

Welfare of persons with disabilities

10.77 In 2005-06, out of the allocation of Rs.250.60 crore for welfare of persons with disabilities, an expenditure of Rs.104.50 crore was incurred up to January 2006. Action has been initiated to suitably emphasize disability concerns in SSA and ensure that most of the children with disabilities are covered through inclusive education programmes.

10.78 Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 is under implementation. Five composite rehabilitation centres at Bhopal, Guwahati, Lucknow, Srinagar and Sundernagar provide facilities for manpower development and ensure availability of rehabilitation services to all categories of persons with disabilities. Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres provide services to persons with spinal injuries at Bareilly, Chandigarh, Cuttack and Jabalpur. Of the 149 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres sanctioned in the country for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the grass roots level, 122 are functional.

10.79 Under the scheme of assistance to the disabled for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), Rs. 32.40 crore had been

released to benefit 1.14 lakh beneficiaries in 2005-06 up to January 2006. Artificial Limbs and Manufacturing Corporation manufactures different types of aids and appliances for disabled persons at low cost and works towards development of new prototypes and aids and appliances.

10.80 Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (earlier known as Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities) provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for running rehabilitation centres for leprosy-cured persons, for manpower development in the field of mental retardation and cerebral palsy, and for establishment and development of Special Schools in the major areas of orthopaedic, speech, hearing, visual and mental disability.

10.81 A Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities has been introduced from the year 2003-04. 500 new awards are given every year to students in different categories of disabilities for pursuing higher and technical education.