

1. **Facility to handicapped Persons for Train Reservation**

- i) Separate counters are earmarked at various Passenger Reservation System(PRS) centres for dealing with the reservation requisitions received from Physically handicapped persons, Senior Citizens, Ex. MPs, MLAs, accredited journalists and freedom fighters, if the average demand per shift not less than 120 tickets. In case there is no justification for earmarking of an exclusive counter for any of these categories of persons including handicapped persons, one or two counters depending upon the total demand are earmarked for dealing with the reservation requests for all these categories of persons.
- ii) A reservation quota of two sleeper class berths has been earmarked in all trains running on non-suburban sections for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The person accompanying the handicapped person as escort is also allotted the berth out of this quota.
- iii) In sub-urban trains, separate accommodation for handicapped persons has been earmarked.
- iv) The Following instructions have been issued for convenience of handicapped persons:-
  - (a) Instructions have been issued that on trains where SLRD coaches have been provided in the trains' composition, the SLRD may be defined in the PRS system for booking of berths by handicapped persons and their escort travelling on handicapped concessional ticket. In these trains the existing handicapped quota of two sleeper class berths (lower berth for handicapped person and upper berth for their escort shall be withdrawn and merged with the general reservation quota.
  - (b) Instructions also exist that in the tickets issued through Computerized Passenger Reservation System, to extent feasible, one lower berth should be allotted to the handicapped person and the person accompanying the handicapped person as escort should be allotted middle/upper berths near the handicapped person subject to availability of accommodation.
  - (c) After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train, and if any physically handicapped person booked on the authority of handicapped concessional ticket, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the Conductor/Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) has been authorized to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

.....2/-

**2. Additional Facility**

- (a) For the convenience of the physically challenged persons, facilities like Wheel Chairs have been provided at all important stations on the Indian Railways.
- (b) In allotment of STD/PCO booths operated from the Railway Stations, 25% booths have been reserved for physically handicapped persons(including blind disability 40% and above).

**3. CONCESSION IN FARES**

- (i) As per Railway rules, concession in fares is admissible to four categories of disabled persons, and that too in extreme cases. The names of these four categories, and the element concession admissible, are as under:-

CATEGORY OF PERSONS	ELEMENT OF CONCESSION		
	SINGLE JOURNEY TICKETS	SEASON TICKETS	
		I CLASS	II CLASS
1. Orthopedically Handicapped/Paraplegic persons who cannot travel without an escort.	75% in Second, Sleeper, First, AC Chair Car & AC 3-tier and 50% in AC 2-tier and AC First Classes	50%	50%
2. Mentally retarded persons who cannot travel without an escort.	75% in Second, Sleeper, First, AC Chair Car & AC 3-tier and 50% in AC 2-tier and AC First Classes	50%	50%
3. Completely Blind persons travelling alone or with an escort.	75% in Second, Sleeper, First, AC Chair Car & AC 3-tier and 50% in AC 2-tier and AC First Classes	50%	50%
4. Totally Deaf & Dumb persons (both afflictions together in the same person) travelling alone or with an escort.	50% in Second, Sleeper, First Classes	50%	50%

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R. D. B  
22/11/09

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (Bharat Sarkar)**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Rail Mantralya)**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD)**

\*\*\*\*

No. 2009/TG-I/20/P/handicapped

New Delhi, dated: 14 .09.2009

Chief Commercial Managers,  
All Zonal Railways.

**(Commercial Circular No. 45 of 2009)**

**Sub: Travelling of handicapped persons in the compartments  
earmarked for them in Garib Rath trains**

.....

Instructions were issued vide this office letter No.2006/TG-1/20/handicapped dated 01.12.2008(Commercial Circular No. 63 of 2008), wherein it has been advised that SLRD coaches should be treated as reserved till preparation of charts for booking by handicapped persons travelling on concession and at the time of preparation of charts, the berths which have not been booked will be kept vacant for use by roadside handicapped unreserved passengers. Since Garib Rath trains are fully reserved trains, the logic of keeping the unutilized accommodation in handicapped coaches vacant after preparation of charts needs to be reviewed.

2. Queries are also being received seeking clarification as to when concession is not allowed to handicapped persons in Garib Rath trains which are having subsidized fare structure, how handicapped persons will book tickets in these trains. On telephonic enquiry, it was found that different Railways are adopting different practice on this account.

3. The matter has been examined and it has been decided as under:-

- i) Whenever any handicapped person desires to book ticket in the coach earmarked for handicapped persons in Garib Rath trains, he/she will be required to produce an attested photocopy of the concession certificate along with the requisition and book the accommodation on payment of full fare of 3AC class of Garib Rath Express train. However, the original concession certificate should be carried by the passengers for verification.

- 2/-

- ii) The unutilised accommodation in the coaches earmarked for handicapped persons in Garib Rath Express trains should be released to RAC/waitlisted passengers at the time of preparation of charts.

Necessary instructions may be issued to all concerned.

This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways.

  
(Chandralekha Mukherjee)

Executive Director Passenger Marketing  
Railway Board.

No.2009/TG-1/20/P/handicapped

New Delhi, dated: 14.09.2009

**Copy to:**

FA & CAO, All Zonal Railways  
Director(Audit), All Zonal Railways  
EDF(C), DF(C), F(C)Branch



**For financial Commissioner/Railways**

**Copy to:**

1. CCM(PS)s & CCM(PM)s of all Zonal Railways.
2. EDV(T), Addl.DG/PR, EDFC & V(SS), Railway Board.
3. Director/PRS, CRIS, Chanakypuri, New Delhi.
4. Director General, Professor/Training & Professor/Comml., Railway Staff College, Vadodara.
5. Managing Director/Konkan Railway Corporation Limited.
6. Managing Director, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400020
7. The Director, IRICEN/Pune, IRIEEN/Nasik Road, IRIMEE/Jamalpur, IRISSET/Secunderabad
8. General Secretary, National Federation of Indian Railwaymen(NFIR), 3 Chelmsford Road, New Delhi.
9. General Secretary, All India Railwaymen Federation(AIRF), 4, State Entry Road, New Delhi.
10. Secretary General, Federation of Railway Officers Association(FROA), Room No. 265-A, Railway Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. Secretary General, Indian Railway Promotee Officers Federation(IRPOF), Room No. 268, Rail Bhawan, new Delhi.
12. General Secretary, All India RPF Association, New Delhi.

**Government of India (Bharat Sarkar)**  
**Ministry of Railways (Rail Mantralaya)**  
**(Railway Board)**

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No. 2006/TG-I/20/ handicapped

New Delhi, dated: 11/12/2008

11/12/08

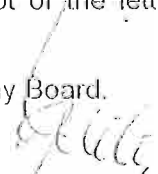
**Chief Commercial Managers,  
All Zonal Railways.**

**(COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR NO. 63 OF 2008)**

**Sub: Earmarking of seats/berths for physically handicapped persons in  
SLRD coaches.**

Please refer to this office letter of even No. dated 09.10.2006(Commercial Circular No. 74 of 2006) on the subject quoted above wherein it has been inter-alia advised that unutilized handicapped quota in the SLRD coaches should be released to the general passengers at the time of preparation of charts.

2. The matter has been reviewed and it has been decided as under:-
- i. SLRD coaches should be treated as reserved till preparation of charts and the handicapped persons booking on handicapped concession can reserve their seats/berths in this coach on first come first serve basis.
  - ii. At the time of preparation of charts, the berths which have not been booked will be kept vacant. As such, the extant practice of releasing vacant berths in SLRD coaches if any, to RAC/WL passengers will henceforth be discontinued. The vacant berths after preparation of charts will be available for road side handicapped unreserved passengers.
  - iii. The unreserved passengers boarding from road side stations will board these coaches on purchasing of second class ticket.
3. CRIS will make necessary modifications in the software and advise the date of effect to all Zonal Railways as well as this office.
4. Necessary instructions may issued to all concerned and receipt of the letter acknowledged.
5. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Directorate of Railway Board.

  
**(Rakesh Kumar Tandon)**  
**Executive Director Passenger Marketing**  
**Railway Board,**

No. 2006/TG-I/20/ handicapped

New Delhi, dated: 11/12/2008

Copy to:  
FA&CAO, All Zonal Railways  
Director(Audit), All Zonal Railways.  
EDF(C), DF(C), F(C) Branch.

for Finance Commissioner/Railways

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C.A.  
03/06

S: MK 2

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

**No. E(LL)2008/PDA/2**

**New Delhi, dated 3.6.2008**

**The General Manager,  
All Indian Railways & Pus,**

**Director General,  
R.D.S.O., Lucknow.**

**The Director,  
IRICEN, Rail Path, Pune. Pin-411001.  
IRICEN, P.B.No.-233, Nasik Road-42210  
IRISET, Taa Naka Road, Lalla Guda, secundrabad.  
IRIMEE, Jamalpur distt., Jamalpur 811214( Bihar)  
M.D. Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, August Kranti Bhawan,  
Bhikajikama Place, New Delhi.  
Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management,  
Saraswati, Residential Estate, IRITM Campus,  
Manak nager Lucknow.**

**Sub :- The Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities,  
Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act, 1995.**

**A copy each of National Polcy for Persons With Disabilities and United Nation  
Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Is sent herewith for  
Information and necessary action.**

DA: As enclosed

  
( Chhotelal )  
Deputy Director, Estt.(LL)

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# National Policy For Persons with Disabilities

## Introduction

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. In the recent years, there have been vast and positive changes in the perception of the society towards persons with disabilities. It has been realized 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.

2. According to the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in India who constitute 2.13 percent of the total population. This includes persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotor and mental disabilities. Seventy five per cent of persons with disabilities live in rural areas, 49 per cent of disabled population is literate and only 34 percent are employed. The earlier emphasis on medical rehabilitation has now been replaced by an emphasis on social rehabilitation. There has been an

increasing recognition of abilities of persons with disabilities and emphasis on mainstreaming them in the society based on their capabilities. The Government of India has enacted three legislations for persons with disabilities viz.

- (i) Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, which provides for education, employment, creation of barrier free environment, social security, etc.
- (ii) National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999 has provisions for legal guardianship of the four categories and creation of enabling environment for as much independent living as possible.
- (iii) Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 deals with the development of manpower for providing rehabilitation services.



मीरा कुमार  
MEIRA KUMAR



सामाजिक न्याय और  
अधिकारिता मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-११०००१  
MINISTER OF SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110001  
10 February, 2006

## FOREWORD

I feel honoured to release the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities. The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. In the recent years, there have been vast and positive changes in the perception of the society towards persons with disabilities. Majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

2. The policies of the Government of India towards the welfare of persons with disabilities have been reflected in the enactments, schemes and through Institutions established for development of manpower for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. However, the need for a comprehensive document on National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was being felt for quite some time.

3. I wish to convey my sincere thanks to my colleagues and officers in the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, experts in the field of disability and Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in welfare of persons with disabilities who have contributed extensively by providing their valuable suggestions in bringing out the National Policy Document.

4. I hope that all concerned Government, Non-Governmental Organisations and experts would take necessary steps in implementation of the Policy to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

  
Meira Kumar (Smt.)



3. In addition to the legal framework, extensive infrastructure has been developed. The following seven national Institutes are working for development of manpower in different areas, namely-

- Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
- National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
- National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata
- National Institute for Mentally Handicapped; Secunderabad.
- National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai
- National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Cuttack.
- National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai.

4. There are five Composite Rehabilitation Centres, four Regional Rehabilitation Centres and 120 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) providing various kinds of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. There are also several national institutions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare working in the field of rehabilitation, like National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro

Sciences, Bangalore; All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Mumbai; All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore; Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, etc. In addition, certain State Government institutions also provide rehabilitation services. Besides, 250 private institutions conduct training courses for rehabilitation professionals.

5. National Handicapped and Financial Development Corporation (NHFD) has been providing loans on concessional terms for undertaking self-employment ventures by the persons with disabilities through State Channelizing Agencies.

6. Panchayati Raj Institutions at Village level, Intermediary level and District level have been entrusted with the welfare of persons with disabilities.

7. India is a signatory to the Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific Region. India is also a signatory to the Biwako Millennium Framework for action towards an inclusive, barrier free and rights based society. India is currently participating in the negotiations on the UN Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.



## National Policy Statement

8. The National Policy recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are 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. The focus of the policy shall be on the following:

### I. Prevention of Disabilities

9. Since disability, in a large number of cases, is preventable, there will be strong emphasis on prevention of disabilities. Programme for prevention of diseases, which result in disability and the creation of awareness regarding measures to be taken for prevention of disabilities during the period of pregnancy and thereafter will be intensified and their coverage expanded.

### II. Rehabilitation Measures

10. Rehabilitation measures can be classified into three distinct groups: (i) physical rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counseling & medical interventions and provision of aids & appliances. It will also include the development of rehabilitation professionals. (ii) educational rehabilitation including vocational education and (iii) economic rehabilitation for a dignified life in society.

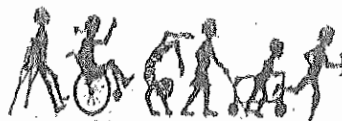
### IIA. Physical Rehabilitation Strategies

#### (a) *Early Detection and Intervention*

11. Early detection of disability and intervention through drug or non-drug therapies helps in minimization of impact of disability. Therefore, there will be emphasis on early detection and early intervention, and necessary facilities will be created towards this end. Government will take measures to disseminate information regarding availability of such facilities to the people especially in rural areas.

#### (b) *Counseling & Medical Rehabilitation*

12. Physical rehabilitation measures including counseling, strengthening capacities of persons with disabilities and their families, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychotherapy, surgical correction and intervention, vision assessment, vision stimulation, speech therapy, audiological rehabilitation and special education shall be extended to cover all the districts in the country by active involvement and participation of State Governments, local level institutions, NGOs including associations of parents and persons with disabilities.



13. Currently, rehabilitation services are largely available in and around urban areas. Since seventy five percent persons with disabilities live in rural areas, the services run by professionals will be extended to cover uncovered and un-served areas. Privately owned rehabilitation service centres shall be regulated for maintenance of minimum standards which shall be laid down.

14. To expand coverage in rural and unserved areas, new District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) will be set up with support from the State Government.

15. The National Rural Health Mission through Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) addresses the health needs of rural population, especially the vulnerable sections of society. The ASHA inter-alia will take care of the comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities at the grass root level.

**(c) Assistive Devices**

16. The Government of India has been assisting persons with disabilities in procuring durable and scientifically manufactured, modern aids and appliances of ISI standard that can promote their physical, social and psychological independence by reducing the effect of disabilities.

17. Every year through National Institutes, State Governments, DDRCs and NGOs, persons with disabilities are provided with devices such as prostheses and orthoses, tricycles, wheel chair, surgical footwear and devices for activities of daily

living, learning equipments (Braille writing equipments, Dictaphone, CD player/ tape recorder), low vision aids, special mobility aids like canes for blind, hearing aids, educational kits, communication aids, assistive & alerting devices and devices suitable for the persons with mental disabilities. The availability of devices will be expanded to cover uncovered and under-served areas.

18. Private, public and joint sector enterprises involved in the manufacture of high tech assistive devices for persons with disabilities will be provided financial support by the public sector banks.

**(d) Development of Rehabilitation Professionals**

19. Human resource requirements for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities will be assessed and development plan will be prepared so that the rehabilitation strategies do not suffer from lack of manpower.

**II B Education for Persons with Disabilities**

20. Education is the most effective vehicle of social and economic empowerment. In keeping with the spirit of the Article 21A of the Constitution guaranteeing education as a fundamental right and Section 26 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, free and compulsory education has to be provided to all children with disabilities up to the minimum age of 18 years. According to the Census, 2001



fifty-one percent persons with disabilities are illiterate. This is a very large percentage. There is a need for mainstreaming of the persons with disabilities in the general education system through Inclusive education.

21. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched by the Government has the goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children including children with disabilities in the age group of 6-14 years by 2010. Children with disabilities in the age group of 15-18 years are provided free education under Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) Scheme.

22. Under SSA, a continuum of educational options, learning aids and tools, mobility assistance, support services etc. are being made available to students with disabilities. This includes education through an open learning system and open schools, alternative schooling, distance education, special schools, wherever necessary home based education, itinerant teacher model, remedial teaching, part time classes, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and vocational education.

23. IEDC Scheme implemented through the State Governments, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organizations provides hundred percent financial assistance for various facilities like special teachers, books and stationery, uniform, transport, readers allowance for the visually handicapped, hostel allowance, equipment

cost, removal/ modification of architectural barriers, financial assistance for purchase/ production of instructional material, training of general teachers and equipment for resource rooms.

24. There will be concerted effort on the part of the Government to improve identification of children with disabilities through regular surveys, their enrollment in appropriate schools and their continuation till they successfully complete their education. The Government will endeavor to provide right kind of learning material and books to the children with disabilities, suitably trained and sensitized teachers and schools which are accessible and disabled friendly.

25. The Government of India is providing scholarships to students with disabilities for pursuing studies at post school level. Government will continue to support the scholarships and expand its coverage.

26. Facilities for technical and vocational education designed to inculcate and bolster skill development suited to various types of productive activities by adaptation of the existing institutes or accelerated setting up of institutes in un-served/underserved area will be encouraged. NGOs will also be encouraged to provide vocational training.

27. Persons with disabilities will be provided access to the Universities, technical institutions and other institutions of higher learning to pursue higher and professional courses.



## **II C Economic Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities**

28. Economic rehabilitation of Persons with disabilities comprise of both wage employment in organized sector and self-employment. Supporting structure of services by way of vocational rehabilitation centres and vocational training centres will be developed to ensure that disabled persons in both urban and rural areas have increased opportunities for productive and gainful employment. Strategies for economic empowerment of persons with disabilities would be the following-

### **(i) Employment in Government Establishments**

The PWD Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in employment in the establishments of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) against identified posts. The status of reservation for Government in various Ministries/ Departments against identified posts in Group A, B, C & D is 3.07%, 4.41%, 3.76% and 3.18% respectively. In PSUs, the reservation status in Group A, B, C & D is 2.78%, 8.54%, 5.04% and 6.75%, respectively. Government will ensure reservation in identified posts in the Government sector including public sector undertakings in accordance with the provisions of the PWD Act, 1995. The list of identified posts, which was notified in 2001, will be reviewed and updated.

### **(ii) Wage employment in Private sector**

Development of appropriate skills in persons with disabilities will be encouraged for their employability in private sector. Vocational rehabilitation and training Centres engaged in developing appropriate skills amongst persons with disabilities keeping in view their potential and abilities will be encouraged to expand their services. Considering rapid growth of employment opportunities in service sector, persons with disabilities will be encouraged to undertake skill training suitable to the market requirement. Pro-active measures like incentives, awards, tax exemptions etc. will be taken to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector.

### **(iii) Self-employment**

Considering slow pace of growth in employment opportunities in the organized sector, self-employment of persons with disabilities will be promoted. This will be done through vocational education and management training. Further, the existing system of providing loans at softer terms from the NHFDC will be improved to make it easily accessible with transparent and efficient procedures of processing. The Government will also encourage self-employment by providing incentives, tax concessions, exemptions from duties, preferential treatment for procurement of goods and services by the Government from



the enterprises of persons with disabilities, etc. Priority in financial support will be given to Self Help Groups formed by the persons with disabilities.

### III. Women with disabilities

29. According to Census-2001, there are 93.01 lakh women with disabilities, who constitute 42.46 percent of total disabled population. Women with disabilities require protection against exploitation and abuse. Special programmes will be developed for education, employment and providing of other rehabilitation services to women with disabilities keeping in view their special needs. Special educational and vocational training facilities will be setup. Programmes will be undertaken to rehabilitate abandoned disabled women/ girls by encouraging their adoption in families, support to house them and impart them training for gainful employment skills. The Government will encourage the projects where representation of women with disabilities is ensured at least to the extent of twenty five percent of total beneficiaries.

30. Steps shall be taken to provide short duration stay homes for women with disabilities, hostels for working disabled women, and homes for aged disabled women.

31. It has been noted that women with disabilities have serious difficulty in looking after their children. The Government will take

up a programme to provide financial support to women with disabilities so that they may hire services to look after their children. Such support will be limited to two children for a period not exceeding two years.

### IV Children with Disabilities

32. Children with disabilities are the most vulnerable group and need special attention. The Government would strive to: -

- (a) Ensure right to care, protection and security for children with disabilities;
- (b) Ensure the right to development with dignity and equality creating an enabling environment where children can exercise their rights, enjoy equal opportunities and full participation in accordance with various statutes.
- (c) Ensure inclusion and effective access to education, health, vocational training along with specialized rehabilitation services to children with disabilities; and
- (d) Ensure the right to development as well as recognition of special needs and of care, and protection of children with severe disabilities.

### V Barrier-free environment

33. Barrier-free environment enables people with disabilities to move about safely and freely, and use the facilities within the



built environment. The goal of barrier free design is to provide an environment that supports the independent functioning of individuals so that they can participate without assistance, in every day activities. Therefore, to the maximum extent possible, buildings/ places/ transportation systems for public use will be made barrier free.

#### **VI Issue of Disability Certificates**

34. The Government of India has notified guidelines for evaluation of the disabilities and procedure for certification. The Government will ensure that the persons with disabilities obtain the disability certificates without any difficulty in the shortest possible time by adoption of simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures.

#### **VII Social Security**

35. Disabled persons, their families and care givers incur substantial additional expenditure for facilitating activities of daily living, medical care, transportation, assistive devices, etc. Therefore, there is a need to provide them social security by various means. Central Government has been providing tax relief to persons with disabilities and their guardians. The State Governments/ U.T. Administrations have been providing unemployment allowance or disability pension. The State Governments will be encouraged to develop a comprehensive social security policy for persons with disabilities.

36. Parents of severely disabled persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities feel a sense of insecurity regarding the welfare of their wards after their death. National Trust for persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities has been providing assistance to arrange legal guardianship through Local Level Committees. They are also implementing the Supported Guardianship Scheme to provide financial security to persons with the above-mentioned severe disabilities who are destitute and abandoned, by supporting the cost of guardianship. This scheme, which is presently implemented in a few districts, shall be expanded to cover other areas in a phased manner.

#### **VIII Promotion of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

37. The National Policy recognizes the NGO sector as a very important institutional mechanism to provide affordable services to complement the endeavors of the Government. The NGO sector is a vibrant and growing one. It has played a significant role in the provisions of services for persons with disabilities. Some of the NGOs are also undertaking human resource development and research activities. Government has also been actively involving them in policy formulation, planning, implementation monitoring and has been seeking their advice on various issues relating to persons



with disabilities. Interaction with NGOs will be enhanced on various disability issues regarding planning, policy formulation and implementation. Networking, exchange of information and sharing of good practices amongst NGOs will be encouraged and facilitated. The following programmes will be undertaken:-

- (i) A Directory of NGOs working in the field of disability will be prepared properly mapping them by geographic regions along with their major activities. For NGOs supported by the Central/State Governments, their resource position, both financial and manpower will also be reported. Disabled persons organizations, family associations and advocacy groups of parents of disabled persons shall also be covered in the directory identifying them separately.
- (ii) There are regional/State imbalances in the development of the NGO movement. Steps will be taken to encourage and accord preference to NGOs working in the underserved and inaccessible areas. Reputed NGOs shall also be encouraged to take up projects in such areas.
- (iii) NGOs will be encouraged to develop and adopt minimum standards, codes of conduct and ethics.
- (iv) NGOs will be provided opportunities for orientation and training of their

human resource. Training in management skill which is already being provided, will be strengthened. Transparency, accountability, procedural simplification etc. will be guiding factors for improvement in the NGO-Government partnership.

- (v) NGOs shall be encouraged to mobilize their own resources to reduce the dependence on grants-in-aid from the Government and also to improve the availability of funds in the sector. Tapering of assistance in a schematic manner will also be considered so that the number of NGOs to be helped within the available resources could be maximized. Towards this end, NGOs will be trained in resource mobilization.

#### **IX Collection of regular information on Persons with Disabilities**

38. There is a need for regular collection, compilation and analysis of data relating to socio-economic conditions of persons with disabilities. The National Sample Survey Organization has been collecting information on Socio-economic conditions of persons with disabilities on regular basis once in ten years since 1981. The Census has also started collection of information on persons with disabilities from the Census-2001. The National Sample Survey Organization will have to collect the information on persons with disabilities at least once in five years. The differences in





the definitions adopted by the two agencies will be reconciled.

39. A comprehensive web site for persons with disability will be created under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Organizations both in public and private sector will be encouraged to make their web sites accessible to the visually impaired using Screen Reading Technologies.

#### **X Research**

40. For improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities, research will be supported on their socio-economic and cultural context, cause of disabilities, early childhood education methodologies, development of user-friendly aids and appliances and all matters connected with disabilities which will significantly alter the quality of their life and civil society's ability to respond to their concerns. Wherever persons with disabilities are subjected to research interventions, their or their family member or caregiver's consent is mandatory.

#### **XI Sports, Recreation and Cultural life**

41. The contribution of sports for its therapeutic and community spirit is undeniable. Persons with disabilities have right to access sports, recreation and cultural facilities. The Government will take necessary steps to provide them opportunity for participation in various sports, recreation and cultural activities.

#### **XII Amendments to existing Acts dealing with the Persons with Disabilities**

42. Ten years have passed since the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 came into operation. With the experience gained in the implementation of the Act and developments in the disability sector, certain amendments to the Act have become necessary. These amendments will be carried out in consultation with the stakeholders. RCI and National Trust Acts will also be reviewed and if necessary, required amendments would be made.

#### **Principal Areas of Intervention**

##### **I Prevention, Early Detection and Intervention**

43. In order to ensure prevention and early detection of disabilities, the following action will be taken:

- (i) National, regional and local programmes of immunization (for children as well as expectant mothers), public health and sanitation will be expanded.
- (ii) Medical and para-medical personnel will be adequately trained and equipped for early detection of disability amongst children.
- (iii) Training modules and facilities in disability prevention, early detection



and intervention will be developed for medical and para medical health functionaries and Anganwadi workers.

- (iv) Training programmes of postgraduate, undergraduate degree and diploma in medical education will include modules on disability prevention, early detection and interventions.
- (v) Disability specific manuals for families having persons with disabilities will also be developed and provided free of cost.
- (vi) Human resource development institutions will ensure that the personnel needed to provide support services such as special education, clinical psychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, audiology, speech pathology, vocational counseling & training and social work are available in adequate numbers.
- (vii) The latest research findings in the field of genetics will be utilized appropriately to minimize congenital disability including mental illness.
- (viii) Appropriate plan of action for limiting effects of disability and prevention of secondary disabilities within the existing health delivery system will be evolved.
- (ix) Attention will be paid towards improving awareness of nutrition,

health care and sanitation amongst adolescent girls, expectant mothers and women in the reproductive period. Awareness programmes for prevention will be built in at the school level and at the level of teacher's training courses.

- (x) Programmes will be undertaken for screening of children to identify at risk cases.

## II Programmes of Rehabilitation

44. Medical, educational and social rehabilitation programmes will be developed with the assistance of medical and rehabilitation professionals and with the participation of persons with disabilities, their families, legal guardians and communities. Convergence of Government programmes will be ensured and the following specific measures will be taken:

- (i) State level centres for providing composite rehabilitation services including human resource development, research and long term specialized rehabilitation will be set up.
- (ii) Community based Rehabilitation programmes shall be encouraged. Self help groups of persons with disabilities and their family members/ caregivers shall be effectively involved in the process of rehabilitation.



- (iii) Setting up of mental health care homes for severely mental ill persons will be encouraged under district level Panchayati Raj institution with the involvement of NGOs. Alternatively, family support groups will be encouraged to setup Custodial Care Institutions for persons with mental disabilities without community and / or family support.
- (iv) Measures will also be taken to setup residential rehabilitation centres for providing vocational and social skills training for persons with mental disabilities.

### III Human Resource Development

45. The manpower will be developed in the following areas -

- (i) Training of primary level workers both in health care and in community development comprising of Anganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurses (Midwives) etc.
- (ii) Support for training and orientation of personnel of Government and NGOs providing services.
- (iii) Training and sensitization of community decision makers such as members of Panchayats, head of families etc.
- (iv) Training and orientation of family members as caregivers.

46. Human resources will be trained to meet the requirement of education for children with disabilities under inclusive education, special education, home-based education, pre-school education etc. The following training programmes of different specialization and levels shall be developed:

- (i) Training modules for teachers for inclusive education.
- (ii) Diploma, degree and high level programmes in special education
- (iii) Training of caregivers for home-based education and care services for disabled adults/ senior citizens etc.

47. Rehabilitation Council of India shall be the nodal agency for preparation of plans for training of rehabilitation personnel. The role of the National Institutes in disability specific training will be clearly spelt out and a five-year Plan of Action will be drawn up.

### IV Education of Persons with Disabilities

48. It will be ensured that every child with disability has access to appropriate pre-school, primary and secondary level education by 2020. Special care will be taken to -

- (i) Make schools (building, approaches, toilets, playgrounds, laboratories, libraries etc.) barrier free and accessible for all types of disability.



- (ii) Medium and method of teaching will be suitably adapted to the requirements of most disability conditions.
- (iii) Technical/ supplementary/ specialized system of teaching/ learning will be made available within the school or at a common center easily accessible to a cluster of schools.
- (iv) Teaching/learning tools and aids such as educational toys, Braille/ talking books, appropriate software etc. will be made available. Incentives will be given to expand facilities for setting up of general libraries, e-libraries, Braille-libraries and talking books libraries, resource rooms etc.
- (v) National Open School and distance learning programmes will be popularized and extended to other parts in the country.
- (vi) Sign language, Alternative and Augmentative Communications (AAC) and other modes as a viable medium in inter personal communication will be recognized, standardized and popularized.
- (vii) Schools will be located within easy traveling distance. Alternatively, viable travel arrangements will be made with the assistance of the community, State and NGOs.
- (viii) Parent-Teacher counseling and grievance redressal system will be set up in the schools.
- (ix) There will be separate mechanism to review annually the intake and retention of the girl child with disability at primary, secondary and higher levels of education.
- (x) Many children with disabilities, who cannot join inclusive education system, would continue to get educational services from special schools. Special schools shall be appropriately re-modeled and re-oriented based on technological development. These schools will also help prepare children with disabilities to join mainstream inclusive education.
- (xi) In some cases due to the nature of disability (its type and degree), personal circumstances and preferences, home-based education will be provided.
- (xii) Course curriculum and evaluation system for children with various disabilities shall be developed keeping in view their capabilities. Examination system will be modified to make it disabled friendly by exemptions such as learning mathematics, learning only one language, etc. Further, facilities like extra time, use of calculators, use of



- Clarke's tables, scribes etc would be provided based on the requirement.
- (xiii) Model Schools of Inclusive Education will be set up in each State/ U.T to promote education of persons with disabilities.
- (xiv) In the era of knowledge society, computers play very important role. Efforts will be made so that every child with disability gets suitably exposed to the use of computers.
- (xv) Children with disabilities upto the age of 6 years will be identified and necessary interventions made so that they are capable of joining inclusive education.
- (xvi) Educational facilities will be provided in psychosocial rehabilitation centres for mentally ill persons.
- (xvii) Many schools discourage enrollment of students on account of their disability due to lack of awareness about the capabilities of disabled persons. Programmes will be taken for sensitization of teachers, principals and other staff members in all schools.
- (xviii) Special Schools presently being supported by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment will incrementally become resource centres for inclusive education. Ministry of Human Resource Development shall open new special schools depending upon the requirement.
- (xix) Adult learning/ leisure centers for adults with severe learning difficulties will be promoted.
- (xx) Three percent reservation for persons with disabilities in admission to higher educational institutions shall be enforced. Universities, colleges and professional institutions will be provided financial support to establish Disability Center to take care of educational needs of students with disabilities. They will also be encouraged to make classrooms, hostels, cafeterias and other facilities in the campus accessible to students with disabilities.
- (xxi) Include a module in induction and in-service training programmes of teachers on issues relating to management of children with disabilities
49. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will be the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to the education of persons with disabilities.

