informed the members of the Board that his Ministry has entered into an agreement with the companies of UK and Germany for developing modern aids and assistive devices for PwDs in India. He urged the State Governments to notify the Rules under the RPWD Act, 2016 so that the benefits can be extended to persons with disabilities.

7. The following agenda items were placed for discussion for the Central Advisory Board:-

- (a) Action taken note on the decisions taken in the last meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability held on 05.10.2018
- (b) Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities
- (c) Establishment of Centre for Disability Sports
- (d) Status of implementation of Accessible India Campaign
- (e) Status of implementation of UDID Campaign

- (f) National Programme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities
- (g) Implementation of Section 24 of the RPWD Act, 2016 regarding social security measures for Persons with Disabilities

8. Dr. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD and Member-Secretary of the Central Advisory Board made a brief presentation on each of the above agenda points for deliberations of the Central Advisory Board. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure II**.

9. Gist of submissions of Hon'ble Ministers from States/UTs or their representatives regarding action taken by them in implementation of RPwD Act, UDID project, Accessible India Campaign, order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Reena Bannerjee etc as per the decisions of last meeting of the Advisory Board is as under:-

S. No.	State	Action Taken
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Arunachal Pradesh stated that the State Government has notified the RPwD Rules and constituted State Advisory Board. State Commissioner for PwDs has also been appointed. • UDID project has been implemented in all districts except nine districts, which will be covered soon. • Under Accessible India Campaign, the state has initiated action and sent report to the Department. • The State Government has established DDRCs in two districts. • Formulation of Social Security Schemes under Section 24 is under progress
2	Chhattisgarh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble Minister of Social welfare Government of Chhattisgarh stated that State Rules under RPWD Act, 2016 will be notified in December, 2019.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Accessible India Campaign, the state has initiated action and sent report. • 43% of the persons with disabilities have been issued UDID card. The remaining will be covered by 2020. • She requested establishment of one centre for disability sports in the State.
3.	Himachal Pradesh	<p>Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified. Further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government has established separate cell for persons with disabilities. • State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted. • The State Government has already taken steps to implement AIC in a time bound manner. 33 Websites have also been identified for making these disabled friendly. • Under UDID project, 566 cards have been issued • Process for appointment of State Commissioner for PwDs is under progress. • He requested for establishment of one sports centre in the State.
4	Manipur	<p>Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified recently. Further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted. • State Commissioner for PwDs has been appointed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under UDID project, 14 districts have been covered, the remaining 2 districts will be covered soon. • The State has implemented a number of social security schemes like Caregiver allowance, free travel concession in State Transport Undertaking Buses, Unemployment Allowance etc under Section 24 of the Act. • The State has set up 8 DDRCs.
5	Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble Minister, Government of Odisha stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified. • State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted. • The State Government has established disability specific resource centres. • He stated that Odisha is one of the leading States in implementing UDID project. All districts of Odisha are covered under the project. So far more than 2.50 lakh cards have been generated. • Under Accessible India Campaign 217 buildings have been/are being retrofitted. Special ramp is being made at Jagganath temple, Puri. • Under Section 24 of the RPwD Act, the State Government is implementing pension scheme for PwDs. PwD Artists are also getting pension under artist pension scheme.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He requested the Central Government to consider establishing Sports Centre in the second phase.
6	A&N Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from Andaman & Nicobar Islands stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified. • The UT has appointed Commissioner for PwDs. • Under AIC, 21 buildings have been retrofitted. 47 buildings have been identified in respect of 2nd and 3rd phase of AIC. • Under UDID project, about 3000 cards have been generated. By November, all the remaining PwDs will be covered. • Constitution of Advisory Board on disability will be completed by December, 2019. • Under Section 24, Disability Pension @ Rs. 2500/- is given to every person with benchmark disabilities without any income ceiling.
7	Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from Assam stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 will be notified within two months. • State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted. • State Commissioner for PwDs has been appointed. • Under UDID project, 1000 cards have been distributed. The State Government is taking steps to implement the project in all the Districts within a period of one month.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Sec 24, the State Government has been giving disability pension @ Rs 1000 per month. The State Government is also providing diagnostic tools for assessment of disability, it also provides transport allowance @ Rs 10,000 per children per annum in certain cases. • The Government has filled up 355 backlog vacancies meant for persons with disabilities. The State Government has established DDRCs in 12 Districts and is going to setup DDRCs in other Districts. • The State Government is making efforts are to develop sign language expression of Assamese language. • The representative from Government of Assam requested the Central Government to consider establishing the University for Divyangjan in the State at the earliest.
8	Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from State Government of Goa stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified and appointment of State Commissioner for Disabilities to be made soon. • The State Government has constituted the State Advisory Board. • The State Government is providing 4% reservation in job in State Govt establishments and 5% reservation in higher education for persons with benchmark disabilities. • Under AIC, 31 buildings were identified.

9	Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from State Government of Karnataka stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 are at the advanced stage of notification and will be notified very shortly and appointment of State Commissioner for Disabilities will be made soon. • State Advisory Board has been constituted. • Rehabilitation centres have been established in 15 Districts, remaining to follow. • Under UDID Project, 37,000 cards have been generated covering all Districts. • Under Section 24 of the Act, State Government is implementing Disability Pension Scheme, Caregiver Allowance etc for the welfare and benefit of PwDs.
10	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from State Government of Gujarat stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 will be notified within 15 days and appointment of State Commissioner for Disabilities has been done. • Under AIC, in 2nd phase, 122 buildings have been identified and work under progress; in 3rd phase 337 buildings have been identified. 925 buses have been made accessible. • Under section 24, the State Government is giving scholarship and financial assistance and free travel concession to PwDs.

		Government is also providing housing assistance to the widows with disabilities. Under Divyang Pension Scheme, PwDs are getting Rs.600/-pm. 2021 PwDs have been benefitted under the Health Insurance Scheme.
11	Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from State Government of Haryana stated that State Rules under RPwD Act, 2016 have been notified and State Commissioner for Disabilities has been appointed. • State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted. • 4% reservation is being implemented in job in every Government Establishment. • Under AIC, out of identified 89 buildings retrofitment work has been completed in 5 buildings and work is in progress in remaining buildings. • The State Government has assured that within 1 month, the UDID project will be started in the remaining 1 District. • Under Section 24 of the Act, the State Government has been giving Disability Pension @ Rs. 2000/- per month to PwDs having disability of 60% and above.
12	Jharkhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from State Government of Jharkhand stated that the RPwD Rules have been notified and the State Commissioner for persons with disabilities

		<p>has already been appointed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Government has already constituted State Advisory Board on Disability. • UDID Project has been started in every districts and the progress is satisfactory • Under AIC, 36 buildings earmarked for retrofitting, work in progress • 62 Government Officials given training on sign language. • The State Government has established 6 District Rehabilitation Centres of which 4 are functional at present.
13	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative from State Government of Kerala stated that Government has already notified Rules under RPwD Act and State Commissioner for PwDs has already been appointed. • Under UDID project the performance of State Government is not satisfactory. Efforts being made to improve the performance of the State. • 42000 PwDs covered under the Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme.
14	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPWD Act have been notified • Under UDID project, about 59% PwDs have been issued UDID cards. • State Government has established 20

		<p>special schools for children with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation centres have been established in 51 districts for taking care of persons with mental illness who have been successfully cured and also persons with intellectual disability. • As per the State Industrial Policy, if 5% or more PwDs are employed in any establishment, the employees' EPF contribution will be borne by the State. • Under Section 24 of the RPwD Act, 2016, the State Government provides scholarships, disability pension, marriage allowance of Rs. 1 lakh, if one of the party to marriage is a PwD. State Government is also implementing Awas Sahayata Yojana for PwDs. • 33 Disabled Friendly Websites have been made live.
15	Meghalaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified and State Advisory Board has been constituted. • Rehabilitation Centres have been established in all districts • All Government buildings will be accessible within a period of 2 years • 34 Websites have been made disabled friendly • The State Government is working to

		<p>enhance the pace of implementation of UDID project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Government is providing disability pension as a social security measure.
16	Mizoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified • State Commissioner for Disability has been appointed • Under AIC, 27 buildings have been retrofitted with accessibility features. • Under UDID Project, 1678 cards have been generated • Under Section 84 & 85 of the RPwD Act Special Public Prosecutors have been appointed.
17	Puducherry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified recently. • 4% reservation in jobs in the establishments of the UT is being followed as per the Act and 5% reservation in Higher Education • Under UDID project, 320 cards have been generated • 56 Departments of the UT Administration have appointed Grievance Redressal Officer as per the Act • Out of identified 75 Websites, 45 websites have been made accessible

18	Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified. • 4% reservation in jobs in Govt establishments has also been notified • Under AIC, 90 buildings identified, out of which retro fitment work has been completed in 50 buildings, work in progress in 28 cases and work is yet to start in 18 buildings.
19	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified and State Commissioner for PwDs has been appointed. • The State Government earmarks 5% budgetary provision for persons with benchmark disabilities. • Grievance Redressal Officers have been appointed • Under Accessible India Campaign 72 buildings identified for phase II and action being taken to implement phase II targets. • District Rehabilitation Centres have been established in 31 districts. • The state is implementing a number of social security schemes including unemployment allowances and comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme for PwDs.

20	Tripura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPWD Act will be notified within a month. • Under UDID Project, nearly 2000 cards have been generated. • Under AIC, fund released for 14 Government buildings to make these accessible. • State is conducting training programme on sign language. • State Government has created data base of PwDs. • Special Courts have been designated and Special Public Prosecutor have also been appointed.
21	Uttarakhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the State Government stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified. • State Advisory Board for Disability has been constituted. • Under AIC, 250 buildings have been retrofitted with accessible features. • The State Government is making efforts to increase the pace of implementation of the UDID Project. • The representative suggested that the Central Government may consider holding Conference to sensitize Ministers and senior government functionaries about provisions of RPwDAct, 2016.

22	Chandigarh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative of the UT stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified and the UT has appointed Commissioner for persons with disabilities. • Under UDID project, 3000 cards have been generated • Under AIC, 41 govt buildings have been made accessible, 32 new buildings identified in 2nd phase. 24 Websites have been made accessible. • Under section 24, the Administration has been implementing a number of schemes including Disability Pension, Unemployment Allowances etc.
23	Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative stated that Rules under RPwD Act have been notified. State Advisory Board on Disability has also been constituted. • Delhi has appointed independent Commissioner for PwDs. • The progress of UDID project has been hampered due to problem in software. • The administration has made arrangements for providing rehabilitation facilities for 1500 persons with psycho-social disabilities at Lampur. • The Administration is providing disability pension @ Rs. 2500/- from birth till death.

10. Gist of submissions made by nominated members is as under:

Shri S.K. Rungta pointed out that it is a matter of concern that State Governments are not filling the backlog vacancies arisen prior to commencement of the RPwD Act, 2016. The Central Government may advise the States/UTs to fill all backlog vacancies.

- Reservation for PwD employees should be given. He requested Hon'ble Minister to take up the issue with DOP&T.
- The Ministry needs to take measures to clear the backlog in providing scholarship to students with disabilities.
- The Department needs to make sustained efforts to accelerate the progress of UDID Project.
- The Department should work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Ayushman Bharat to extend OPD and other therapeutic facilities for PwDs.
- There is no uniformity in the guidelines for written examination for PwDs, as states have made their individual guidelines. He urged the Ministry to bring uniformity in this regard.

Smt. Ruma Banerjee suggested:

- To develop a comprehensive policy in collaboration with the Ministry of HRD for aligning the RPwD Act and RTE Act for fostering inclusive education.
- A standardized vocational training programme for skill development may be developed that could be adopted in special schools to boost employment opportunities of the PwDs.
- The need for rehabilitation of the persons with psycho-social disabilities.

Shri G.Vijaya Raghavan suggested the:

- Need to conduct training program on autism and impart skill training in the field. He stated that there has been extensive research in autism in the world. He suggested that Persons of Indian Origin

should be roped in to reap the benefit in the field. A task force may be set up to look into the matter.

- Physiotherapist/Occupational Therapist should be accredited with RCI to cater to the specific needs of the PwDs.
- The States need to have dedicated sign language institutes.

Dr. Uttam Ojha pointed out that DRRC, Varanasi is not getting financial assistance from the Ministry. He suggested the Department to:

- Re-name the National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities.
- Establish one centre for disability sports at Varanasi.
- Take measures to make Varanasi City accessible for PwDs.

Dr. Sukumar of SAKSHAM suggested that the Ministry should take up the issue with the MHRD for allowing calculator to children with disabilities during examination. He suggested that the age limit for PwDs for getting vocational training should be raised to 23-25 years

Dr. Milind Kashekar stated that blind persons have some problems in recognizing the new coins and notes under circulation. He suggested that the matter may be taken up with Ministry of Finance and RBI for providing appropriate identifiable features in new coins and notes.

Bhushan Punani suggested that:

- In most states, the Rules/By-laws have not been framed/amended to make Accessible India Campaign mandatory. Instructions should be given to the State Governments to take necessary action in this regard.
- Keeping in view the impressive records of PwD sports persons in the national and international arena, the Ministry should give cash award to all such medallists.
- The Department may consider organising Khel Mahakumbh for persons with disabilities.