

Press Release
Pune (Maharashtra)/10.3.2013

**ONE DAY CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF PWDS
CONVENED AT PUNE BY NHFDC AND MSHFDC.**

A one day conference on schemes and programmes of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) was convened at Pune (Maharashtra) today. Shri P.K. Pincha, Chief Commissioner for PwDs, Government of India presided over the conference.

Addressing the conference, DGM, NHFDC, Shri A.K. Dey observed that NHFDC has released more than Rs.61 Crore for 8200 persons with disabilities in Maharashtra. In the current year itself, NHFDC has released Rs.6 Crore for 400 persons with disabilities in Maharashtra. Yet there are major bottlenecks affecting the implementation of NHFDC schemes in Maharashtra as more than Rs. 10 Crore is to be repaid by Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (MSHFDC). Also, there is pending utilization details amounting more than Rs.8 Crore.

Shri Dey also highlighted that recently, NHFDC has also signed agreements with all the 3 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Maharashtra. He exhorted the MSHFDC to coordinate with RRBs in the loaning activities so that the benefit of NHFDC schemes reach out to larger number of PwDs in Maharashtra.

The conference was also attended by Shri Bajirao Jadhav, Commissioner, Handicapped Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, Shri R.K. Gaikwad, Commissioner for Social Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, Shri Suhas Kale, Managing Director, MSHFDC, and Shri Vasant Thakar, President Savali Trust, Pune.

NHFDC provides soft loan upto Rs.25 lakh for self-employment. This corporation also support the Students with Disabilities for pursuing higher studies. A loan of Rs. 10 lakh for study in India and Rs.20 lakh for study abroad is made available to the needy students. He further informed that NHFDC also provides scholarships to about 1500 students with disabilities. Besides covering the tuition fee, hostel fee, books & stationary expenses and out of pocket allowance, a student can also purchase assistive devices which are needed to pursue their study. Education loan and scholarship scheme have online facility for application by the students.



One day conference was jointly organized by NHFDC and MSHFDC on self-employment schemes for PwDs. The conference highlighted the potential for education loan and scholarships for PwDs in Maharashtra. Apart from DGM, NHFDC, Shri A.K. Dey and MD, MSHFDC, Shri Suhas Kale, Shri P.K. Pincha, Chief Commissioner for PwDs, Government of India, Shri Bajirao Jadhav, Commissioner, Handicapped Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, Shri R.K. Gaikwad, Commissioner for Social Welfare, Government of Maharashtra and Shri Vasant Thakar, President Savali Trust, Pune also attended the conference, Pune/10.3.2013.



One day conference on NHFDC schemes was organized at Pune. The conference was attended by the Representatives from NHFDC, MSHFDC, Government of Maharashtra and NGOs. Shri A.K. Dey, DGM, NHFDC may be seen lighting the lamp at the inaugural session of the conference. Pune/10.3.2013.