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Department of Empowerment of People with Disabilities endeavours to train 10 Lakh PwDs by the year 2019

Awareness generation convention organized by ALIMCO on 9.9.2015 on challenges faced by persons with disability at various levels and the way forward

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a CPSE under the aegis of Department Of Empowerment of Person with Disability (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), conducted an Awareness Generation Convention on the various schemes of the Department and the issues and difficulties encountered by disabled persons in pursuing an active social and professional life. The Convention was organized at the here today.

Speaking on the occasion Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, emphasized on the Government of India's commitment towards creating better opportunities for the persons with disability by integrating infrastructure and humanitarian assistance and making them an integral part by adding 10 Lakh trained professionals to the mainstream by the year 2019.

Shri Vijay Sampla, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), emphasized on the need to monitor the schemes such that actual implementation is ensured on the ground. He suggested that awareness workshops be organized in all states to disseminate the information of the various schemes of the department.

The Convention also highlighted the various schemes of the DEPwD which facilitate the provision of Aids and Assistive devices to persons with disability. Medical rehabilitation and provision of Aids and Assistive devices is the core area of concern and ALIMCO, a Govt. of India undertaking, holds the distinguished record of serving more than 45 lakhs beneficiaries till date with a reach of 530 blocks and more than 5000 villages covered at the grass root level. Further, recent nationwide camps on distribution of Aids and Assistive devices organized by this CPSU were also presented at the convention.

The interactive session moderated by Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, consisted of an audience encompassing representatives of central and state government ministries which are active participants in activities centered on empowerment of persons with disability.

- Many schemes undertaken at the state level were also put forth for discussion and the states of Tamil Nadu and Haryana were given special mention for their pro-disabled friendly schemes.
- The revised bill for the Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD Bill) also came up for discussion during this interactive session and the proposed amendments meant to widen the scope of its operations were widely appreciated. The proposed changes plans to cover 18 types of disabilities, such as caused by chronic neurological conditions and Thalassemia etc. It also has taken into account stringent measures to impose penalty in case of non-compliance, which was not strictly enforceable under its previous version.
- Further, a presentation by National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment highlighted 10 new/revised innovative schemes chalked out to cater to the needs of persons with disability.
- The discussion further encouraged State governments/UTs to approach the Corporates in public as well as private sector and motivate them to come forward and contribute towards the effort to empower people with disabilities. It is to be noted that CSR has now become mandatory as per the new Indian Companies Act 2013.
- A futuristic ‘rights-based approach’ towards the cause and innovative methods of funding like ‘crowd-sourcing’ were also among the ideas exchanged at the convention. The Department emphasized that such programmes and inter-dynamic boundary-less cooperation can give a massive boost to the mission of mitigating challenges and empowering the persons with disability.
- Spreading awareness and ensuring full participation of the various stakeholders was highlighted as the key way forward to such an approach.

Shri Lov Verma, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Shri Awanish K. Awasthi, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, Shri C. K. Khaitan, JS & CEO, National Trust, Sh. S.K.Gulati, Additional Chief Secretary to Govt of Haryana, Shri D R Sarin, CMD, ALIMCO and senior officers from ALIMCO and other dignitaries were present during the function.
