

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The Differently Abled Persons Section of the Social Welfare Department, Puducherry, is the sole steward of the differently abled persons of all the four regions of the U.T. of Puducherry. This division is entrusted with the task of implementing many welfare schemes aiming to uplift their social status and also for ensuring equal opportunities to them for the elevation of their position in the society like the normal persons.

As part of the implementation of such schemes for successfully fulfilling the said goals and objectives, "***The International Day for the Differently Abled Persons***" is observed in all the four regions of the U.T. on 3rd December, every year, for which, a Government function is organized by the Differently Abled Section of the Department in a fitting manner in which, the differently abled persons participate with all cheer and enthusiasm.

Selected persons who are differently abled are honoured by the Government on the occasion of the celebration of this special day, every year. More details about the conduct of this function are given separately in this report.

It is therefore the "Welfare of the Differently Abled Section" of the Department of Social Welfare which plays a vital role in ensuring that the target groups of the Differently abled persons stand benefited, from time to time, through the implementation of the various welfare schemes of the Department and also by the amendments in the rules of such schemes if any, notified according to Government orders in this regard.

The forth coming pages of this report contains a brief write-up on each one of the schemes implemented by the Differently Abled Section of the Department. There are 19 Schemes in over all, being implemented for the welfare of the differently abled persons, by the said division.

1. Grant of Incentive for the marriage between differently abled and normal persons

This scheme is being implemented since the year **1986**, with the aim of encouraging marriage between the differently abled and the normal persons and also for the integration of the differently abled persons into the main stream of the society, thereby enabling them to be equal partners in the over all social development.

Benefits available:- An incentive of Rs.25,000/- (i.e.,Rs.5,000/- in cash and Rs. 20,000/- in the form of NSC)

Eligibility:-

- a) Annual income : Not to exceed Rs.35,000/- p.a.
- b) Age: (Bride) : above 18 years
- c) Age (Bride groom) : above 21 years
- d) Disability : 40 % and above.
- e) Residence : 5 years and above
- f) Should be the first marriage and the Marriage should have been registered.

The eligible persons should apply within 120 days after the marriage.

2. Grant of Financial Assistance to the Differently abled persons.

This is a scheme being implemented since the year **1993**. Under this scheme, the differently abled persons are benefited through grant of regular financial assistance. The amount of financial assistance to which the beneficiary will be actually eligible is worked out according to the percentage of the disability in each case.

Benefits Available:-

- a) 40 % to 65% disability : Rs.1100/- per month.
- b) 66 % to 85% disability : Rs.1400/- per month
- c) 86% to 100% disability : Rs.1750/- per month

Eligibility:-

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed Rs.35,000/- p.a.
- b) Age : No restrictions.
- c) Disability : Ortho: 40 % and above
Deaf and Dumb: 40 % and above
Blind: 40 % and above
Mentally retarded: I.Q below 69
- d) Residence : Five years and above.

3. Grant of 50% of fuel claim / payment of subsidies on purchase of petrol / diesel by the differently abled who are owners of the motorized vehicles in the U.T. of Puducherry.

This is a scheme implemented since the year **2004** in order to help the differently abled persons (suffering due to loco motor disability) by enabling them to receive a payment equivalent to the cost of the fuel purchased by them (either petrol or diesel as the case may be) which is used by them for driving a motorized vehicle owned by them.

This scheme covers differently abled persons who are employed / self-employed / students for their easy conveyance.

Benefits available:-

50 % of the cost of fuel subject to a maximum of 15/25 litres per month. (vehicle of 2 H.P and below – 15 litres, vehicle of 2 H.P. and above – 25 litres).

Eligibility:

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed Rs.35,000/-p.a.
- b) Should not be in receipt of transport allowance for conveyance from the Department or from any other source.
- c) Disability : Ortho – 40 % and above.
- d) Residence : Five years and above.
- e) Should produce bills and certificates as prescribed by the Department once in every three months with the applicant's signature and the signature of the agency where the petrol /diesel is purchased.
- f) The Vehicle should be registered with his / her name only. Also, he / she should possess the proper valid driving licence issued by the Transport Department.
- g) The distance between the residence and the duty point should be above 6 kilo meters.

4. Grant of stipend to the differently abled trainees of the vocational training institutes.

This is a scheme implemented since the year **2008** whereby, the differently abled persons undergoing any technical or professional training through Institutes are paid a fixed monthly stipend which will enable them to secure the training successfully in order to make their own earnings and become useful members of the society.

Benefits available:

An amount of Rs.800/- per month shall be paid to the trainee.

Eligibility:

- a) Annual Income : No ceiling
- b) Disability : ortho – 40 % and above
- c) Residence : 5 years and above
- d) A differently abled person should have undertaken a full time vocational training course in any vocational training centre/work shop/ITI/any other centre run by the Central / State Government/ Local body or any voluntary organization or institution recognized by Central / State Government.

5. Payment of Transport Allowance to Differently Abled Persons.

This scheme is implemented since the year **2001**. Under this scheme, a fixed sum as Transport Allowance to the differently abled persons (in lieu of the free Bus passes being issued under the scheme of Extension of free Bus Travel to the differently abled persons in the U.T.) is paid.

Benefits available: An amount of Rs.100/- per month shall be paid.

Eligibility:-

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed Rs. 35,000/- p.a.
- b) Disability : Ortho – 40 % and above
- c) Residence : 5 years and above
- d) Should not be in receipt of any other financial assistance for conveyance purpose from the Department or from any other source.

6. Grant of Financial Incentive for the benefit of the Eye Donors.

This scheme is implemented since the year **1997**. The aim of this scheme is to create awareness among the public about the eye donation and to pay an amount of incentive to the donors of eye.

Benefits available: An amount Rs.5,000/- per eye to the near relatives of the Eye donor.

Eligibility:

- a) Annual Income : No ceiling
- b) Age : 18 years and above
- c) Residence : Not less than five years
- d) The person who is claiming the payment of incentive must be a near relative of the eye donor.
- e) Should apply within 90 days after the transplantation.

7. Free distribution of Rice to Differently Abled Persons.

This scheme is implemented since the year **2002**. Under this scheme, free rice is distributed to the differently abled persons who receive the payment of financial assistance from the Department.

Benefits available: 15 kgs of Rice per month.

Eligibility:-

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed 35,000/- per annum.
- b) Disability : 40 % and above
- c) Residence : 5 years and above.
- d) Should be a recipient of the payment of financial assistance.

8. Free supply of invalid carriages (Motorised Tri-cycle) to the Differently abled person.

This scheme is implemented since the year **2003**. Under this scheme, invalid carriages (motorised Tri-cycles) are supplied free of cost to the differently abled persons who are engaged in gainful employment or who are pursuing higher / professional / technical education.

Benefits available: Invalid carriages (Motorised Tricycles) at free of cost.

Eligibility:-

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed Rs.35,000/- per annum
- b) Disability : Locomotor disability affecting lower limbs to a degree not less than 65%.
- c) Residence : Five years and above.
- d) He / she should be certified by the Medical Authority that he / she is fit for operating the invalid carriages (Motor tri-cycle)
- e) Should not be in receipt of transport allowance for conveyance from the Department or any other source.
- f) He/ she should be in gainful employment or pursuing higher studies.

9. Scholarship for differently abled persons.

This scheme is implemented since the year **1980** for providing scholarship to the differently abled persons who are students for enabling them to secure education.

Benefits available:

Scholarship is granted to the differently abled students at the following rates.

I – V std	-	Rs.250/- per year
VI- VIII Std	-	Rs.500/- per year
IX – XII Std	-	Rs.850/- per year
U.G Course	-	Rs.1250/-per year
PG /Professional Course	-	Rs.1700/-per year.

Eligibility:-

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed Rs. 35,000/ per annum
- b) Disability : 40 % and above
- c) Residence : 5 years and above

10. Reimbursement of Maintenance cost of Tricycle.

This scheme is implemented since the year **1990**. The scheme aims to provide for the reimbursement of the repairing charges incurred by the differently abled persons, for the maintenance of the tricycle supplied / donated to them by the Department / N.G.O. owned by them.

Benefits available:

Rs.200/- per annum as repairing charges of tricycle.

Eligibility :

- a) Income limit : Nil
- b) Age : No restriction.
- c) Disability : 40 % and above.
- d) Residence : Not less than five years
- e) Tri-cycles should have been supplied / donated by the Department / N.G.O. at free of cost.
- f) Should produce the receipt / bills for the repair charges in their names.

11. Free supply of sarees and dhothies to the differently abled persons.

This scheme is implemented since the year **1996**. Free dhothies and sarees are supplied to the differently abled persons who are benefited through grant of regular financial assistance.

Benefits available:

Sarees and Dhothis during Deepavali / local regional festivals at free of cost.

Eligibility:

- a) Income limit : Less than Rs.35,000- p.a
- b) Age : 18 years and above
- c) Disability : 40 % and above
- d) Residence : Not less than 5 years

12. Grant of State Award to the differently abled persons.

This scheme is implemented since the year **2002** for honoring the differently abled persons / Institutions with State Awards, in order to encourage them to become economically productive for the purpose of serving for the cause of the differently abled.

Benefits available:

State awards are distributed as mentioned below:

- a). Outstanding differently abled Govt. / Private Employee - Rs. 5,000/-
- b). Outstanding differently abled Self-employed persons - Rs. 5,000/-
- c). Individual serving for the cause of the differently abled - Rs.10,000/-
- d). Institutions serving for the cause of the differently abled - Rs.25,000/-

(Subject to final selection by the State level Committee)

Eligibility:

- a) Income limit : Nil
- b) Age : No restriction
- c) Disability : 40 % and above
- d) Residence : Not less than five years.

13. Free supply of Prosthetic Appliances to the differently abled persons.

This is a scheme implemented since the year **1982**. Under this scheme, prosthetic appliances are supplied to the differently abled persons at free of cost in order to minimize the difficulties experienced by them.

Benefits available:

Free supply of prosthetic appliances like calipers, crutches, wheel chairs, tricycle, Hearing Aids, Spectacles / low vision aids etc., on the advice of the specialist Medical Officers concerned who are attached to the Govt. General Hospital, Puducherry/Kariakal/Mahe and Yanam.

Eligibility:

- a) Annual Income : Not to exceed Rs.35,000/- p.a.
- b) Age : No restriction
- c) Disability : 40 % and above
- d) Residence : Not less than five years

14. Extension of free bus travel to the differently abled.

This scheme is implemented since the year **1994**. Under this scheme, free bus passes to all the differently abled persons are issued in order to facilitate their mobility / transport in busses run by the Government and Non Government organizations.

Benefits available:

Free bus passes to all differently abled persons within the region of Puducherry U.T.

Eligibility:

- a) Income limit : Not to exceed Rs.35,000/- p.a.
- b) Age : No restrictions
- c) Disability : 40% and above
- d) Residence : Not less than five years

15. Annual Tour to the differently abled persons.

This scheme is implemented since the year **2001** in order to give an opportunity to the differently abled persons, especially to those who are hailing from weaker section of the society to see the places of cultural and historic importance and for acquainting themselves with various aspects of our cultural heritage. The Department therefore arranges free tour to various places every year.

Benefits available: Free tour to various places, yearly once. (Subject to selection)

Eligibility:

- a) Income limit : Below Rs.35,000/-per annum
- b) Age : 18 to 50 years
- c) Disability : 40% and above
- d) The applicant should not have performed the tour for the past ten years.
- e) The applicant should not be affected by any contagious diseases.
- f) Drugs and alcoholic items are prohibited.

16. Cash Award to the meritorious Differently Abled Persons (Visually Challenged Students) obtaining first three ranks at the State level in the SSLC examination.

This scheme is implemented since the year **2007**. The aim of the scheme is to award Cash Prizes to the meritorious differently abled persons (visually challenged students) who are studying in Government and Private Schools of the U.T. of Puducherry and secure first, second and third rank in respect of total marks in the SSLC examination, in every academic year.

Benefits available:

Cash award of Rs.15,000/-, Rs.10,000/- and Rs.5,000/- to the First, Second and Third rank holders respectively.

Eligibility:

- a) Age : No restrictions b) Disability : 100 %
c) Residence : Not less than 5 years d) Should have studied in Tamil Medium.
e) Should have passed the qualifying S.S.L.C. Examination

17. Group Insurance for Differently abled Government Employees:

This scheme is implemented since the year **1998** for enabling the differently abled Govt. servants to avail benefits through a special insurance coverage as required under section 67(1) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act 1995 which helps their families in the event of death due to accident while in service.

Benefits available:

In case of death due to accidents while in service, the sum assured as follows will be given to the family of the deceased employee.

- Group - ARs.1,20,000/-
Group – B..... Rs. 60,000/-
Group – C Rs. 30,000/-
Group – D.....Rs. 15,000/-

Eligibility:

- a) Must be a Government Servant
b) Disability: 40 % and above

18. Perunthalaivar Karma Veerar Kamaraj Scheme of Financial Assistance towards funeral expenses of the differently abled persons:

This scheme is implemented since the year **2004**. Under this scheme, a fixed payment is made to the close relative of differently abled persons for meeting out the expenses in connection with funeral, in the event of the death of the differently abled person concerned.

Benefits available:

On the death of a differently abled person, financial assistance of Rs.2,000/- shall be paid towards the funeral expenses of the deceased pensioner.

Eligibility:

- a) Disability : 40 % and above
b) Son / daughter / spouse or any other close relative under whose care and maintenance of the deceased differently abled persons was living at the time of his / her death.

c) Residence : Not less than five years

d) Age limit : Nil.

e) The application shall be made within 30 days from the date of death of the differently abled person.

19. Issue of National Identity Card to the Differently abled persons:

This scheme is implemented since the year **2001** under which National identity cards are issued to the Differently abled persons.

Benefits available:

Issuance of National Identity cards to the differently abled persons, in multipurpose.

Eligibility:

a) Age : No limit

b) Disability : 40 % and above

c) Residence : Not less than five years