

Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) as 'Skill Development Component' of umbrella PMKVY to skill one crore people over the four years (2016-2020) with an outlay of ₹12,000 crore. The Scheme will be completely aligned to the Common Norms as notified with the approval of Cabinet on 15th July, 2015, and amended from time to time. Also, the Common Norms provide for incentives in the form of reimbursement of conveyance costs to Special Groups which includes Women and Persons with Disabilities (PwD). Further, the scheme also provides for boarding and lodging of candidates from 'North East States, Left Wing Extremism affected districts, Persons with Disabilities and others in accordance with the Common Norms guidelines.

To reach out to the candidates, training centres have been mandated to conduct mobilization through Kaushal Shivirs (mobilization camps) which are part of the PMKVY 2016-20, with financial incentives. Alternatively, candidates can reach out to NSDC call centre or visit website to get the information about the training providers in various localities. In the field, Hon'ble Members of Parliament are involved in mobilization, monitoring and post training placement of trainees as far as feasible.

#### **Enhancement in rate of post matric scholarship**

2101. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enhance the present rate of scholarship under post matric scholarship scheme given to Other Backward Classes (OBC) students;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance the rate of scholarship justified as per the current consumer price index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (c) The scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs was last revised in 2011-12, *inter-alia*, enhancing the rates of scholarship. Presently, there is no proposal to enhance the present rate of scholarship under post matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

#### **Increase in assistance to disabled persons for purchase of aids**

2102. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to further expand the coverage of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) scheme substantially; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) No, Sir. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme has been revised with effect from 1.4.2014 i.e. two years back and as such revision of the scheme is not due. Salient features of the revised scheme is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) Subsequent to revision of the Scheme, due to various initiatives taken by the Ministry as mentioned above, the Scheme has large spread over the country and coverage of beneficiaries has increased. Special emphasis has been given to North Eastern States.

In order to reach the benefits of the ADIP Scheme to maximum number of Divyangjan, aids and assistive devices are distributed through Camp Activities/ Headquarter Activities and ADIP- Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Consequent upon revision of ADIP Scheme during the last two years and the current year (up to 29.7.2016), 4508 camps have been held covering 492755 beneficiaries at the cost of 291.63 crore. During the period, 134 special camps were held on the requests of Hon'ble Members of Parliament/other dignitaries which benefitted 131277 Divyangjans at a cost of ₹ 107.64 crore.

Under ADIP-SSA, during the last two years and the current year (up to 29.7.2016), 2639 camps have been held wherein aids and assistive devices were provided to 175538 Children With Special Needs (CWSN) at a cost of 104.40 crore.

The Ministry has notified various high-end aids and assistive devices for Visually impaired, Leprosy Affected, Hearing Impaired, Kits for persons with Intellectual & Developmental disabilities and Orthopedically Impaired. The revised Scheme is more flexible and there is a provision that list of assistive devices may be revised periodically by the Ministry taking into consideration the technological developments in the field of aids and assistive devices for Divyangjan.

So far, 1697 motorized tricycle have been distributed at a cost of ₹6.28 crore to eligible Divyangjan including students and daily wage earners.

For cochlear implant surgery under the revised Scheme, the Ministry has empanelled 140 hospitals (both Government and Private) throughout the country. So far, 424 for cochlear implant surgeries have been successfully carried out across the country. The first child was operated in December, 2014.

After revision of the Scheme, the following initiatives have been taken for transparency, simplification of procedures and timely delivery of services:

- Online submission and processing of proposals of NGOs for availing grants-in-aid under ADIP Scheme.
- implementing Agency should maintain a website and upload details of grants received, utilized and list of beneficiaries along with their photo and Ration Card Number/Aadhar Card/Voter Identity Number in the website of the Agency.
- The sample checking of beneficiaries would cover at least 15% (in case of grants-in-aid up to ₹ 10.00 lakh) and 10% (in case of grant-in-aid exceeding ₹ 10.00 lakh).

#### *Statement*

The salient features of the revised Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme are:

- (i) Enhancement of income eligibility ceiling for 100% concession from the existing ₹ 6,500/- per month to ₹ 15,000/- per month and for 50% concession from ₹ 15001/- to ₹ 20,000/- per month.
- (ii) To provide accessible mobile phone to visually impaired students of the age of 18 years and above only, once in five years and to provide laptop, Braille Note Taker and Brailier to school going disabled students (10th and above), once in 10 years.
- (iii) Cost ceiling for aids/appliances revised from ₹ 6000/- to ₹ 10,000/- for single disability and from ₹ 8,000/- to ₹ 12,000/- for Students with Disabilities.
- (iv) Ceiling of cost of medical/surgical correction which presently ranges from ₹ 500/-to ₹ 3,000/- revised as under:-

- (1) From ₹500/- to ₹ 1,000/- for hearing and speech impaired.
- (2) From ₹ 1,000/- to ₹2,000/- for visually disabled.
- (3) From ₹3,000/- to ₹5,000/- for orthopedically disabled.\*

\* Revised from ₹5000/- to ₹ 10,000/- with effect from 18.07.2016.

- (v) Enhancing the extent of subsidy for motorized tricycles and wheelchairs from the present ₹ 6,000/- to ₹ 25,000/- for severely disabled and for locomotor disabilities such as Quadriplegic (SCI), Muscular Dystrophy, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Hemiplegia and any other person with similar conditions where either three/four limbs or one half of the body are severely impaired. This will be provided to the persons of age of 16 years and above, once in 10 years.
- (vi) Provision for cochlear implant for 500 children per year with Hearing disability under the scheme, with a ceiling of ₹ 6.00 lakh per unit. Income ceiling for the beneficiaries will be the same i.e., up to ₹ 15,000/- per month for 100% concession and from ₹ 15001/- to ₹ 20,000/- per month for 50% concession.
- (vii) Implementing agencies shall use 5% of the grant-in-aid as administrative/overhead expenses for conducting awareness, assessment and follow-up camps.
- (viii) Sample checking of 15% of covered beneficiaries in case of grants-in-aid up to ₹ 10/ lakh and 10% in case of grants-in-aid exceeding ₹10/- lakh.
- (ix) Under revised scheme Expert Committee/Core Groups were constituted to list out high end devices for all types of impairments. Based on the recommendation of the Expert Committee/ Core Groups lists of high end devices for distribution under the scheme have been notified.
- (x) Procedure for release of grant-in-aid has been simplified. Earlier provisions for furnishing list of identified beneficiaries, estimated expenditure for distribution of aids/devices and calendar of activities with dates for holding the camps have been deleted as Implementing Agencies are required to incur expenditure as per guidelines of the Scheme.

- (xi) It has also been made mandatory that all Implementing Agencies on receipt of grants-in-aid, should upload list of beneficiaries alongwith the complete details of beneficiaries (Ration Card/Adhar Card/Voter Identity Card) in their respective websites.
- (xii) For effective implementation of the Scheme and to ensure transparency the Government has taken the initiative like online submission of proposals by NGOs for availing grants-in-aid.

#### **NGOs for the welfare of SC and ST in Kerala**

2103. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many NGOs are working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Kerala;
- (b) the details of activities undertaken by them;
- (c) the criteria for selecting such NGOs for financial assistance; and
- (d) the details of the mechanism to monitor and control such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) In the last three years seven NGOs have been getting financial assistance for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. However, the State Government of Kerala has not sent any proposals of NGOs as per norms for the welfare of Scheduled Castes during the under concurrent period.

(b) The details of activities undertaken by the NGOs for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Proposals for financial assistance to NGOs are considered on the basis of recommendations of the State Level Committee which Scrutinizes the proposals and the District Collectors inspection Report, subject to fulfilment of scheme guidelines and availability of funds under the scheme during the particular year.

- (d) Projects/Schemes/Programmes are monitored through:-
  - (i) Mandatory annual inspection by the District authorities.
  - (ii) Scrutiny of proposals by Multidisciplinary State Level Committee every year.