**18. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Highlights**

* The Annexure II to the budget speech provides data on allocation to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Women, Children and North East Region but has left out the data on allocations to persons with disabilities
* There is neither a specific reference to persons with disabilities under the social groups nor a commitment across sectors to address the issues of discrimination experienced by persons with disabilities.
* Only commitment is to ensure lifts and escalators in 500 railway stations for persons with disability

The Demand for Grants, 2017-18 for the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities show a marginal increase of Rs.71.4 crore; the budget has increased from Rs. 784 in 2016-17 (BE) to Rs. 855 crore in 2017-18(BE). The budget for central sector schemes under the department has increased from Rs. 306 crore to Rs.352 crore, whereas the budget for autonomous bodies has witnessed a marginal increase from Rs. 231 crore to Rs. 239 crore over the same period. Among the autonomous institutions, the largest allocation is of Rs.190 crore for support of national institutes.

National Institute of Universal Design, a key institute for ensuring accessible environment, got an allocation of Rs. 37 lakh in 2017-18 (BE). The budgetary allocation for Indian Sign Language Institute has increased by Rs. 1.5 crore over the previous financial year.

There is a declining trend in allocation to programme “Assistance to disabled persons for purchase, fitting of Assistive devices” when comparing 2017-18 (BE) with 2016-17 (RE); there is a decrease of Rs. 20 crore. The allocation or Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) has been Rs. 5 crore for the last three financial years. The assistive devices ensure personal mobility and are first step towards non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of freedom of movement, and hence allocations for the same are critical.

Table 18.1: Details of Allocation by the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

(Rs. crore)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Particulars | 2015-16 (A) | 2016-17 (RE) | 2017-18 (BE) |
| National Programme for the Welfare of persons with disabilities | 320.02 | 326.2 | 351.7 |
| Autonomous bodies | 164.9 | 211.50 | 238.7 |
| Public Sector Undertakings | 39.6 | 35 | 37.7 |
| Schemes for the Implementation of persons with disabilities Act | 16.1 | 193.0 | 207.0 |
| Secretariat | 14.9 | 17.8 | 19.7 |
| Total | 554.9 | 783.5 | 855.0 |

*Source*: Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2017-18.

**Figure 18.1: National Programme for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities (Rs. crore)**

*Source*: Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2017-18.

**Figure 18.2: Allocation for Autonomous Bodies under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Rs. crore)**

*Source*: Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2017-18.

**Interventions of Ministry of Human Resource Development for Person with Disabilities:**

Department of School Education and Literacy includes persons with disabilities under the inclusive education component of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA) and ‘Inclusive Education for the Disabled at the Secondary Stage’ (IEDSS) under *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan*. Disaggregated data on the allocation to these programmes are not available in public domain. However, the study report on “How inclusive is our education towards persons with disability?” prepared by Equals, Centre for Promotion of Social Justice reveals the following:

**Table 18.2: Allocation for Inclusive Education under SSA**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Allocation to Inclusive Education (Rs. crore) | Allocation to SSA  (Rs. crore) | Increment  (percentage) |
| 2013-14 | 450.9 | 24801.9 |  |
| 2014-15 | 505.9 | 24039.1 | 55.09 |
| 2015-16 | 547.2 | 21891 | 41.23 |

*Source:* Compiled by CBGA from SSA portal and Union Budget 2017-18.

Department of Higher Education implements the central sector programme ‘National Initiative on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Higher Education’. The allocation for this programme remains constant at Rs. 2 crore for years 2016-17 and 2017-18. The other programmes such as the HEPSEN and TRYPSEN implemented by UGC are not disaggregated for further analysis.

**Interventions of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for Person with Disabilities:**

**Table 18.3: Allocation towards Persons with Disabilities by the Department of Health & Family Welfare (Rs. crore)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Particulars | 2015-16 (A) | 2016-17 (RE) | 2017-18(BE) |
| NIMHANS | 284.0 | 302.2 | 350.9 |
| LGB regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur | 32.1 | 80.0 | 80.0 |
| National Mental Health Programme | 35.4 | 35.0 | 35.0 |
| Total | 351.6 | 417.3 | 466.0 |

*Note*: NIMHANS- National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences

*Source*: Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2017-18.

Table 18.3 shows an increasing trend in allocation for NIMHANS but remains stagnant for the National Mental Health Programme, which has a community programme component. This component can potentially restrict increasing long-term residential care set-up for persons with psychosocial disability, where the extent of human rights violations has proven to be high. Though there is an overall increasing trend for these programmes, a comparison with the total allocation to the allocation for the Department shows a decreasing trend. The following figure explains the same.

**Figure 18.3: Allocation for PWDs In Comparison to the Overall Allocation of the Department**

*Source:* Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2017-18.

**Interventions of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for Person with Disabilities:**

**Table 18.4: Allocation by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for Promotion of Sports among Disabled (Rs. crore)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Particulars | 2015-16 (A) | 2016-2017 (RE) | 2017-2018 (BE) |
| Promotion of sports among disabled | 2.06 | 4.00 | 0.01 |

*Source:* Compiled by CBGA from Union Budget 2017-18.

The table above is self-explanatory and trend in allocation does not match the expectations of the disability movement.

**Conclusion**

Article 31 of Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Goal 17 of the SDG mandates disaggregation of all data based on disability, which India has committed to implement. The overall analysis across sectors reveals that as more and more schemes get subsumed under larger flagship programmes, disaggregation of data gets limited. This creates a gap in effective monitoring, accountability and appropriate planning. Therefore, there is a need to disaggregate financial data on persons with disabilities across sectors under a minor head. It is also important to come out with persons with disabilities budget statement, similar to the gender budget statement.