

File No. 18-06/2021 – DD-III
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Dated: 31st March, 2021

Subject: Forwarding of Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Governing Body of the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities held on 23rd March, 2021 at 11:30 AM through Video Conference.

The undersigned is directed to forward a copy of the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Governing Body of the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities held on 23rd March, 2021 for information and necessary action.

Encl: as above



(K.V.S. Rao)

Director

Tel: 24369054

1. Chairperson , National Trust
2. Shri Prabodh Seth, JS & CEO, National Fund for PwDs, DEPwD
3. Shri Sanjay Pandey, JS & FA, DEPwD, M/o SJ&E
4. Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, O/o CCPD
5. Shri N.B. Mani, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
6. Ms Saroj Singh, US, Department of Financial Services, Member
7. Shri Vennapoosa Sreenivasulu Reddy, Member
8. Shri Amit Sagar Sharma, Member

Copy to:

1. PPS to Secretary, DEPwD and Chairperson, National Fund

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Governing Body of the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities, held on 23rd March, 2021 at 11:30 AM through Video Conference.

List of participants is at **Annexure**.

Ms. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Chairperson of the Governing Body and Secretary, DEPwD, while welcoming the participants stated that the last meeting of the Governing Body was held on 19th September 2019. Mostly the schemes under the National Fund provides for assistance for holding exhibitions. Due to COVID 19, these activities could not be undertaken. She requested Dr. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD to briefly explain the agenda points for consideration of the Governing Body.

2. Dr Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD stated that since the inception of the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities, three meetings of the Governing Body were held on 09.01.2018, 30.07.2019 and 19.09.2019 and made a presentation on the agenda for discussion of the Governing Body.

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

Agenda Item	Decisions / Observation of Governing Body
Agenda Point No.1: Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 3 rd meeting of the Governing Body held on 19 th September, 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Governing Body was informed that funds have been released to NHFDC (Rs 16,18,300/-) for Surajkund Mela, 2019 and Shri Satender Singh, Para Swimmer (Rs. 4,24,082/-) to swim Catalina Channel in USA.• Relief Centre, Manipur rescheduled its programme in May, 2021. In-principle approval to Relief Centre was conveyed on 5th March, 2021 and funds will be released after the terms and conditions are accepted by the organization.• The Governing Body also noted that M/s Centre for Market Research & Development had made a presentation on 29.01.2020 and was advised to submit a revised report, which is awaited. The GB advised that the matter may be followed up with them.• Regarding the reimbursement of Rs. 12 lakh (approx) towards Travel Allowances to the

participants of the National IT Challenge held at NIT Kurukshetra, the Governing Body decided to release the amount to those PwD participants who have complete documents i.e. copy of at least one way tickets and bank account details.

- The Governing Body noted that the new saving Bank account in the name of National Fund for Persons with Disabilities was opened in October, 2020 in SBI, Shastri Bhawan Branch, New Delhi. JS&CEO alongwith Shri K.V.S. Rao and Shri Vikash Prasad are the authorized signing authorities.
- The Governing Body was informed that proposals were considered by the Screening Committee and accordingly funds were released to NHFDC (Rs. 20 lakh for Surajkund Mela, 2019), Ms Suvarna Raj, Sportsperson (Rs.3,74,461) and Ms Shabana, Sportsperson (Rs. 62,049). Based on the Screening Committee's recommendations, the approval of the Chairperson of the Governing Body was obtained in respect of holding of exhibitions by Pingalakshi, Odisha (Rs. 12,37,700), Nagda Zenith, MP (Rs. 15 lakh), Integrated (Rs. 8,75,500) and for Sh Navdeep, International Sports Person (Rs 1.5 lakh).
- While Pingalakshi, Odisha has already conducted the exhibition in February, 2020, the other two organisations namely, Nagda Zenith, MP and Integrated, Varanasi have rescheduled their programme for May, 2021.
- Governing Body gave its ex-post-facto approval for the release of funds to NHFDC, Ms Suvarna Raj and Ms Shabana and also approved the release of funds to other three organisations as per the scheme. As regards the release of Rs 1.5 lakh to Sh Navdeep, the Governing Body approved the same subject



	<p>to NOC from the Sports Authority of India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governing Body was informed that two Committees namely, (i) inclusion of new areas of support and to suggest revised scheme guidelines; and (ii) to develop accounting procedure of National Fund have been constituted. The first Committee will meet on 08.04.2021. As regards the second Committee, draft Accounting Procedure has been prepared and is being deliberated upon for finalization.
<p>Agenda Point No 2:</p> <p>Consideration of New Proposals for financial assistance received under the scheme under National Fund.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governing Body noted that the 28 new proposals were received for financial assistance under the National Fund. Out of these, 11 proposals are for Exhibitions (1 Regional and 10 State level) and 17 are for High Support Needs. Governing Body suggested that these proposals may be placed before the screening committee under JS & CEO for its consideration at the earliest. The Governing Body authorized the Chairperson of the Governing Body to approve the proposals for the release of funds to individuals/organizations based on the recommendations of the Screening Committee. In such cases, ex-post-facto approval of Governing Body may be taken in its immediate next meeting.
<p>Agenda Point No 3:</p> <p>Extending the engagement of CA firm and release of Payment of Bills of CA for pursuing old cases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governing Body noted and approved ex-post facto for the payment of Rs 13,45,200 to M/s Dube Pandey & Co, CA towards payment of Bills for pursuing old cases. The Governing Body approved extension of the engagement of M/s Dube Pandey & Co. as auditor of the Fund for audit work including filing of returns, application for registration under Section 80G for another two years w.e.f. 01.04.2020 at a cost of Rs 7 lakh including



	GST on the same terms and conditions including payment terms, as was done for the last year.
<p>Agenda Point No 4: Transfer of existing funds of erstwhile Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and National Fund for People with Disabilities in new account namely 'National Fund for persons with Disabilities'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing Body decided that the views of CA may be obtained in the matter of the minimum amount to be kept in the savings account of erstwhile Trust Fund and National Fund for People with Disabilities. Letter to be written to the CA firm immediately in this regard. • The Governing Body noted that the FDs amounting to Rs 75 crore will mature in this month. Quotations are being obtained from nationalized banks so that investment is made in FD of a nationalized bank offering highest rate of interest. • The Governing Body authorized Chairperson of the Governing Body, DEPwD to invest funds in FDs in the nationalized banks at the highest rate of interest.
<p>Agenda Point No 5: Consultative Committee meeting of Parliament</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governing Body noted that action as suggested by the Consultative Committee has been taken such as coming out with a full page advertisement in the newspapers, uploading database on the website of the Department and social media.
<p>Agenda Point No 6: Extension of the present staff members under National Fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that National Fund has no permanent secretarial support since inception which has adversely impacted its functioning as shown by underutilization of its funds. It was suggested that the National Fund needs to have a skeletal secretariat staff headed by one Section Officer (Pay Level -8) and consisting of, 2 ASOs (Pay Level - 7), 2 UDCs (Pay Level -5), and 2 LDC/DEOs (Pay Level - 3). A committee consisting of Shri KVS Rao, Director; Shri Kshitij Mohan, Director, IFD and Shri Sitaram Yadav, Deputy Secretary is constituted to

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	<p>recruit/select suitable candidates for the positions noted above and to make recommendations to JS & CEO, National Fund for appointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the interim period, the Governing Body approved extension of services of Shri Gulshan Kumar Verma, Assistant and Ms Pooja Malik, Assistant with 15% increase of the monthly remuneration for another year w.e.f. 24.03.2021. 															
<p>Agenda Point No 7: Plan of Activities for 2021-22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governing Body decided the following activities for the year 2021-22:- One Exhibition each at National level through NHFDC and National Trust. Ten National/Regional level exhibitions through NIs/CRCs. NHFDC may be requested to organise exhibitions across all States. New components to be included under the scheme as per the recommendation of the Committee. The scheme to be popularized through publicity and involving States/UTs Investment to be done in RBI bond. Process of registration under Section 80G to be completed and option of receiving donations to be explored. The Governing Body recommended that Secretariat may also involve NIs and CRCs in implementation of the schemes under National Fund and also work towards expanding the outreach of the programme. 															
<p>Agenda Point No 8: Present Fund position</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governing Body noted the current fund position as under: <table border="1" data-bbox="726 1702 1420 1906"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: right;">(Rs in crores)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S. No</th> <th>Funds Available</th> <th>Trust Fund</th> <th>National Fund</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Fixed Deposit</td> <td>270.70</td> <td>20.05</td> <td>290.75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(Rs in crores)					S. No	Funds Available	Trust Fund	National Fund	Total	1.	Fixed Deposit	270.70	20.05	290.75
(Rs in crores)																
S. No	Funds Available	Trust Fund	National Fund	Total												
1.	Fixed Deposit	270.70	20.05	290.75												



2.	Savings Bank Account	45.35	10.38	55.73
Total		316.05	30.43	346.48

Agenda Point No 9:
Efforts made for Media publicity

- The Governing Body noted the following efforts made for publicity: -
- Advertisements issued in 200 National newspapers in Hindi, English and regional languages.
- The scheme posted on the website of the Department.

Agenda Point No 10:
Any other related matter with the permission of Chair

- The Governing Body took up the proposal of NHFDC, a Central Public Sector Undertaking under DEPwD as an additional agenda. NHFDC has submitted a proposal under National Fund for seeking financial assistance for exhibition of products made by PwDs on long term basis in Delhi and Guwahati. CMD NHFDC while explaining their proposals stated that NHFDC would hire exhibition outlets on rent/hire/lease in various regions of the country (i.e. in East, West, North, South & North East) for showcasing the products and services of persons with disabilities, artisans/entrepreneurs. To begin with, the Corporation will start at two locations i.e. Delhi and Guwahati at an estimated cost of Rs 26.53 lakh.
- The Governing Body desired that one such centre and one location each in East, West and South zone may also be set up. In addition the Governing Body also decided that skill development unit may also be developed alongside these centres as there is a need to link up marketing centres with skilling units.
- It was noted that as per Rule 42 (5) (d) of the RPwD Rules, 2017, the Fund can also be utilized for such other purposes as may be decided by the Governing Body. Accordingly,



the Governing Body decided to grant Rs. 50 lakh for starting 5 centers for exhibitions/marketing of products of PwDs and Rs. 2 crore towards corpus for setting up skilling development units alongside these centres.”

- The Governing Body decided that the secretariat would monitor the progress of these activities of NHFDC under this programme.

4. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



List of Participants

A Members of Governing Body		
1	Ms Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Secretary, DEPwD	Chairperson
2	Dr. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD	Convener & CEO
3	Shri N.B. Mani, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	Member
4	Ms Saroj Singh, US, Department of Financial Services	Member
5	Shri Vennapoosa Sreenivasulu Reddy (representing chronic neurological conditions)	Member
6	Shri Amit Sagar Sharma (representing intellectual disability)	Member
B Departmental Officials		
9	Shri Rajan Sehgal, CMDNHFDC NHFDC	
10	Shri Sauranshu Sinha, US (Budget), DEPwD	
11	Shri D.K. Panda, US, DEPwD	
C Others		
12	Shri Arvind Dube, CA (National Fund)	

