

# **Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**

## **Steering Committee Report XII<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan**

**Planning Commission, Government of India**

## Contents

<b>1. Prologue .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Sector Overview &amp; Present Status .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Approach on Disability in Five Year.....	3
Persons with Disabilities: The present definition .....	4
Disability Sector-General Profile.....	5
<b>3. Statutory Framework.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Relevant Constitutional Provisions.....	6
Legislative Provisions .....	7
<b>4. Policy Framework .....</b>	<b>10</b>
National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 .....	10
<b>5. Main Challenges .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. Basic Premise .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7. Goals .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Overall Approach and Strategy.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Self –Representation .....	13
Inclusion.....	14
Commitment to Quality .....	14
PwDs to be viewed as a valuable human resource in nation building .....	15
<b>9. Priority areas in the XII Plan .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Earmarking of 3% of Five Year and Annual Plan Outlay for PwDs by concerned Ministries / Departments .....	15
Consolidation of most disability-related schemes of MoSJE into a single Centrally-sponsored National Programme for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NPEPwD).....	16
Strengthening the Role of Panchayats and Municipalities .....	17
Special Focus on the more Vulnerable Groups.....	17
Legislative Measure .....	18
Management Re-vamp.....	18
Role of State Department dealing with disability vis-à-vis the State Mission .....	20
<b>10. Targets .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Education .....	21
Sports Games & Recreation.....	22
Health & Social Security .....	22
Training, Skill Development & Employment.....	22
Rehabilitation & Independent Living .....	23
Human Resource Development .....	23
National Institutes, SDRCs & DDRCs .....	23
Disability Certification.....	24
Accessibility and Inclusion.....	24
<b>11. Conclusion .....</b>	<b>24</b>

## **1. Prologue**

Ranging from doctoral theses to speeches at non-academic meetings, the items listed have sharp differences of quality and usefulness. Higher quality and authenticity is not always exclusive domain of formal academic research, as against the primary stakeholder's voice telling of individual experience -- probably all parts of the spectrum are needed for developing a fuller understanding of disability in India. The Steering Committee members experience have been heavily used most of who have experienced the fruits and bitters of the national policies, the implementation stumble blocks, the attitudinal and informational barriers. Literature support has rested on different reports of both, government and non-government, international journals, library references as well as internet browsing where plethora of information is available in all shapes and size with different degrees of relevance.

## **2. Sector Overview & Present Status**

### ***Approach on Disability in Five Year***

In the Ninth Five Year Plan there was a shift from welfare bases approach to a rights-based approach. The Tenth Five Year Plan focused on effective implementation of various provisions of legislation and National Policy for Persons with Disabilities and advocated a multi-sectoral and multi-collaborative approach. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment would however be the nodal Ministry.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan, 2007 – 12, had aimed at faster and more inclusive growth. It was expected to achieve inclusiveness through significant improvements in literacy / education and health, greater employment opportunities, and greater focus on disadvantaged groups.

The Eleventh Plan emphasized upon the rights-based approach to empower the PwDs and suggested a four-pronged strategy;

- i) delineate clear cut responsibility between the concerned Ministries / Depts.;
- ii) concerned Ministries / Depts. To formulate detailed rules and guidelines:
- iii) each Ministry / Dept. to reserve not less than three percent of their annual outlay for the benefit of the PwDs; and
- iv) monitoring mechanism at various levels

It also emphasized on strengthening the institutional arrangements, extension services and rehabilitation measures, inclusive and accessible education, accessibility, employment etc.

The XII Plan has a total financial outlay of Rs. 1426.8 crore for the disability related schemes.

### ***Persons with Disabilities: The present definition***

As per Section 2 (i) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, (PwD) **“Disability”** means –

- i) Blindness
- ii) Low vision
- iii) Leprosy-cured
- iv) Hearing impairment
- v) Locomotor disability
- vi) Mental retardation
- vii) Mental illness

As per Section 2(t) of the Act, **“Person with Disability”** means a person suffering from **not less than forty percent** of any disability as certified by a medical authority.

The **National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999** deals with the following conditions:

- i) Autism

- ii) Cerebral Palsy
- iii) Mental Retardation
- iv) Multiple Disabilities

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** recognizes that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

### ***Disability Sector-General Profile***

According to Census 2001, there were 2.19 Crore Persons with Disabilities in India who constituted 2.13 percent of the total population. This includes persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotor and mental disabilities. The Census data shows that 75 percent of Persons with Disabilities lived in rural areas, 49 percent are literate and only 34 percent are employed.

Data collected in 2002 by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), indicated that the number of Persons with Disabilities was 1.85 crore, with a disability-wise break up which was significantly different from the Census 2001 data. The variation is basically due to the difference in coverage and definitions used for collection of data.

The comparative population figure for India by type of disability is given below;

<b>Type of Disability</b>	<b>Census 2001</b>		<b>NSSO 2002</b>	
	<b>Population (in crore)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Population (in crore)</b>	<b>%</b>
Locomotor	0.61	28	0.97	52
Visual	1.06	49	0.25	14
Hearing	0.13	6	0.18	10
Speech	0.16	7	0.09	5
Mental	0.22	10	0.16	9
Multiple	-	-	0.19	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>100</b>

In the Census 2011, the following disabilities have been covered for enumeration:

- i) In seeing

- ii) In hearing
- iii) In speech
- iv) In movement
- v) Mental retardation
- vi) Mental illness
- vii) Multiple disabilities
- viii) Any other

### 3. Statutory Framework

#### *Relevant Constitutional Provisions*

##### ❖ Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy

The Fundamental Rights in the Constitution ensure equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all citizens of the country including Persons with Disabilities without any discrimination, which implies an inclusive society for all, especially the disadvantaged.

Article 41 of Part IV (“Directive Principles of State Policy”) which is particularly relevant with regard to Persons with Disabilities, reads as follows;

##### **“41. Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases:**

The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and **disablement**, and in other cases of undeserved want.”

##### ❖ ‘Disability’ relevant Schedules of the Constitution

**“Relief of the disabled and unemployed”** figures at S. No. 9 in “List II” (**“State List”**) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

**“Disability”** also appears in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Schedules (**pertaining to Panchayats & Municipalities**) of the Constitution in the following manner :-

**11<sup>th</sup> Schedule:** Entry No. 26 :- “Social Welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded”, and

**12<sup>th</sup> Schedule:** Entry No. 9:- “Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded”.

### ***Legislative Provisions***

The following four Acts govern various aspects of disabilities:

- a. Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
- b. Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; and
- c. National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and
- d. Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, Mental Health Act 1987

Out of these, the first three legislations are dealt in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the remaining, in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Some salient details about the above Acts are given below:

a) *Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992*

The Rehabilitation Council of India was set up under this 1992 Act of the Parliament. This Council regulates and monitors the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel, and promotes research in rehabilitation and special education. Its functions are as below:

- i) Determining minimum standards of education
- ii) Making recommendations to the Ministry regarding recognition of qualifications granted by Universities, etc. in India for rehabilitation professionals.
- iii) Making recommendations to the Ministry regarding recognition of qualification by institutions outside India
- iv) Inspection in examinations

- v) Registration of rehabilitation professionals / other personnel
- vi) Determining privileges and professional conduct of registered persons

b) Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PwD Act)

This is the main Act concerning disability issues in the country. Its genesis dates back to the meeting held in Beijing in December, 1992 to launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002, convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). The Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region was adopted in this meeting, to which India is a signatory. Consequent to this, the Central Government enacted this Act under Article 253 – (“ Legislation for giving effect to international agreements”) of the Constitution of India, read with item No. 13 – (“Participation in international conferences, associations and other bodies and implementing of decisions made thereat”) of the Union List, since the subject “Relief to the disabled” is covered under Item 9 of the State List in the Constitution of India.

The Act provides for education, rehabilitation, employment, non-discrimination and social security for persons with disabilities. It casts obligations on Central Government, State Governments and Local Authorities.

c) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

The Act provides for the constitution of the National Trust (Section 3 to 9), a body corporate, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract and shall by the said name, sue or be sued. The main objects of the National Trust, as defined under Section 10, are:

- To enable and empower Persons with Disabilities to live independently and as fully and as close to their community as possible;

- To extend support to its registered organizations to provide need based services;
- To evolve procedures for appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disabilities
- To facilitate the realization of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disabilities.

d) The Mental Health Act, 1987

Mental illness is one of the disabilities mentioned in the PwD Act. However, treatment and care of mentally ill persons is governed by a separate Act called the 'Mental Health Act, 1987', which is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The Act has the following main provisions:

- i) Regulate admission to psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric nursing homes of mentally ill-persons who do not have sufficient understanding to seek treatment on a voluntary basis, and to protect the rights of such persons while being detained;
- ii) Protect citizens from being detained in psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric nursing homes without sufficient cause;
- iii) Regulate responsibility for maintenance charges of mentally ill persons who are admitted to psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric nursing homes;
- iv) Provide facilities for establishing guardianship or custody of mentally ill persons who are incapable of managing their own affairs;
- v) Provide for the establishment of Central Authority and State Authorities for Mental Health Services;
- vi) Lay down the powers of the Government for establishing, licensing and controlling psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric nursing homes for mentally ill persons;

Provide for legal aid to mentally ill persons at State expense in certain cases

## 4. Policy Framework

### ***National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006***

The National Policy recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. It is in consonance with the basic principles of equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals that are enshrined in the Constitution of India. It implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all and recognizes the fact that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

The salient features of the National Policy are:

- Physical Rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling and medical interventions and provision of aids and appliances. It also includes the development of rehabilitation professionals;
- Educational Rehabilitation which includes vocational training; and
- Economic Rehabilitation, for a dignified life in society

The following mechanism is in place for implementation of the National Policy:

- i. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to implementation of the Policy.
- ii. The Central Coordination Committee, with stakeholder representation, coordinates matters relating to implementation of the National Policy. There is a similar Committee at the State level. Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies are associated in the functioning of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. They are required to play a crucial role in the implementation of the National Policy to address local level issues.
- iii. The Ministries of Home Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, Rural Development, Urban Development, Youth Affairs & Sports, Railways, Science & Technology, Statistics & Programme Implementation. Labour, Panchayati Raj and Women & Child Development and Departments of

Elementary Education & Literacy, Secondary & Higher Education, Road Transport & Highways, Public Enterprises, Revenue, Information Technology and Personnel & Training are also identified for implementation of the policy.

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the Central level and State Commissioners at the State level play key role in implementation of the National Policy, apart from their statutory responsibilities.

## **5. Main Challenges**

Following are some of the main challenges which have to be addressed in the XII Plan:-

1. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) continue to suffer from discrimination in education, employment, transport and in the built environment, and terms of access to sports, recreation, etc. As a result, the large majority of them are unable to participate in the community on an equal basis with others.
2. A large number of products, public services and information services are not accessible to PwDs.
3. Participation and completion rates of students with disabilities at various stages of education, i.e. (elementary, secondary & tertiary) are significantly very poor.
4. Incidence of poverty is disproportionately higher among the PwDs
5. Highly unsatisfactory levels of nutrition, health and housing etc.
6. Exclusive implementing agencies for programmes meant for PwDs, do not exist in most States and working of existing agencies needs drastic improvement.
7. Awareness among the PwDs about legislative provisions and development programmes available to them needs to be considerably stepped up. Similarly, awareness among the general public about disability rights and issues also needs to be built up.

Needs of the most vulnerable groups among PwDs (girls, women the homeless, and those with severe and/or multiple disabilities) have to be specially met.

## **6. Basic Premise**

The concept of the evolving capacities of the PwDs will be the central theme. The document carries three key implications:

1. Firstly, it is a developmental concept, recognizing the extent to which Persons with Disability's development, competence and emerging personal autonomy are enhanced through the realization of the various agreed national & international Conventions and program- it imposes obligations on States to promote and ensure these rights;
2. Secondly, it is an emancipatory concept denoting the rights of Persons with Disability to respect for their capacities and for the transfer of the exercise of rights from various facets of society to the Persons with Disability in accordance with their levels of competence – it imposes obligations on States to respect these rights;
3. Thirdly, it is a protective concept, which acknowledges that Persons with Disability have 'un-evolved' capacities as a consequence of their disability and are thereby have rights to protection on the part of parents, community and the State from abuse and participation in activities likely to cause them harm – it imposes obligations on States to protect these rights.

## **7. Goals**

In the light of the above, principal goals for the XII Plan, in regard to empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, may be stated as follows:-

1. Substantial improvement in literacy, participation and completion rate in education at all levels.
2. Prevention, early detection and early intervention through National Programmes with the aim of minimizing risk of disability
3. Economic empowerment of PwDs

4. Ensuring equal rights of and Non-discrimination against PwDs, leading to their participation in the community on an equal basis with others.
5. Special targeting of the more vulnerable groups among PwDs such as Women with Disabilities (WwDs) and persons with severe disability, under all programmes.
6. Municipalities and Panchayats to be specially enabled and empowered to perform their assigned role in the empowerment of persons with disabilities, as reflected in the constitution.
7. Increased Sensitization & Awareness level of different stakeholders and the community.
8. Re-designing products, processes, public places and services so as to make them accessible to PwDs.
9. Improved Delivery and Monitoring Mechanism
10. The development of an integrated management system for the coordination of disability planning, implementation and monitoring in the various line functions at all spheres of government;
11. Establishing of National, State and subsequent District structures that will continuously update and link strategy & policy developments with operational planning initiatives involving all role-players (DPOs, government, the private sector).
12. The development of capacity building strategies that will enhance Government's ability at all levels to implement all provisions contained in the plan.

## **8. Overall Approach and Strategy**

Principles upon which the XII<sup>th</sup> Plan Strategy is based include:

### ***Self-Representation***

A fundamental principle that informs the outlook of the disability rights movement nationally and internationally is the right to self-representation. This means that the collective determination and wisdom of Persons with Disabilities must be used to inform the strategies of the government. In recognizing this principle, the government acknowledges the role of organizations of PwDs and their representatives in the decision-making

processes. This will ensure that decisions taken and implemented will be appropriate for PwDs.

### ***Inclusion***

Historically, disability issues have been addressed in a piecemeal, fragmented way. This has been one of the key factors contributing to the marginalization of Persons with Disabilities and the dire poverty in which the majority find themselves. If the needs of Persons with Disabilities are to be effectively addressed, disability must be fully included into the principles, strategies and activities of all government programs. This will ensure that the adverse effects of the past as they have affected Persons with Disabilities will be eradicated in a sustainable process of reconstruction during the XIIth Plan period.

### ***Commitment to Quality***

In the last decade, Persons with Disabilities have realized their power and taken charge of their own lives all over the world. In India, this awareness has been strengthened by the PwD Act 1995, which has brought about legal bindings for services to Persons with Disabilities.

The Government of India is fully committed to provide and ensure Quality Services to Persons with Disabilities taking it as a guiding principle enshrined throughout this Plan document. Further it understands Quality, as an ideal with which there is no compromise. While defining Quality, it also understands other ideas of Quality namely - Quality Control, Quality Assurance and Total Quality.

Poor quality services are usually directly attributable to behavior and attitudes. Quality does not just happen by thinking about it, it must be planned for. While planning for the Quality products and services for the Persons with Disabilities in India, it is necessary that all the levels of service providers are involved in the exercise of understanding, appreciating and adhering to quality. It is imperative to incorporate the acceptance of Quality Management in vision, mission, values and goals so that the direction becomes clear to all. **It also becomes important to have a clear statement of policy on Quality and**

**have a Quality plan that puts the policy statement into action.** Quality Framework would be devised to meet the special requirements of Persons with Disabilities so as to make sense within the global developments currently taking place.

### ***PwDs to be viewed as a valuable human resource in nation building***

PwDs constitute a significant segment of the population but are often seen only as recipients of various schemes and not as a human resource that could contribute and participate in nation-building. As a result, their talent, skill and potential mostly remain untapped or under utilized.

During the XII Plan, PwDs will be viewed as a valuable human resource in nation-building, with a large un-tapped potential, and policies & programmes, will be re-oriented to tap this resource rather than merely being a provisioning exercise.

## **9. Priority areas in the XII Plan**

The Working Group identified the following as priority areas for action in the XII Plan:-

- Accessibility
- Reasonable accommodation
- Education, Health & Housing
- Skill Training & Economic Empowerment;
- Awareness Generation and
- Independent living and equal participation in community life
- Human Resource Development

### ***Earmarking of 3% of Five Year and Annual Plan Outlay for PwDs by concerned Ministries / Departments***

- Central Ministries/Departments, especially those concerned with infrastructure, social sector and poverty alleviation (listed in Annexure) corresponding Departments of State Governments and Panchayats,

Municipalities and other Urban Local Bodies to earmark at least 3% of their Plan outlay for disability related interventions.

- An appropriate mechanism to be put in place to decide earmarking of outlays for programmes empowering PwDs and monitoring of their utilization at all levels – Central, State, District, City / Town, Block etc.
- As per informal indication, 3% of XII Plan outlay of concerned Central Ministries / Departments may be in the range of Rs. 70,000 crore or so. However, looking to the shortfall in 3% allocation in the XI Plan, the Working Group strongly recommends an outlay of at least Rs. 1 lakh crore for disability related interventions in the XII Plan.
- The XII Plan document must devote a separate Chapter to the goals, strategy, programmes and interventions for PwDs by the concerned Central Ministries / Departments. This will bring this important target group into a sharper focus and help in suitably embedding the strategy for the empowerment of PwDs in the planning process of Central Ministries at least from XII Plan onwards.

### ***Consolidation of most disability-related schemes of MoSJE into a single Centrally-sponsored National Programme for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NPEPwD)***

In the interest of effective management and improved delivery the following existing Central Sector Schemes and new schemes will be consolidated into a composite Centrally Sponsored National Programme called “National Programme for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NPEPwD)”:

#### **Existing Schemes**

1. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids / Appliances (ADIP)
2. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)
3. State Disability Resource Centres (SDRCs) (presently called CRCs) including “Sambhav Centres”
4. District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)
5. Scheme for Implementation of PwD Act, 1995 (SIPDA)

### **New Schemes \***

1. Pre-Matric Scholarships for students with disabilities
2. Post-Matric Scholarships for students with disabilities
3. Free Coaching for students with disabilities
4. Residential special school for students with severe and multiple disabilities, in district not having Govt. special schools.
5. Hostels for existing Govt. special schools not having hostels and augmentation of seats in existing hostels of govt. special schools.
6. Support for establishment/modernization/capacity augmentation of Braille Presses
7. Rehabilitation Centres for treated mentally ill persons
8. Model multi-disability independent living centres
9. Setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres
10. Provisioning accessibility in State Govt. institutions
11. Making State Govts. / Semi-State Govts websites accessible
12. Preparation of comprehensive database and online state depository of resources on disabilities
13. Establishment of State Missions and District Coordinators
14. Awareness Generation and Publicity
15. Training of care-givers: In-service training and sensitization of State Govts, local bodies and other service providers

### ***Strengthening the Role of Panchayats and Municipalities***

Panchayats and Municipalities will be enabled and strengthened to perform their constitutional obligations towards PwDs as envisaged in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Schedules, respectively of the Constitution.

### ***Special Focus on the more Vulnerable Groups***

High priority will be given to ensuring delivery of services to the more vulnerable groups among PwDs e.g. children, women, SCs and STs with disabilities, persons with severe and multiple disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas.

## ***Legislative Measure***

The existing laws on disability such as Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, Rehabilitation Council of India Act, National Trust Act, Mental Health Act and other laws that concern or address disability issues like Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, Protection Child Rights Act, NCW Act, Apprenticeship Act, NREGA, CrPC, Indian Evidence Act will be reviewed and replaced / amended to harmonize them with the provisions of UNCRPD.

## ***Management Re-vamp***

- a) Creation of Separate Dept. of Disability Affairs at the Centre and separate Department or Directorate of Disability in the States

In order that disability issues get the required priority and attention, creation of a separate Deptt. Of Disability Affairs at Centre will be expedited and State Governments will also be requested to create a separate Department of Disability, or at least, a separate Directorate to deal with disability issues.

- b) Establishment of National & State Missions for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

### **Mission: Rationale & Features**

The machinery in Central and State Govts. For implementing disability related programmes is, at present, generally weak numerically, as well as in terms of professional capability. Delivery of disability related programmes is unlikely to improve materially unless the delivery system is suitably strengthened.

Mission Mode facilitates intensive and time-bound implementation of programmes, and generally has the following features:-

- ✓ Focused approach and outcome orientation
- ✓ Dedicated implementation mechanism & management structure
- ✓ Time-bound implementation and achievement of targets / goals
- ✓ Adequate allocation of resources together with autonomy and accountability
- ✓ Intensive monitoring and regular evaluation

- ✓ Bringing together all concerned organizations, agencies, partners, stakeholders and community at large.
- ✓ High visibility through awareness generation, media etc.
- ✓ Extensive use of technological inputs

Accordingly, National and State level Missions for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities are proposed to be established with full-time Mission Director and supporting staff, on the pattern of SSA, NRHM, JNNURM etc.

### **Mission: Role & Functions**

The National and State Missions will, at their respective level perform the following functions, vis-à-vis PwDs:-

- 1) Monitoring of progress of issue of Disability Certificates
- 2) Preparation and updating comprehensive location-wise database on PwDs.
- 3) PwD-wise identification of needs in terms of education, shelter, livelihood and other support needs.
- 4) Ensuring that the needs of every PwD are met, to the maximum extent possible through NPEPwD, other programmes of Central and State Govt. and those of Panchayats or Municipalities, as the case may be.
- 5) Ensuring access audit and provisions of accessibility in terms of public buildings, roads, facilities and services, by concerned Ministries / Departments, PSUs and other public institutions.
- 6) Preparation of Perspective Plan and Annual Action Plan for 4 & 5 above
- 7) Mobilization of resources – financial, manpower and others, for the implementation of Perspective Plan and Annual Action Plans.
- 8) Co-ordination and formulation of a convergence strategy with all the concerned agencies, e.g. Govt. Departments, Municipalities and Panchayats, Corporate Sector, NGOs, Disabled Persons Organizations, etc.
- 9) Media campaign and dissemination of information
- 10) Implementation of a comprehensive MIS

11) Evaluation & Social Audit

The National Mission will be initially set up for a period of 10 years, covering the XII and XIII Five Year Plans.

c) Management

At the national level, there will be a National Mission for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NMEPwD). Its General Body will be headed by the Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, and the Executive Committee (EC) by the Union Secretary for Disability Affairs. It will have a full-fledged Mission Directorate under a Director General.

Likewise, at the state level, there will be a State Mission for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SMEPwD) headed by the Chief Minister of the State, which will be a Registered Autonomous Society. The Chief Secretary or an Additional Chief Secretary nominated by him, will head the Executive Committee of the SMEPwD.

The SMEPwD will have a District & Block Coordinator in every District and Block respectively with suitable subordinate staff.

d) Mode of Implementation

All schemes and programmes under the Mission will be implemented in close partnership with Panchayats, Municipalities other Urban Local Bodies, NGOs and the community, and with active involvement of PwDs.

e) Funding

Central assistance and the State's contribution will be released to the SMEPwD for funding schemes and programmes. Special funding for all the 8 North-Eastern States will be on more liberal pattern.

***Role of State Department dealing with disability vis-à-vis the State Mission***

The State Mission will function in close coordination with the State Govt. and the State Directorate. The State Govt. and the Directorate will continue to have the overall administrative, regulatory and policy making role in the State. On

the other hand, SMEPwD will be responsible for integrating and well coordinated implementation of various programmes and schemes for PwDs.

State Disability Resource Centres (SDRCs) will provide technical resource support to the State Mission. Similarly, DDRCs will extend technical resource support to the District Coordinators. In States, where Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), already exists, these will be converted into SDRCs. In other States new SDRCs will be as part of the SMEPwD.

## 10. Targets

### *Education*

- i) Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
- ii) Elementary Education
- iii) Secondary Education
- iv) Higher and Technical Education
- v) Literacy
- vi) Research and Development on personal assistive devices
- vii) General
  - Special provisions for CwDs in ICDS programme
  - Inclusive Education of Children with Disabilities under SSA
  - Inclusive Education for this Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) & Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
  - Residential Special Schools for students with severe and multiple disabilities, in Districts not having Special Schools
  - Hostels for existing Govt. special schools not having hostels and augmentation of seats in existing hostels of Govt. Special Schools
  - Making existing general Govt. Hostels accessible for students with disabilities
  - Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme for students with disabilities
  - Post-Matric Scholarship scheme for students with disabilities
  - Scholarship for “Top class” education for students with disabilities studying in premier higher education institutes (like IIT, IIM, NIT, etc.)

- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship
- National Overseas Scholarship for PwDs
- Free Coaching for students with disabilities
- Support for Establishment / Modernization / capacity augmentation of Braille Presses
- Establishment of a College for Deaf in each of the five regions
- Establishment of National Accessible Library

### ***Sports Games & Recreation***

- Establishment of National Sports Academy for Persons with Disability

### ***Health & Social Security***

- i) Early Detection & Rehabilitation Unit for CwDs in Obstetrics Department of Medical Colleges and in District Hospitals
- ii) Health Insurance for persons with disabilities under RSBY
- iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension to cover all BPL persons with Disabilities, and increase in pension amount

### ***Training, Skill Development & Employment***

- Training & Development of Modular Employable Skills of Persons with Disabilities under Skill Development Initiative Scheme (SDIS)
- Entrepreneurship Development Programme for PwDs
- Establishment of Micro-Enterprise Incubation Centres for PwDs
- NHFDC
  - i. Equity Support to NHFDC
  - ii. Back-end subsidy for Loan given by NHFDC
  - iii. Interest subsidy to make education loan interest free
  - iv. Grant for skill development training
  - v. Reimbursement of guarantee fee and service charge under the credit guarantee support programme of MSME
- Subsidy on Loan for Education / Self-Employment taken from sources other than NHFDC

- Incentives for employing Persons with Disabilities in private sector
- Grant to ARUNIM for supporting its marketing activities
- National Employment Portal for PwDs

### ***Rehabilitation & Independent Living***

- i) Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)
- ii) Supply of subsidized Aids & Appliances to PwDs (below a certain income level)
- iii) New Model Vocational Rehabilitation Centres
- iv) Rehabilitation Centres for treated mentally ill persons
- v) Model multi-disability independent living centre
- vi) Modernization of ALIMCO
- vii) Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) & State Spinal Injuries Centre

### ***Human Resource Development***

- Appropriate human resource development to address all sectoral issues keeping in mind the specificity of the PwD categories.

### ***National Institutes, SDRCs & DDRCs***

- Up-gradation of National Institutes into Centre of Excellence
- Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre
- Establishment of 5 Regional Centres of ISLRTC
- National Institute for Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHH)
- National Centre of Universal Design & Barrier Free Environment (NCUDBE)
- National Captioning Centre
- Establishment of State Disability Resource Centres (SDRCs), including Sambhav Resource Centres
- District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)
- Apex Organizations on Disabilities
  - i. Strengthening of Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

- ii. Strengthening of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- iii. Increase in Corpus of the National Trust

### ***Disability Certification***

- Ensure timely and hazard free issue of disability certificate to all PwDs requiring certification.

### ***Accessibility and Inclusion***

- Making Public Places, Institutes and Organizations accessible
- Making Govt. / Semi-Govt. Websites accessible
- Preparation of Comprehensive Disability Data Base & on-line National Depository
- Research and Development on disability related technology products and issues
- Deliver Processes and Mechanism
  - i. Establishment of National & State Missions & District Coordinators
  - ii. Internal Disability Advisors / Disability Units or Cells in different Ministries / Departments / Apex Govt. organizations / UGC / AICTE
  - iii. Awareness Generation & Publicity
  - iv. Training of Care Givers
  - v. In-Service Training & Sensitization of key functionaries of Central & State Govts., Local Bodies and Other Service Providers
  - vi. Outlay under all Ministries for schemes and programmes not specified above

## **11. Conclusion**

People with disabilities are as such amongst the poorest and invisible groups. It is also a well-known fact that the disabled or physically/mentally challenged often have limited access to education, employment and public services. Some barriers to their inclusion are physical, such as inaccessible buildings or transport, others may be institutional such as discriminatory practices and still others may be

attitudinal such as the stigma and bias. In order that PwDs are able to earn livelihood and lead a life of dignity; in order that PwDs contribute to the economy and become respected citizens; in order that PwDs can avail of their basic human rights; just a good -will is not enough; but a rights-based scientific approach is required. The XII<sup>th</sup> Plan ambitiously endeavors to fulfill this gap with pragmatic approach in implementation, monitoring and accountability with better access and no or minimal barriers coupled with non discriminatory and positive attitudes leading towards creating an inclusive society that will benefit not only the PwDs but society at large.

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