

Speech of CMD, NHFDC in the Regional Meeting of State Secretaries of Welfare/Social Justice (Northern States) on 24th September, 2012 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

The main aim of the National Handicapped Finance and Dev. Corporation is to provide concessional credit to PwDs for self-employment opportunities through the channelizing agencies in the states.

NHFDC could not attain the desired targets in UP, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand & Punjab as the State Channelising Agencies in these states were struggling with several problems, like, non availability of Block Government Guarantee, recovery below benchmark and low utilization of NHFDC funds. I would like to discuss these problems, statewise.

In Himachal Pradesh, the State Channelising Agency has been performing satisfactorily and achieved about 50% of this year's annual target. Last year, the SCA has exceeded its annual target of Rs. 1.80 crores by disbursing Rs. 2.20 crores. We are expecting the state to continue to be a shining example to others.

In UP, we tied up with all the ten Regional Rural Banks as an alternative mechanism for flow of collateral free concessional credit to PwDs in the state, since the SCA became non-functional due to non availability of Block Govt. Guarantee. Out of ten RRBs only four RRBs could avail the facility of half of the notional allocation and other six RRBs are performing very poorly. We would like to urge Secretary, Disability affairs in the state to help us in this campaign of flow of credit to PwDs. Our utilization of funds in the state is to the tune of Rs. 7 crores this year which is roughly 25% of the capacity in the state like UP.

In Haryana, also we ran into problem because of the non availability of Block Govt. Guarantee. We therefore signed MOUs with two Regional Rural Banks in Haryana and this year our release to these two banks is to the tune of Rs. 2 crores. It may be stated that our SCA in Haryana is not functioning at all. We would request the Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Haryana to help these two RRBs to identify the needy PwDs, as we are yet to attain the disbursement of Rs. 6 crores to catch up the level of notional allocation for the state.

In Chandigarh, the disbursement target is Rs. 20 lac for the current year but we could release only Rs. 3 lac so far. The Secretary, Social Welfare, Chandigarh is therefore requested to personally look into this very slow progress so far.

In Delhi, against the notional allocation of Rs. 60 lac, only Rs. 10 lac could be released. We can see that in Delhi the demand is much higher, particularly, keeping in mind the demand for educational loan and loan for young professionals. I would, therefore, request Secretary, Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT Delhi to review the performance vis-à-vis the loaning to the PwDs. I would also urge Secretary to advise the Department to simplify the procedure for extending loan to PwDs through the state Corporation.

In Uttarakhand, the Corporation has almost stopped the flow of concessional credit to PwDs because of the low utilization of fund released by NHFDC. This year the achievement so far is nil against the notional allocation of Rs. 50 lac. I would request Secretary, Social Welfare, Govt. of Uttarakhand to review the performance of Uttaranchal Bahudeshiye Vitta Aivam Vikas Nigam. I would also request the Secretary to review the performance of the two RRBs with whom we have signed the MOUs for providing guarantee free concessional credit to PwDs.

In Punjab, the progress is satisfactory but perhaps a push is required to bring the progress of disbursement of NHFDC loans to PwDs at par with notional allocation. The progress so far is 1/3rd of the Annual target.

In Jammu & Kashmir, one SCA, i.e., J&K Women Development Corporation has fully achieved this year's target of disbursement, whereas, the other SCA's performance this year is nil. It is encouraging to learn that both the SCAs in the state have surpassed the target for the year 2011-12. I would request the Secretary, Social Welfare to review the performance of J&K SC, ST, OBC Development Corporation and to take remedial steps in this direction.

I would also like to inform this august gathering that NHFDC is implementing two Scholarship Schemes. The total 1500 Scholarships are available under these schemes and hence I request your goodselves to sensitise higher educational institutions, professional and training institutes to make it successful. Apart from this, our educational loan scheme has been made very attractive which is offering loan to a girl student with disability @ 3.5% p.a. and in case of male student with disability @ 4% p.a. We have already sent communication to all Chief Secretaries of the States and UTs in this regard. You are already aware that Govt. of India has initiated a very big programme in the direction of Skill Upgradation. The NHFDC is to provide skill training to 1500 PwDs in the current year. This will not only help the employability of the PwDs but also help the PwDs for preparing good and viable projects for self employment ventures. With the skill upgradation, the rate of recovery of loan will also improve. I would, therefore, request all Secretaries and Representatives of the States to help us in this task by identifying good training institutes/organizations in the states for providing training to PwDs. We have recently made a provision for loan in case Person with Disability wants to purchase Assistive Device to help him in his employment. A loan upto Rs. 5 lac

may be given to the needy PwD. This is a new scheme which needs due publicity in the respective states. You may like to see the folder of the NHFDC containing the above schemes.

Recently, we have developed three online facilities through our website. These are online application for Scholarship ; online application for education loan & online application for empanelment for Skill development training. You are also requested to visit our website (www.nhfdc.nic.in) to see the updated information available in the website and give your valuable suggestion to improve the website further.
