

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sub: Physically Handicapped persons Financial Assistance for purchase of Aids/
Gadgets revision of Scheme and rules.

Read: 1) G.O.No.PHS 105 SWB 63, dt.20-7-64, read with Agenda No1 PSW 230 SPH 69,
dt.24-12-70.

2) G.O.No.SWL 129 PHP 78, dt.3.6.78.

3) G.O.No.SWL 35 PHP 82, dt.4.8.82.

4) G.O.No.SWL 81 PHP 82, dt.6-12-82.

5) G.O.No.SWL 11:PHP 83, dt.6-5-83.

6) Letter No.:DWD:PLAN:PAC/91-92 dt.24.7.91 from the Director, Disabled Welfare
Bangalore.

PREAMBLE:

In the G.O. dt. 20-7-64 read at (1) above, Government have sanctioned the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Physically Handicapped persons for purchase of Aids/Gadgets was sanctioned. This was further modified in (1) G.O.No.SWL 81 PHP 82, dt. 6.12-82. (ii) G.O.No.SWL 35 PHP 82, dt.4-8-82 (iii) G.O.No.SWL 11 dt.6.5.83.

In the letter read at (6) above, the Director, Disabled Welfare, Bangalore has sent proposals for revision of Scheme and rules in order to prevent mis-use of the Scheme, as the Scheme was sanctioned as long back as 1978. A budget provision of Rs.52.50 lakhs has also been made under the Head of Account 2235-02-11-0-72 Scholarships and Financial Assistance to Physically Handicapped persons under non-plan during the current financial year.

The Director of Disabled Welfare has therefore requested to issue the revised Scheme of Assistance to the Physically Handicapped persons for purchase of Aids/Gadgets in supercession of all the earlier Government Orders.

The proposal of the Director of Disabled Welfare has been considered by Government.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. SWL 199 PHP 91 BANGALORE

DATED: 5-2-1992.

In super cession of all the Orders regarding Scheme of Financial Assistance to Physically Handicapped persons for purchase of Aids/Gadgets, Government are pleased to approve the revised Scheme of Financial Assistance of Physically Handicapped persons for purchase of Aids/Gadgets as detailed in the Annexure appended to this Govt. Order.

This order issued with the concurrence of IFA Vide U.O. Note No.SWL 194 IFA 91, dt. 5-9-91.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-

(S.K.SRIKANTAIAH)

Under Secretary to Government
Social Welfare and Labour Department.

SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO THE DISABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASE OF AIDS/APPLIANCES-REVISED SCHEME

1) INTRODUCTION:

In spite of the absence of precise data, according to the experts in the field. It is clear that there are about 4 to 5% of Disabled persons in Karnataka, many of them come from low income group, Physical disability restricts their mobility and opportunities for social and economic rehabilitation with the application of modern technology, there have emerged a number of aids and appliances which can reduce the effects of disabilities and enhance the Social economic potential of the handicapped. Availability and use of aids like Tricycles-both ordinary and motorised, Wheel chair, Artificial Limbs, Crutches etc., can greatly improve the mobility of a Physically handicapped individual. Similarly with the help of Hearing Aid, persons with hearing impairment can be helped to carry on many activities of his daily life. Low vision aids can help the persons substantially with reduced vision to read, print and undertake other activities leading to their rehabilitation. However a large number of Physically handicapped persons are deprived of the benefit of these appliances because of their inability to afford for these comparatively costly aids.

The existing Scheme of Financial Assistance to Physically Handicapped introduces in G.O.No.SWL 129 PHP 78, dt. 03-06-1978, read with No.PSW/230/SPH/69. Dt. 24-12-1970, G.O.No.SWL 35 PHP 82, Dt. 04-08-82 and No. SWL 11 PHP 83, dt. 06-05-1983 needs to be further revised widening the scope of the eligibility criteria and imposing required conditions, so as to both to liberalise and decentralise the sanctions of these aids and also to prevent misuse by affluent class, and to enable the poorest of the poor to avail these benefits easily. Hence the Scheme is revised as follows:

2) OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this Scheme is to assist the needy Physically handicapped persons in procuring quality, durable and Scientifically manufactured modern standard aids and gadgets which can promote their physical, Social psychological economic rehabilitation and ultimate integration in the society.

SCOPE:

The Scheme will be applicable to all categories of Disabled persons who fulfil the eligibility conditions herein after prescribed. Assistance will be given for the purchase of aids and gadgets that may help in increasing the mobility or the capacity of the handicapped for physical, Social and economic rehabilitation.

DEFINITIONS:

Following will be broad definitions for Physically Handicapped.

THE BLIND:

The blind are those who suffer from either of the following conditions:

- a) Total absence of sight.
- b) Visual/Acquity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with corrections lenses:
- c) Limitation of the fields of vision subtending an angle of 20 degree or worse.

THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED:

Visual/acquity between 20/200 and 70/200 (snellen) in the better eye after best possible corrections.

THE DEAF:

The Deaf are those in whom the sense of hearing is nonfunctional for ordinary purposes of life. They do not hear/understand sounds at all even with amplified speech. The case included in this category will be those having hearing loss more than 90 decibels in the better ear (Profound impairment) or total % loss of hearing in both ears.

THE PARTIALLY HEARING HANDICAPPED:

The partially hearing are those falling under any one of the categories indicated below:

CATEGORY	HEARING ACQUITY
Mild impairment	More than 30 but not more than 45 decibels in better ear.
Serious impairment	More than 45 but not more than 60 decibels in better ear.
Severe Impairment	More than 60 but not more than 90 decibels in better ear.

THE ORTHOPAEDICALLY HANDICAPPED:

The Orthopaedically handicapped are these who have a physical defect or deformity which causes interference with the normal functioning of the bones, muscles and joints, having more than 40% deformity.

ELIGIBILITY:

The following persons will be eligible for assistance:

- i) A disabled person who is a resident of Karnataka by birth or who has been residing in Karnataka for not less than 10 years (in support of this the applicant should produce a certificate from the Tahsildar or produce the educational certificate indicating that he has studied in Karnataka for not less than 10 years)
- ii) A person who is certified to be a disabled person by medical officer not below the rank of Orthopaedic Surgeon/ Optholomologist/Ent surgeon as in the case may be of a Govt. Hospital.
- iii) Persons who are employed/self employed or young disabled persons who intend to be self employed shall be given preference so that they can improve their Social and Economic conditions provided that his/her family income does not exceed Rs. 8000/- PA.
 - a) Assistance to Physically Handicapped persons whose family income exceeds Rs. 8000/- per annum but does not exceed Rs. 12,000/- p.a. shall be limited to 50% of the cost of such aid/gadgets.
 - b) No financial assistance shall be given under this scheme to persons whose family income from all sources exceeds Rs. 12,000/- per annum.
- iv) Person who have not received assistance from Govt./Local bodies and non-Official organisation or under Aids/Schemes from any organisations for the same purpose shall only be eligible. (An affidavit in support of this should be enclosed in the format at Annexure IV to the application).

v) Family income means the income of the applicant and his parents and if either of the parent is dead his guardian as recorded in the income certificate issued by the Tahsildar of the Taluk in which the Physically Handicapped person resides. Every application shall be accomplished by a certificate of income issued by the Tahsildar regarding the family income.

The family means the individual, his spouse and legitimate children. It includes parents where the individual is dependent on his parents.

Family income means income of all the members of the family from all sources, if parents are no more, then the income of guardian. The income of the guardian means the income of his spouse including the income if any, of the applicant. The criteria of income adopted in the rules for grant of monthly maintenance allowance is the same.

vi) The need for the aid/gadget shall be determined on the basis of medical report issued by a specialist Medical Officer like an Orthopaedic Surgeon/Ent Surgeon, attached to a Govt. Hospital suggesting the views of particular type of aid/ gadgets. such report shall be attached to the application in original.

6) SANCTIONING AUTHORITY:

The Assistant director, Women and Child Development Dept. of the concerned District, in cases where the quantum of Financial Assistance to be sanctioned does not exceed Rs. 2000/- and the Director of Welfare of Disabled, in cases where the quantum of Financial Assistance exceed Rs. 2000/- but does not exceeded Rs. 10,000/-

Mere submission of application with a Medical Certificate about the disability does not confer any right of financial assistance under this scheme. The sanctioning authority deserves the right to consider the case depending upon the nature of disability, the Socio-economic position of the beneficiary and the purpose for which it is proposed to be used.

7) QUANTUM OF ASSISTANCE:

1) Only those aids and appliances which do not cost less than Rs. 50/- and more than Rs. 10,000/- are covered under this scheme. These limits will be applied to individual items and aids and where more than one aid is required, giving of the same will be permissible and the quantum shall not exceed the limit.

Total income

Amount of Assistance

1) Income upto Rs.8000/- per annum. Full cost of aid/gadgets.

2) Income above Rs. 8000/- but less than Rs. 12,000/- per annum. 50% of the cost of the aid.

Types of aids/appliances for which financial assistance could be given.

Type of Handicap**Aid to be given**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a) Orthopaedically Handicapped | i) Orthotic and prosthetic aids. |
| | ii) Ordinary hand operated Tricycles, wheel chairs. |
| b) Hearing handicapped | Hearing aids. |
| c) Blind | i) Braille watch. |
| | ii) White cane, |
| | iii) Braille kit. |

8) EXCEPTIONS:

- i) Motorised Tricycles can be given under special circumstances, at the discretion of the sanctioning authority provided the beneficiaries shall bear 50% of the cost of the Motorised Tricycles. The beneficiaries intending to have motorised tricycles should be a self employed person with severe disability in mobility and he should remit 50% of his contribution through a crossed demand draft payable to the Director, Welfare of Disabled on intimation of sanction.
- ii) The packing and transportation charges etc. shall be borne by the beneficiary.

9) MODE OF PAYMENT:

Payment shall be made directly to the firm supplying the aid/gadgets.

10) CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED:

- i) The sanctioning authority shall maintain a register in Annexure-I and follow the rules relating to incurring expenditure from time to time.
- ii) The application shall be as per Annexure-II and the Medical Certificate shall be as per Annexure-III.

11) The Scheme shall be implemented subject to availability of funds from time to time. The application remaining un sanctioned at the end of each financial year shall lapse and the Assistant Director at the District level should not exceed the budget allotment given by the Director in each financial year and no applicant shall normally be entitled to assistance more than once under these rules. In exceptional cases where assistance is sought to be given for the second time, prior approval of Govt. shall be necessary.

Sd/-

(S.K.SRIKANTIAH)

Under Secretary to Government
Social Welfare & Labour Department.