

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Date : 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012

### **Presentation of CMD, NHFDC before Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Kumari Selja**

National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides concessional credit to Persons with Disabilities throughout India. The interest rates ranges between 4% to 8% p.a. There is special rebate of 1% for women beneficiaries. NHFDC disburses loan amount through its agencies in the states. As of now, it has 38 State Corporations and 25 Regional Rural Banks as Channelising Agencies in the states. NHFDC has so far disbursed loans to 71,615 beneficiaries. The recovery rate of its loans is 70.31%.

2. Target for the current year is Rs. 60 crores disbursement. Against the target, Rs. 40 crores has already been released for 7,230 beneficiaries. Against the target of skilling 940 PwDs, 805 PwDs have been covered under this programme. We provide 100% grant in the form of meeting recurring expenditure on training and also stipend of Rs. 1,000/- p.m. per trainee.

3. Apart from concessional credit for self employment ventures, we provide education loan for study in India upto Rs. 10 lac and for study abroad upto Rs. 20 lac. The rate of interest on education loan is only 4% p.a. In case of women students, the rate of interest is 3.5%. We are also extending two Scholarship schemes for Students with Disabilities pursuing professional/technical education. 1000 scholarships @ Rs. 50,000 per year on an average are provided under Trust Fund for PwDs with the annual income upto Rs. 3 lac. In addition, 500 Scholarships @ Rs. 12,000 per year on an average are provided under National Fund for PwDs with annual income upto Rs. 1.80 lac.

4. Recently, NHFDC is also pursuing with various Public Sector Banks for expanding its reach. We are expecting tie-ups with Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, Bank of Baroda and Andhra Bank during the current financial year. Secondly, NHFDC is emphasising on linking its skill training initiative to its loans for self employment ventures. We are pursuing this initiative with VRC, ATDC, ITDC, NSIC, NIESBUD & RUDSETI.

5. I would like to mention here that four proposals have been submitted to Planning Commission for expanding the reach of NHFDC. First proposal is to provide 25% back end subsidy to loanees. Second proposal is for grant of Rs. 5 crore/year to NHFDC for skilling 4000 PwDs. The third proposal is for grant to provide interest free education loan to Students with Disabilities, and the Fourth proposal is for grant to meet service charges and other charges (i.e., 1% of loan through RRBs) levied under Credit Guarantee Scheme.

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