



CONTENTS

Preface	2
Executive Summary	3
Achievements at a glance	5

CHAPTERS

I Advocacy and Initiatives	6
II Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act by States/UTs and Central Ministries	15
III Redressal of Grievances	46
IV Monitoring Utilization of Funds	51
V Recommendations	52

APPENDICES

I Status of Formation of State Coordination Committees and State Executive Committees	53
II Summary of the Report of State Commissioners	55
III Financial Assistance to Persons with Disabilities	101
IV List of Special Employment Exchanges for Persons with Disabilities	105
V List of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Disabilities	108
VI List of Institutions for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities	109
VII Paper Clippings	111





PREFACE

The Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been actively involved in providing redressal to the grievances of persons with disabilities. As per the Act and the Government of India's commitment to create equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, the office has taken several new initiatives. While multi-faceted awareness programmes were launched, ten national workshops for promotion of inclusive education and implementation of reservation in employment were also organized. Interactive meetings were also held with the corporate sector to promote placement of persons with disabilities in industrial set up.

As mainstreaming can be effectively implemented through education and employment, our office had these as major thrust areas which are indicated in the report in detail.

One of the most critical Sections in the Persons with Disabilities Act deals with Employment. We felt it was essential to make known the skills of trained persons with disabilities to the outside world especially, the corporate sector. Towards this end, the Abilympics contest of vocational skills of persons with disabilities has grown into a major movement globally since its launch in Japan in 1981, the International Year

of Disabled. We were able to bring this movement to our country and, with the support of the Government, especially the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Human Resource Development and the Govt. of NCT, New Delhi, the 6th International Abilympics will be hosted by India from 23rd-29th November, 2003. Sub-Regional, Regional and National Abilympics were held over the last two years which helped in showcasing the exceptional talents and abilities of those who are usually not considered fit enough to hold jobs. To that extent, it is very fulfilling that National Abilympics inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister led to greater awareness, especially in the corporate sector and, most importantly, helped many persons with disabilities in getting jobs.

A lot of emphasis was laid during the year on creating accessibility in educational institutions, transport and public places. I am happy to report that understanding and sensitivity to this issue has spread significantly in different parts of the country.

Since working for the challenged is a challenge in itself, we need a very committed and dedicated band of people who work as partners in sustainable human development. Fortunately, I have a group of such people who are

constantly providing services above self to create quick opportunities and a new social order, where persons with disabilities can live with the same dignity as non-disabled citizens. My dedicated Dy. Chief Commissioner, Mr. T.D. Dhariyal and Desk Officers Mr. Subrata Hazra and Mr. Yogesh Sharma and all the rest of the members of the staff have contributed immensely in making all the endeavours to achieve the mission a big success. The cooperation and assistance of all the officials and other members of the staff in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been instrumental in effective performance of this office during the year. By the time this report is published, we would have shifted on directions of a Cabinet decision to our new office. We have been able to locate space in Sarojini House, 6, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi-110 001.

I am also grateful to my friends and colleagues who have helped in bringing out the Annual Report and Newsletters. I consider myself to be very fortunate, indeed, to have an opportunity to serve for equality and justice in our country.

Dr. Uma Tuli
Chief Commissioner (Disabilities)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurating the National Workshop organized by the office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at Ujjain in September, 2002.

People who are sensitive to their surroundings have been conscientiously feeling the need for a legislation that would not only protect persons with disabilities from discrimination by society at large but would also provide them a level playing field vis-a-vis their able bodied counterparts by affording them an opportunity for holistic development. To achieve this goal, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific convened a meeting at Beijing from 1st - 5th December, 1992 to launch the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons and adopted the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia and Pacific Region. India being a signatory to the said proclamation, enacted the land mark legislation namely, "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995", which came into effect in 1996. This was indeed a great initiative to empower persons with disabilities. This Act is perhaps the most

comprehensive piece of legislation for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities in the world. Subsequently, the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities became functional in August 1998.



Sh. C. Gopal Reddy, Secretary, inaugurating the 2nd National Meeting of the State Commissioners for Disabilities to review implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 at Vigyan Bhawan on February 19, 2003.

Enactment of the Act was an assurance to the Persons with Disabilities from the Government that they shall enjoy equal opportunities in all walks of life, live with dignity and will be empowered to become self reliant.

As most of the issues concerning prevention of disabilities, education, rehabilitation, employment are state subjects under the provisions of the Constitution of India, the Act provides for Commissioner, Disabilities in all the States/UTs for coordination amongst different Departments to implement the provisions of the Act and for redressal of grievances and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Since State Governments and local bodies have a vital role to play in the effective implementation of the Act, the Chief Commissioner took earnest initiatives to ensure that all the States/UTs appointed Commissioners with independent charge, wherever possible. This effort proved fruitful. Even Jammu and



Kashmir which was not covered by Persons With Disabilities Act 1995, has notified its own Act, Rules and Regulations to address the issues concerning Persons with Disabilities in that State.

The States/UTs have now been requested to declare District Magistrates/Collectors as Additional Commissioners/ Dy. Commissioners, Disabilities for ensuring better co-ordination and effective implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act.

Realising that persons with disabilities can be benefited only if they are aware about the privileges, facilities and rights available to them under the Act and the people responsible to provide the facilities are sensitized, the Office of the Chief Commissioner launched multi-pronged awareness programmes. These included extensive visits by the Chief Commissioner to States/UTs, organization of workshops, meetings, and conferences on issues necessary for equalizing opportunities to Persons with Disabilities.

In order that legislation and the rules bring about perceptible impact on the lives of Persons with Disabilities, CCPD's Office specially focused on creation of barrier-free environment, inclusive education and employment. The concerned authorities have been asked to launch time bound action plans to make public places accessible, promote inclusive education by ensuring that no child with disability is denied admission in regular schools and those

who are admitted get appropriate education and ensure filling up of minimum 3% vacancies including backlog in Govt. establishments.

Towards this, CCPD's Office organized five workshops on "Inclusive Education and Employment of Persons with Disabilities" in different parts of the country ensuring participation by Govt. officials and Voluntary Organisations from all the States/UTs.

A workshop to sensitise the senior officers of the Central Ministries about the potential of visually impaired persons through live demonstrations was organized in Delhi.

With a view that neighbouring countries could mutually benefit from the good practices in each others' countries, an

Inter-Country Meeting of the South East Asia Region in collaboration with WHO was organized in Delhi to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

As an alert sentinel and protector of the rights and privileges of Persons with Disabilities, this office, while discharging its quasi-judicial functions under the Act, disposed of 1409 cases out of 1797 received during the period covered under this report. This function of Chief Commissioner and the State Commissioners is of vital importance as it directly helps in protecting the Persons with Disabilities against injustice. It also acts as a powerful medium for creating awareness about the provisions of the Act and the responsibility of the concerned authorities for its implementation.



A visually impaired participant demonstrating his skills on the computer at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

- | Appointment of State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities in all the States and Union Territories. Annual National Meetings of State Commissioners are held every year to review implementation status of PWD (Persons with Disabilities) Act, 1995.
- | Constitution of State Coordination and State Executive Committees in 27 States.
- | 5 National Workshops on Barrier Free Environment wherein representatives from all the States and UTs were trained on Access Audit. Several buildings of public utility, collectorates, etc. have been made disabled friendly in many of the States and UTs.
- | 5 National workshops on Inclusive Education to promote inclusion of children with disability in regular schools. A large number of students have been included in regular schools in States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh.
- | 5 National workshops on Employment for economic independence of persons with disabilities. Corporate Sector and business houses are being motivated for placement and self-employment of the disabled.
- | An inter-country meeting of South-East Asia Region on promotion of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in collaboration with WHO was organized in Delhi.
- | Promotion of employment has also been done through co-ordination with National Abilympics Association of India during National Abilympics in November 2002.
- | Multi-purpose Camps for distribution of Disability Certificates, Bus Passes, Railway Concessions, Aids and Appliances and Redressal of Grievances through a single window system.
- | Constitution of Medical Boards in most of the districts of all the States and UTs.
- | Settlement of over 6,000 cases of grievances through the Court.
- | Publication of a Manual 'Planning a Barrier Free Environment' containing specifications to make buildings and facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.
- | Publication of 'New Horizon'-Quarterly Newsletter.
- | Publication of Posters on Disability Act for circulation in all the States/UTs.
- | Launching of a website to create awareness about Disability Act and Redressal of cases of various grievances.



CHAPTER - I

ADVOCACY AND INITIATIVES

The following was the Plan of Action of the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for the year April 2002-March 2003 for implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

Action Plan

Proposed Activity	Strategy
<p>a Employment in all sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n Keeping in view the limited job opportunities in government sector, office of CCPD will continue its initiative meetings with business houses, Lions, Rotarians and other social agencies to apprise them of the potential of the persons with disabilities for employment. n To vigorously follow up with the Finance Ministry to introduce tax concessions to corporate sector who employ maximum number of disabled persons in their organisations. n To conduct awareness campaigns through all possible mediums like voluntary organisations, visual as well as print media through various programmes, workshops, conferences and also through Abilympics, which would project the extraordinary skills of the disabled population. n To request Government financial agencies like NHFDC, NABARD etc. to be more liberal. n Inter-country Meeting of the South East Asia Region on employment opportunities. n Review of existing schemes, programmes meant for rural disabled people. Vocational training and self employment activities to get momentum. n Fresh allotment of kiosks and other small business like STD booths, juice bars, photocopy units. n Institution of suo-moto cases to continue to ensure protection in jobs and to ensure reservation in public appointments.
<p>b. Barrier Free access to physical, social and cultural environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n Follow up exercise to be accelerated for full implementation of Access Audit Reports undertake as a result of series of workshops conducted in Delhi, Hyderabad and Guwahati on 'Access for All'. n Directions to be issued to various Ministries, departments, schools and hospitals for necessary modifications in existing buildings in public utility places like Railway Stations, Airports, National Parks, Monuments, Hospitals, Schools etc. n To follow up with the Ministry of Urban Affairs for strict adherence of their Byelaws in construction of new buildings. n Timely feedback from all State Commissioners regarding barrier free achievements in their States/UTs. n To persuade Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka Governments for special buses for disabled people in all major metros.



Proposed Activity	Strategy
c. Widening horizons of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n To do media sensitisation - both visual as well as print propagating the importance of a barrier free environment for Persons with Disabilities. n Inclusive education will be promoted. n Teachers' orientation for management of disabled children in integrated schools. n Meeting with apex level educational institutions, UGC, VCS, NIPA, CBSE, KVS, AICTE, CIE, MCI, Council of Engineers, Architects and Agriculture, IAMS, IITs for implementation of the Act in the sector of education. n Popularization of distance education among persons with disabilities. n Reservation in educational institutions, extra time in public examinations will be strictly monitored. n Efforts will be made for Reservation in professional courses like MBBS, Engineering, Management courses etc. for disabled students.
d. Monitoring of utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n State Commissioners to be entrusted the job of monitoring the Agencies who get grants from the Government in their states. They will develop effective monitoring tools. Feedback from the State Commissioners will be the basis for further grants to them. n To ensure full utilisation of funds granted for the welfare of disabled, NGOs and States will be asked to intensify their welfare activities deep into the rural areas as well. n To request concerned Ministries for allocation of enhanced funds for the current year.
e. Conducting Mobile Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n A multipronged Mobile redressal court will be conducted thrice in a year, which is expected to issue certificates, free bus passes, issue of assistive devices, approval of soft term loans etc. in addition to disposal of cases filed by disabled people.
f. Review of Existing Schemes of Govt. of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n To review existing schemes, programmes meant for rural disabled people.
g. Review of laws, administration, rules, orders and instructions passed by various governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n Review will be done according to changing needs for which qualified individuals and institutions will be appointed as consultants.
h. Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n State visits by CCPD and Dy. CCPD for meetings and feedback from State Commissioners and also from NGOs. n National meetings with State Commissioners will be organised where open deliberations will be held. n Dy.CCPD will visit district and Panchayat level functionaries in the States to ensure fuller participation of rural community in the implementation process.



Awareness Raising

Awareness raising has rightly been placed as first of the preconditions for equal participation of persons with disabilities in the U.N. Standard Rules on disability. It has been one of the primary activities of the office of CCPD. During the reporting year 2002-2003, the office disseminated information on rights, concessions and privileges extended to persons with disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 through meetings, workshops, conferences and interaction with Government officials, NGOs, and most important of all, the Persons with Disabilities themselves.



An interactive session at the National Workshop held at Ahmedabad in August, 2002.

State visits by CCPD

To review the implementation of the Act and to spread its message at appropriate levels and ensure more effective implementation, Chief Commissioner visited almost all the States and UTs. During her advocacy visits, emphasis was laid on formulation of strategies by State Governments for expeditious implementation of the vision envisaged in the Act. CCPD's meetings and discussions with the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Secretaries, Commissioners, District Collectors have resulted in better understanding and proactive initiatives at policy as well as at the implementation levels. Involvement of NGOs and parents' groups helped in spreading awareness amongst many of the unreached population of Persons with Disabilities and across all sections of people.

The essence of successful implementation of the Act, Rules and Regulations lies in a good monitoring system. Towards this end, constant persuasion with State Governments resulted in appointment of Commissioner of Disabilities in all States/UTs. It helped in expediting constitution of Committees to

identify posts suitable for persons with disabilities in many States. During her visits, the Chief Commissioner specially promoted Barrier Free Environment and Inclusive Education with the Government officers as well as prominent voluntary organizations. She also implored them to explore new avenues for employment and self-employment of persons with disabilities, as these are the primary determinants of self-esteem for them.

Reaching the people through the Media

CCPD made effective use of the media for creating awareness about the rights of the Persons with Disabilities, the facilities and concessions available to them and the affirmative action taken by the Central and State Governments. A bi-weekly Question-Answer column of CCPD on disability issues in the Hindi language newspaper, Rashtriya Sahara, helped disseminate very useful information to a large number of people and helped to clarify doubts of the Persons with Disabilities, parents groups, NGOs etc.

Focus Areas

Inclusive Education and Employment: Education is the road to empowerment through economic rehabilitation. Realising the importance and necessity of mainstreaming children with special needs and meaningful economic rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, the Office of the CCPD organised five workshops on Inclusive Education and Promotion of Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Delhi and Kohima (Nagaland). It was also to impress upon the Government and the voluntary agencies the critical need to promote inclusive education as an integral ingredient of "Education For All". It became all the more meaningful, as with the passage of the 86th Amendment to the Constitution universal education for all children upto the age of 14 years has been made mandatory. Since the ultimate aim of all the segments of the civil society is to work towards an inclusive society, education and economic rehabilitation are the primary determinants and stepping stones for empowerment of people in general.



An integrated group of Govt. officials, experts in the field of rehabilitation and representatives of Voluntary Organisations at the National Workshop held at Ahmedabad in August, 2002.

Persons with disabilities are no exception.

The principle of convergence between the Government and NGOs was carried forward to these workshops where the participation both from the Government and the NGO sector was overwhelming. What was also very heartening was the participation of social service organizations like the Rotary and Lions Clubs.

The workshop at Ujjain was inaugurated by Dr. Satya Narain Jatiya, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. Sh. K.Hollohon, Hon'ble Minister (SSW), Nagaland did the honours at the Kohima workshop. These were attended by Chief Secretaries of States, Secretaries of different Departments and other senior officials at policy making and implementing levels as well as the representatives from voluntary organizations and persons with disabilities themselves.

Detailed deliberations in the workshops resulted in the following recommendations:

- 1 An index for Inclusive Education

should be evolved keeping in view the requirements of different geographical areas.

- 1 The successful Gujarat experiment of Inclusive Education in the Department of Education, Government of Gujarat and Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad should be studied by a team of officers from respective States/UTs to replicate the model.
- 1 Components of special education should be added to the syllabus for B.Ed. and distance learning courses.
- 1 Booklets on education of children with different disabilities be prepared and made available throughout the country.
- 1 Managements and Principals of private unaided schools should be persuaded to promote inclusive education by admitting children with disabilities in their schools.
- 1 Funds under Section 30(b) of the Persons with Disabilities Act related to grant of scholarships to deserving students should be allowed to be utilised for giving grants to such private unaided schools as are willing

to create infrastructure for admission of students with disabilities.

- 1 The positive experience of Communitisation Programme being implemented in Nagaland should be replicated in all the States. Under this scheme, members of the community ensure running of schools including disbursement of salaries. These members have the power to cut salaries of absenting teachers.
- 1 Backlog vacancies against 3% reservation in the government sector should be filled.
- 1 Centrally identified list of jobs should be adopted by the State Governments, where such identification has not already been done. This has already been adopted by the Government of Rajasthan
- 1 Each State/U.T. should establish a Placement Cell to function as a special employment exchange.
- 1 Alternative marketing strategies for products of the disabled should be adopted and Government departments as well as the corporate sector should give preference to the goods and services produced by persons with disabilities.
- 1 Senior officers of the states should visit 'Worth Trust', a voluntary organisation in Tamil Nadu for implementing such a strategy in their respective States. The Worth Trust strategy is to train persons with disabilities in different skills and then make an offer to the corporate sector for their placement.
- 1 Funds should be allotted for specific schemes for Persons with Disabilities under Section 40 of the Persons with Disabilities Act which stipulates reservation of not less than 3% in all poverty alleviation schemes for the benefit of persons with disabilities. These funds should be utilised on schemes specifically



made for the benefit of persons with disabilities on the lines of Tribal Area Sub-Plan. All the States/UTs should provide for a separate budget head for this purpose.

It also emerged that such workshops and constant interaction with the State authorities had started showing results in increased number of enrolments of children with disabilities in regular schools as reflected in the figures given below:

Name of the States/UTs	No. of enrolment in regular schools
Andhra Pradesh	17,067
Gujarat	26,731
Karnataka	1,095
Maharashtra	1,158
Punjab	30,000
Delhi	30,000
Madhya Pradesh	98,000

Workshop on optimum utilization of visually impaired employees:

The most important impediment in employing persons with disabilities is ignorance about their capabilities and attitudinal barriers.

Keeping in this view, a one-day workshop was organized on 14th August 2002 at Vigyan Bhawan, for senior bureaucrats of the Central Ministries to sensi-



A senior Govt. officer observing the performance of a visually impaired stenographer during the workshop at Vigyan Bhawan.

tize them about the capabilities of persons with visual impairment. This was done through demonstration of skills.

The delegates were informed about the various technical aids and software programmes readily available, which can make employees with visual impairment very productive. It was also acknowledged that minor adjustments in office environment and use of modern technologies could contribute to increase in productivity of the persons with visual impairment, the same as with sighted persons.

Inter-Country Meeting on Promotion of Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities:

Economic rehabilitation is one of the primary objectives of the policy initiatives for persons with disabilities. As the job market is shrinking, newer avenues of employment and self employment of Persons with Disabilities need to be explored. It is said that most of the times solution to a problem is hidden in the problem itself. Similarly, answer to a problem in a given socio-

economic condition is to be discovered within the indigenous resources locally available.

But in the expanding horizon of knowledge and in the background of technological advancement, it has now become possible to find a global solution to an indigenous problem in an indigenous situation. Problems being experienced in realization of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in a segment of the Asian Countries sharing almost similar socio-cultural and economic background are almost similar.

With this in view, a two-day Inter-country Meeting of the South-East Asia Region countries on promoting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in collaboration with WHO was organised by the office of CCPD on 20th and 21st of February, 2003 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Two representatives each from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the meeting. They represented both Government as well as the NGO sector of their respective countries.



Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and Shri C. Gopal Reddy at the inter-country meeting.



It afforded an opportunity to the participants to exchange information about the facilities and opportunities available to persons with disabilities in their respective countries. They could also apprise themselves with various issues afflicting the disability sector and the measures taken by the Governments to deal effectively with them.

After presentations of their country papers and facilitated with the experience gathered during the deliberations that followed, the participants evolved a consensus on the ways to deal with critical issues. The participants resolved to impress upon their respective Governments to adopt useful policies and good practices adopted by other countries to tackle this rapidly increasing social issue. Some of the recommendations made by the participants on issues of employment, training accessibility and awareness are as follows:

- 1 Each district/province or State should have one vocational Training Institute for persons with disabilities which should focus on new avenues of employment in view of emerging technology;

- 1 Representatives from the corporate sector should be included in determining the vocational training and in identifying jobs for persons with disabilities;
- 1 Inter-country exchange of information among the member countries should be encouraged through Newsletters, pamphlets etc.

Promoting employment through Abilympics

To host the 6th International Abilympics—Olympics of Vocational Skills for Persons with Disabilities—the National Abilympic Association of India in collaboration with Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Human Resource Development organized Regional and National Abilympics in November 2001 and 2002 respectively. Competitions were held in 45 vocational skills.

The National Abilympics was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who appreciated the initiative and assured full support.

The Indian team was selected for participation in 6th International

Abilympics scheduled for November 2003 in New Delhi. The event showcased abilities of the disabled due to which several attitudinal barriers were removed about employment of the disabled.

National Level Meeting of the State Commissioners:

The 2nd National Meeting of the State Commissioners, Disabilities, was held at New Delhi on 19th February, 2003 to review the progress in the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act in various States/UTs. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri C. Gopal Reddy, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The following Resolutions were passed in the meeting:

- 1 There should be uniformity in issuing identity cards to persons with disabilities. These should be valid for all purposes.
- 1 The posts in all categories in Government offices should be identified by all States as per Government of India's list and the instructions issued by DOP&T for implementation of Section 33.
- 1 Notices should be issued by CCPD to the top officials, for example, Chairman of Nationalised Banks to provide barrier-free access.
- 1 All States should take action for filling up the backlog vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities.
- 1 States should include immunisation against Maternal Rubella in the disability prevention programmes.
- 1 District Collectors should be designated as Dy./Additional Commissioners of Disabilities where this has not already been done as per the directions of CCPD.
- 1 NGOs having certificate of registration under Societies Act should be given additional certificate of



Hon'ble Prime Minister addressing the participants at the First National Abilympics.



Chief Commissioner, Dr. Uma Tuli, interacting with State Commissioners for Disabilities.

recognition by competent authority under Section 50 of the Act.

1. Case laws of Commissioners should be compiled and reported.

12

Barrier-Free Environment

Accessibility is the prime need to make persons with disabilities independent. Without access, education, rehabilitation services, employment and a meaningful social, civil and political life becomes almost impossible. Accessibility can be the most crucial determinant in charting out career options for the Persons with Disabilities.

As in the past, this year also emphasis was laid on access audit exercises to make public places barrier-free. The Office of CCPD got the following places audited in Delhi during the financial year under report through the persons who were trained in the five Access Audit workshops that were organised in 2001-02:

1. I.G. Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
2. Central School, Gole Market, New Delhi
3. New Nursing Home, RML Hospital, New Delhi

4. One Government Quarter in Gole Market, New Delhi
5. Gurudwara Bangla Saheb, New Delhi
6. Allahabad Bank, Parliament Street, New Delhi
7. Sarvodaya Co-Ed. Senior Second-



A ramp developed by one of the Voluntary Organisations for use at railway stations.

ary School, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi.

8. Head Post Office, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi.
9. ESI Hospital, Basaidarpur, Ring Road, New Delhi.
10. Community Hall-cum-Library, Janakpuri, New Delhi.
11. Telephone Exchange, West Zone, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi.
12. MCD Office, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi.
13. Community Hall, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi.
14. Gurjari Emporium, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi.

Nirman Bhawan, Vigyan Bhawan, Shastri Bhawan, Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi University, Talkatora Indoor Stadium, Dilli Haat, Gymkhana Club, Jeevan Tara Building (by LIC), Gurudwara Bangla Saheb have barrier free features in Delhi.

As per the information received from Commissioners, Disabilities, considerable work towards creating barrier-free environment has been initiated and carried out in the States/UTs. A brief account of it is given below:

Andhra Pradesh

In the State Coordination Committee meeting held on 19.12.2002, it was resolved that the concerned authorities have to provide barrier-free features in Multi Modal Railway System to be inaugurated in twin cities of Andhra Pradesh shortly. It was also resolved to provide barrier-free access to the disabled to Secretariat Offices and other important public offices. The Roads and Building Department and Municipal Administration have been asked to amend the building bye-laws as per CPWD guidelines for providing barrier-free access to the disabled.



The State Commissioner in exercise of his quasi-judicial powers has registered cases against South Central Railway, Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad, Registrar of Centre for English and Foreign languages, Director, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Engineer-in-Chief, Roads and Buildings, Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj etc. for not making barrier-free provisions.

CHANDIGARH

Ramps have been provided in hospitals and Primary Health Centres.

U.T. Sectt. Building - Sector 9, D.C.'s office building - Sector 17, Additional Town Hall building - Sector 17, Tagore Theatre and market place - Sector 18, Municipal Corporation - Sector 17, Central State Library - Sector 17, Museum and Art Gallery - Sector 10, Karmasadan Building - Sector 11, Old Age Home - Sector 15, Government Medical College and Hospital - Sector 32, and General Hospital - Sector 16 have been audited for accessibility.

GUJARAT

Government of Gujarat Secretariat offices have barrier-free features.



Dr. Uma Tuli, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities delivering the keynote address at the National Seminar on Learning Disability organized by Disha at Vadodara on May 11, 2003.

KARNATAKA

General Post Office, Karnataka High Court, Bharat Electronics Ltd., Regional Transport Offices, Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Town Hall, Ravindra Kalasketta, District Treasury Offices, Lower Courts, Bangalore Development Authority, Tehsildar Offices, Government Hospitals in Bangalore and Police Commissioner's office have been audited.

ORISSA

Ramps in all Collectorates, and the Secretariat have been provided. There are over 285 ramps and 30 hand rails in Primary schools.

RAJASTHAN

All 32 district collectorates and 58 schools of Jaipur have barrier-free features with ramps. All upcoming public buildings will have barrier-free features.

TAMIL NADU

Hotels Taj Coromandel, Spencer Plaza, Tidel Park, Tmt. Vasanth Raghavir of Sakthi Foundation, Globus Shoppers, D.G. Vaishnav College, Dr. Ambedkar Memorial, Central Station, Bus stands

at Thirunelveli, etc. have been provided with barrier-free features. Two buses with low floors for easy access of wheel chair users have been designed.

MADHYA PRADESH

A ramp and a mobile toilet for wheel chair users have been installed at the Collectorate, Gwalior.

Prevention and Early Detection of Disabilities:

Prevention is better than cure - this adage was always kept in mind while planning the critical areas of activities. Ignorance is one of the major reasons for causing disability. Once having acquired disability, its management becomes very important. The parents, guardians, community and society as a whole needs to be sensitized to nurture better understanding and awareness about disabilities.

An educated and sensitized parent will always be better placed in understanding the needs of a differently abled child. Moreover, a superior understanding, knowledge and orientation will also help in better understanding of the causes of disability which would lead to a decline in cases of avoidable disabilities.

Early detection of any kind of deformity/deficiency is crucial in preventing further deterioration and in fortunate cases this may be reversed with timely intervention and consultation with doctors/experts.

A workshop for training of PHC doctors as Master Trainers on prevention of disabilities was held at Cuttack in collaboration with NIMH.

Glimpses of some important developments during the year:

This office has been instrumental in securing a judgement from the Hon'ble



Supreme Court awarding a relaxation of 5% in qualifying marks for persons with disabilities for appearing in NET for appointment as Lecturers in colleges. The University Grants Commission has issued necessary instructions in this regard vide their letter No.F.3-1/2000(PS)P/H dated October 17, 2002.

Constant parleys with University Grants Commission regarding implementation of various provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 in colleges and universities has resulted in UGC issuing a D.O. letter No.11-5/95(CPP-II) (Vol.III) dated 18th July, 2001 reserving not only 3% seats in admission to

persons with disabilities in various courses offered by colleges/universities but also in jobs. UGC has also decided to make university buildings, classrooms, laboratories and toilets etc. accessible to persons with disabilities;

All India Council for Technical Education has been requested to include a chapter on creation of barrier-free access in courses in Architecture and Civil Engineering;

DoP&T is being persuaded to lift the restriction on number of attempts in Civil Services Examination by persons with disabilities in line with similar fa-

cilities being extended to SCs/STs.

The successful planning and formulation of policies and budgeting depends on availability of correct inputs. Though over the years, Governments have contributed to the upliftment of persons with disabilities, but in the absence of realistic data on their population, age-wise and income-wise distribution, the schemes and budgetary allocation have not produced the desired level of results. Through its proactive action, the office of CCPD has taken initiative to obtain comprehensive data on disability issues including the population of persons with disabilities.



CHAPTER - II

IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT BY STATES / UTs AND CENTRAL MINISTRIES

In order to ensure implementation of the wide ranging provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 in the entire country, creation of administrative, monitoring and enforcing mechanism has been given high priority. Summary of implementation under selective sections of persons with disabilities Act, 95 in different states/UTs is given in Table. Through persistent and vigorous efforts of CCD, co-ordination committees have been formed in 24 states. Appointment of 8 full time and 16 Commissioners on additional charge basis, has also been effected. The addresses of these Commissioners are given in the list below:-

Andhra Pradesh	Sh. R. Sundara Vadan Commissioner Disabilities Govt. of Andhra Pradesh 6th floor, Chandra Vihar, M.J.Road, Nampally, Hyderabad -500001. Tel. 040- 4619048, 4734873 (O), 3547785, 3545814, 3550058 (R), Fax 040- 4619048 E-mail: dw_cheyutha@yahoo.co.in	Bihar	Mr. G.S. Kang Secretary & Commissioner Social Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, Patna - 800001 0612-2224742, 2221718, 2239578 (R) FAX: 2239760, Tele fax - 2222099.
Arunachal Pradesh	Mr. Hage Khodo Secretary & Commissioner (Disabilities) Social Welfare Dept. Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar-791111 Telefax- 360- 2212390 (O), Fax No- 0360 - 2245273 (R)	Chattisgarh	Mr. Vivek Aggarwal Commissioner Disabilities Nirmala STD PCO, Baniya Para Durg - 491001, Chattisgarh Ph: 0788-323115(Res.), 325470 (O) 09826113552(Mob.), 0788-310163(fax) 0788-324690
Assam	Shri K.K. Hazarika Secretary & Commissioner Disabilities Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam Assam Secretariat (Civil), Dispur, Guwahati - 781 006 Ph. No- 0361- 2230683- 2620889 (R), Fax No-0361 - 2230683 (Tele Fax)	Delhi	Mr. A.K. Paitandy Commissioner Disabilities & Secretary Social Welfare Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate 4th Level, 'C' Wing, New Delhi - 110 002. Ph. No- 011-23392075, 23392124(O) 26140825 (R) Fax No. 9810548577(M)
		Goa	Mrs. Debshree Mukherjee Secretary Social Welfare & Commissioner Disabilities, Public Works Deptt., Head Office, Altinho, Panaji- Goa - 403 001 Ph.No- 0832 - 222 5517, Fax No-0832 - 222 5297