

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2849

ANSWERED ON - 12/08/2026

UNDERUTILISATION OF FUNDS UNDER DISABILITY WELFARE SCHEMES

2849. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of 13th DRPSC report of Social Justice & Empowerment Committee observations highlighting underutilization of funds under schemes such as ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS and scholarships for disabled persons over the last three years, if so, reasons therefor, scheme-wise;
- (b) scheme-wise amount allocated, sanctioned, released and utilised for ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS and Scholarship schemes in last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has evaluated impact of factors such as delayed approvals, inter-agency coordination gaps and etc. on implementation of these schemes; and
- (d) if so, details thereof, including steps taken to improve utilization of allocated funds, if not reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) to (b) : Yes.

Though, relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State List of the Constitution of India, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its schemes. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) is implementing various schemes for the welfare of Divyangjan. The schemes are demand driven and funds are disbursed as per actual demand.

The funds sanctioned under the Schemes are released to the eligible beneficiaries/ organisations/ institutions upon receipt of the proposals in accordance with the Scheme Guidelines. The release of funds is thus dependent upon receipt of compliant proposals, complete in all respects.

The Scheme-wise details of funds allocated and utilised for Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme, Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Scholarship schemes in last five years, year-wise is at Annexure. While efforts have been made to ensure that the budget allocated for schemes does not remain underutilised, in some years the cause of under-utilization has been late or incomplete submission of proposals by the stakeholders.

The progress of the some of the major schemes in brief is as under:

- (i) ADIP Scheme: the entire allocation of ₹1,411.00 crore approved under the ADIP Scheme for the 15th Finance Commission cycle has been fully released and utilized. Therefore, there has been no underutilization of funds under the Scheme.
- (ii) Scholarship Scheme for Persons with Disabilities: Initially an amount of ₹560 Crores was approved under the scheme for the 15th Finance Commission cycle. In view of increased estimated demand, an additional amount of ₹100 Crore was sought from Ministry of Finance. An amount of ₹636.7 Crore has been fully released and utilized during the 15th FC, which is 76.7 Crores more than the initial allocation. Therefore, there has been no underutilization of funds under the Scheme.
- (iii) DDRS: The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee regarding improved planning, monitoring, timely approvals and expansion of services to underserved areas have been noted for implementation. The Department has undertaken measures such as online real-time tracking through the e-Anudaan Portal, monitoring through video inspections, RCI and UDID verification, and prioritization of proposals from underserved, aspirational, hilly and North-Eastern areas to strengthen implementation and improve fund utilisation.
- (iv) SIPDA: SIPDA is an Umbrella Scheme for effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act applicable across India. The release of funds is dependent upon receipt of complete and compliant proposals.
- (v) Unique Disability Identity (UDID): The funds released under the UDID sub-scheme of SIPDA are utilized for its implementation, including maintenance and upgradation of the portal and related activities. The Department provides one-time financial assistance to States/UTs for specific components such as procurement awareness activities, and digitization of existing manual disability certificates. In addition, financial assistance is provided towards the remuneration of a State Coordinator. The utilization of the earmark fund under the UDID sub-scheme is demand-driven and varies depending upon the number of UDID cards generated, printed and dispatched and related activities undertaken.
- (vi) Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP): The funds are actively deployed for targeted awareness campaigns, sensitization workshops, and publicity drives on Divyangjan rights and entitlements

(c) to (d): The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee on fund utilisation have been duly taken note of. Though, the release of funds to the eligible beneficiaries/ organisations/ institutions is subject to receipt of complete proposals in accordance with the Scheme Guidelines, the Department has taken a number of steps to ensure effective implementation of the Schemes. To ensure timely utilization of funds and effective delivery, the Schemes are regularly monitored, including physical inspections. The department conducts regular reviews with associated stakeholders for sensitizing them and need to propagate the benefits of the schemes meant for Divyangjans for their empowerment. Feedbacks are also sought from stakeholders.

The Department is taking steps to ensure transparency and that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. Through the Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) Scheme, the Department is creating general awareness about its Schemes and programmes. The Department has evaluated factors which impact the implementation of schemes, as the case may be, such as pending utilization certificate(s), paucity of accessible auditor for built and digital environment, delay in implementation of ongoing projects, etc. To improve, department engages proactively with the State Governments/UTs/ implementing agencies to bridge any execution gaps, particularly focusing on improving the timely submission of documents and to track work via periodic virtual and physical review meetings.

Particularly in respect of creation of barrier free environment under the SIPDA Scheme, in order to facilitate appropriate Governments and other service providers in undertaking accessibility audits, the Department has empanelled access auditors in both the built environment and web/digital domains. As on date, DEPwD has empanelled sixty (60) access auditors for the built environment and Twenty (20) access auditors for web accessibility. Under the Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme, the Department has undertaken measures such as online real-time tracking through the e-Anudaan Portal, monitoring through video inspections, RCI and UDID verification, and prioritization of proposals from underserved, aspirational, hilly and North-Eastern areas to strengthen implementation and improve fund utilisation. In so far as the Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) component is concerned, a structured mechanism is in place for the scrutiny, release, and monitoring of funds under this component of the SIPDA scheme. All proposals are evaluated by a Screening Committee, with funds released based on its recommendations. Subsequent funds are strictly contingent upon the submission of Utilization Certificates, Audited Accounts, and progress reports.

To ensure continuous, effective, and optimal utilization of allocated funds and to eliminate any potential impact of delayed approvals or inter-agency coordination gaps, the Government has institutionalized use of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). Periodic inspections are also conducted by officers of the Department to verify the proper on-ground implementation and utilization of scheme funds.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF THE QUESTION

Details of funds allocated and utilised for ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS and Scholarship schemes in last five years, year-wise

(Rs. in crores)

BE- Budget Estimates, RE- Revised Estimates, AE- Actual Expenditure

S. N O	Scheme Name	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
		BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE
1	ADIP	220	180	198.7	235	230	242.2	245	305	290.6	315	350	348.8	316.7	330.6	330.6
2	DDRS	125	105	100.9	125	105	114.6	130	130	129.9	165	139	139.3	165	145	135.2
3	SIPDA	209.7	147.3	108.44	240.3	100	65.5	150	67	76.7	135.3	111	44.1	115.1	200	157.6
4	Scholarships for SwDs	125	110	120.32	105	145	142	155	155	130.07	142.6	80	89.7	145	135	154.6
